# Deputy Secretary of Energy Dan Brouillette

Dan Brouillette grew up in Louisiana before joining the Army, where he was stationed in Germany. Brouillette moved to Washington, DC after leaving the Army, and started his career working for Representative Bill Tauzin of Louisiana. Brouillette left Tauzin’s office to work as a lobbyist at FleishmanHillard before becoming Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs at the Department of Energy. Brouillette briefly joined the Alpine Group as a lobbyist before returning to Capitol Hill in 2003 as Staff Director of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. From there, Brouillette led the Ford Motor Company’s Washington Affairs Office. He left in 2006 to lead USAA’s policy operation where he worked until his appointment to Energy Department Deputy Secretary in 2017.

**Dan Brouillette Is A Career Lobbyist And Corporate Policy Director.** Donald Trump appointed Brouillette to the Energy Department in 2017, and he is expected to succeed Rick Perry as Energy Secretary. Before joining the Energy Department, Brouillette was Senior Vice President of United States Automobile Association (USAA), a financial services company serving members of the military. Brouillette worked there from 2006 until his appointment as Deputy Secretary in 2017. He previously led the Ford Motor Company’s Washington Affairs Office and spent time at DC lobbying firms including the Alpine Group. Brouillette was confirmed as Deputy Secretary by a 79-17 vote of the United States Senate.

**Brouillette Built His Career On Pay-To-Play Politics And Leveraged USAA’s Resources Into Top Government Posts For Personal Gain**. Brouillette has said that he is “not embarrassed” by his lobbying history.

* **Fundraising For Rick Perry Led To Brouillette’s Position As Deputy Secretary Of Energy Department.**According to an article in the *Houston Chronicle*, Brouillette was making $150,000 a year when he left Capitol Hill. His annual salary increased to over $800,000 by the time he left USAA. Under Brouillette’s leadership, USAA donated $100,000 to the Republican Governors Association where he met Governor Rick Perry’s Budget Director. Brouillette was then recruited to help Perry’s 2012 Presidential campaign by courting wealthy donors. He raised $77,000 in donations from USAA employees, and donated $5,000 himself. After Perry became Energy Secretary, Brouillette’s former boss and Rick Perry’s “hunting buddy” Representative Tauzin called Perry and told him that Brouillette would help make Perry’s career at the Energy Department successful.
* **Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal Put Brouillette On State Mineral And Energy Board, Then Brouillette Directed $100,000 To Jindal Aligned Super PAC.** According to an article in the Houston Chronicle, “Brouillette built strong connections with other powerful politicians. When Jindal, then the Louisiana governor, was looking in 2013 to fill a spot on the influential Louisiana State Mineral and Energy Board, which manages the state's oil and gas holdings, he turned to Brouillette, a friend from George W. Bush administration. Two years later when Jindal ran for president, Brouillette helped him, too. USAA donated $100,000 to the American Future Project, an independent political and fund-raising committee supporting Jindal's campaign.”

**Brouillette Worked To Remove Public Interest Authorization Requirement From LNG Export Facility Permitting Process**. In a September 2019 interview with Hugh Hewitt, Brouillette bragged about the Energy Department’s decision to remove public interest authorization requirements from the LNG export facility permitting process. Brouillette said that this decision made sense because “we’ve got some pretty smart people here at the Department of Energy, but we’re not economists. And certainly, if someone wants to risk their money on an export facility, who are we to tell them it’s not in the public interest? So we just took away that requirement and said put your money on the table, go to FERC, get your permit, and build your business. We think that’s a common sense approach. And the President has directed us, other agencies as well, to do the same thing.”

## Personal Life And Early Career

**Brouillette Grew Up In Louisiana Bayous Where “There’s Probably More Alligators Than People.”** According to an article in the Houston Chronicle, “He grew up in the Louisiana bayous, the sort of place where ‘there's probably more alligators than people,’ Brouillette quipped. He worked odd jobs, welded oil pipelines, and, like his father and grandfather before him, joined the military, eventually driving tanks in Germany for the U.S. Army at the end of the Cold War.” [Houston Chronicle, [9/29/17](https://www.houstonchronicle.com/business/article/How-a-Texas-insurance-lobbyist-ended-up-in-the-12240445.php)]

**Brouillette Was Married To Adrienne With Whom He Had Nine Children.** According to the White House, “Mr. Brouillette and his wife, Adrienne, are U.S. Army veterans and the parents of nine children. They reside in San Antonio, Texas.” [White House, 4/3/17]

**Brouillette Was Army Tank Commander And Drill Sergeant Before Joining Tauzin’s Office As An Intern.** According to an article in The Hill, “Brouillette's own Hill experience was seemingly determined as much by chance as by a personal strategic plan. A recently retired Army tank commander and drill sergeant, Brouillette came to Washington with his wife, who also was in the Army and had just been transferred to Walter Reed Hospital. Friends suggested that Brouillette, who retired from the service in 1987, try to get a job on the Hill. ‘My grandfather had a Tauzin sign in his yard, and I thought that qualified me to be an intern,’ Brouillette said. ‘I walked in, made my case, and didn't leave for eight years.’ He left Tauzin's office to become a lobbyist before the Louisiana Republican led the Ford-Firestone investigation, but the two remained close.” [The Hill, 5/4/04]

