

Testimony of Kaveh Farzad
Nominee for Assistant Secretary for International Affairs at the U.S. Department of
Energy
Before the U.S. Senate Full Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
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Chairman Lee, Ranking Member Heinrich, and distinguished Members of the Committee, thank you for considering my nomination to be Assistant Secretary of Energy for International Affairs. I am deeply honored to appear before this Committee with its long record of bipartisan accomplishments.

I would also like to extend my deepest gratitude to President Trump for this nomination, and Secretary Wright for his confidence and support. If confirmed, I will work tirelessly to ensure the Department of Energy is well represented on the world stage. I look forward to working with Members of this Committee as I carry out my roles and responsibilities.

Please allow me to take a moment to introduce my family here with me today. It is only through their grace, love, and support that I find myself trusted with such responsibility. With me is my beautiful wife of 10 years, Michaeline. In addition to being a devoted Baltimore City public-school teacher, she is a remarkable mother to our three young sons: Oliver, Henry, and Charlie. Boys, I'm very proud and very blessed to be your dad. This is an especially meaningful day for our family for another reason: today is Charlie's fourth birthday. Happy birthday, buddy. With us is also my dear mother, who flew here from California. I would also like to thank my friends and colleagues here today for their support.

I was born and raised in the Inland Empire in Southern California. I am the son of Iranian immigrants, who fled a brutal and repressive theocratic regime to seek a better life in the greatest country in history. I grew up with an acute understanding of the importance of citizenship, service, and sacrifice—lessons I hope to impart on my sons as they make their way through the world.

My career has largely been devoted to cutting through the noise to solve problems, build consensus, and get things done. After graduate school, I worked at a nonpartisan organization in Los Angeles dedicated to addressing international policy issues. Then, fulfilling a lifelong ambition to serve my country, I was awarded a Presidential Management Fellowship. I moved my family to Washington, D.C., to join the State Department's Bureau of Energy Resources, where I focused on energy public diplomacy.

In 2017, I began my work at the State Department just as the Trump Administration moved decisively to strengthen the energy security of our European allies against Russian aggression. At the time, under President Trump's leadership, we consistently warned our partners in Europe to reject the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, which threatened to further compromise the sovereignty of nations dependent on unreliable Russian gas. Those warnings became a stark reality during the Biden Administration when Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine and began weaponizing gas flows to hold the continent hostage.

Fortunately for our transatlantic allies, the U.S. Shale Revolution had already changed the global landscape. American liquefied natural gas—cleaner and more reliable than the Russian alternative—stepped in to fill the vacuum and keep Europe's lights on, homes warm, and provide its economies a stable environment during their most severe energy crisis in decades.

These lessons are prescient warning of the world we live in today. America wants its allies and partners to have access to affordable, reliable, secure, and abundant energy. If confirmed, I look forward to building on the good work already done by Secretary Wright and the DOE team in establishing long-term partnerships that encourage allies and partners to join the United States in building a secure energy future.

Following a rewarding period of energy diplomacy at the State Department, I accepted a political appointment at the U.S. Embassy to the Holy See. Working closely with Ambassador Gingrich was a personally and professionally transformative experience; deepening my faith and my commitment to the betterment of humanity. Professionally, this role taught me that effective diplomacy requires engaging diverse stakeholders on the basis of shared values.

These lessons informed my subsequent return to the civil service and the DOE's Office of International Affairs, where I led engagement with the Arabian Peninsula and West Africa. Being a proud DOE/IA alumni, I know and appreciate the expertise and dedication across the ranks. The men and women in IA are among the best in the world at what they do, and if confirmed, it will be the honor of a lifetime to lead them in advancing President Trump's common-sense and human-centered energy priorities.

I want to touch on three strategic priorities I hope to advance in this role, if confirmed.

First, I will work hard to implement President Trump’s vision of American energy dominance as a global stabilizing force. Deploying America’s energy exports bolsters our prosperity at home while strengthening global stability, lowering prices, and providing a reliable alternative for other countries to avoid adversarial energy sources. That is American energy dominance in action. This effort will include leveraging our 17 national labs to win the AI race and accelerate technology adoption across markets.

Second, I will work with allies and partners to ensure we’re acting in unity of effort. The DOE’s International Affairs office plays a leading role in forums like the G7, G20, and the International Energy Agency, where Secretary Wright has already led the return of common sense and energy realism to the international discourse. If confirmed, I will endeavor to unite our allies behind unleashing economic prosperity through removing regulatory burdens, unlocking and securing supply chains for critical minerals, and advancing pro-innovation policies.

Finally, I will work tirelessly to address the most urgent humanitarian need today of broadening energy access. As we meet here today, 700 million people have zero access to electricity, and nearly one-third of humanity lacks access to clean cooking fuels, contributing to 2 to 3 million annual deaths from indoor air pollution. This is where the U.S. energy dominance can foster truly meaningful development, as we’re prepared to supply resources needed for meeting underserved existing markets while opening new ones. If confirmed, I look forward to driving progress on this effort.

Again, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. If confirmed, I look forward to working closely with this Committee and the Professional Staff in advancing the international energy interests of the United States.