**1989–1997: Brouillette Was Legislative Director for Representative Billy Tauzin (R-LA-3).** [Open Secrets, accessed [10/9/19](https://www.opensecrets.org/revolving/rev_summary.php?id=13726)]

**1997-2000: Brouillette Was Senior Vice President, R. Duffy Wall and Associates**. [Open Secrets, accessed [10/9/19](https://www.opensecrets.org/revolving/rev_summary.php?id=13726)]

**1998–2000: Brouillette Was A Lobbyist At FleishmanHillard Inc**. [Open Secrets, accessed [10/9/19](https://www.opensecrets.org/revolving/rev_summary.php?id=13726)]

## 2001-2003: Assistant Secretary, Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, Department of Energy

**Dan Brouillette Was Assistant Secretary For Congressional And Intergovernmental Affairs**. According to an article in Inside Energy, “DOE's new assistant secretary for congressional and intergovernmental affairs last week expressed optimism that the Bush administration and Senate Democrats can reach an agreement on national energy legislation when lawmakers return from their August recess. Dan Brouillette, who began his new job last week, said the administration's recent conversations with Senate Energy Committee Chairman Jeff Bingaman, D-N.M., and the panel's ranking member, Sen. Frank Murkowski, R-Alaska, have been ‘very encouraging.'’” [Inside Energy, 8/20/01]

## 2003: Partner, Alpine Group

**Brouillette Rejoined Alpine Group After Leaving the Department**. According to an article in Inside Energy, “After serving for a year-and-a-half as DOE's assistant secretary for congressional and intergovernmental affairs, Brouillette left the department in January to rejoin his former lobbying firm, the Alpine Group. ‘There isn't a person in Washington more qualified to serve as staff director for the oldest and most prestigious committee in Congress,’ Tauzin said in a statement announcing the appointment. ‘Dan brings a wealth of experience to his new job. His leadership skills will help this committee advance our sweeping legislative agenda.’” [5/26/03]

**Brouillette’s Last LDA Disclosure Was From April 21, 2008.** [Senate Lobbying Disclosure Act Database, queried 10/9/19]

## 2003-2004: Staff Director, House Energy and Commerce Committee

**May 2003: Brouillette Became Staff Director Of House Energy And Commerce Committee.** According to an article in Inside Energy, “Former Energy Department congressional affairs chief Dan Brouillette will be the new staff director of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, panel Chairman Billy Tauzin announced last week. Brouillette, a long-time former aide to Tauzin, R-La., begins his new duties June 2. He replaces David Marventano, who announced last week that he was leaving the panel to join Fluor Corp.” [Inside Energy, 5/26/03]

**Brouillette Was Chief of Staff to The United States House of Representatives Committee On Energy and Commerce**. According to the White House, “Before joining Ford, Mr. Brouillette was Chief of Staff to the United States House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce, which has broad jurisdictional and oversight authority over five Cabinet-level Federal agencies. He also served as Assistant Secretary of Energy for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs from 2001 to 2003.” [White House, 4/3/17]

**Tauzin: There Was A Failure To Get An Energy Bill Done, So I Brought [Brouillette] In And He Turned It Around In A Heartbeat… He Took It On Like He Was Drilling A Bunch Of Young Recruits And Worked Everyone To Death Until We Got The Job Done.”** According to an article in the Houston Chronicle, “It was the early 2000s, a pivotal time for energy policy. From drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to tax credits for renewable energy, Democrats and Republicans were at odds, recalled Tauzin, now a consultant in Washington. ‘There was a failure to get an energy bill done, so I brought [Brouillette] in and he turned it around in a heartbeat,’ Tauzin said. ‘He took it on like he was drilling a bunch of young recruits and worked everyone to death until we got the job done.’” [Houston Chronicle, [9/29/17](https://www.houstonchronicle.com/business/article/How-a-Texas-insurance-lobbyist-ended-up-in-the-12240445.php)]

## 2004-2006: Vice President, Washington Affairs, Ford Motor Company

**2004: Brouillette Became Lobbyist For Ford Motor Company**. According to an article in The Hill, “Take, for example, Ford Motor Co. America's No. 2 automaker has hired three prominent Republicans within the past year, overhauling its government-relations team four years after the company was a subject of a House investigation on a series of traffic deaths involving the Explorer SUV and Firestone tires. The man who has been given the keys is Dan Brouillette, an unassuming Louisianan who previously was chief of staff for the House Energy and Commerce Committee before Rep. Billy Tauzin (R-La.) stepped down as chairman. Tauzin led the House investigation into the traffic deaths, although Brouillette was off the Hill at that time. For the past month, Brouillette has been settling into his new role as Ford's vice president of Washington affairs, mapping a strategy to reintroduce one of America's best-known companies to Congress.” [The Hill, 5/4/04]

**Brouillette Was Vice President of Ford Motor Company.** According to the White House, “Before joining USAA, Mr. Brouillette was a Vice President of Ford Motor Company, where he led the automaker's domestic policy teams and served on its North American Operating Committee.” [White House, 4/3/17]

## 2006-2017: Senior Vice President, United Services Automobile Association Group

**Brouillette Was Senior Vice President And Head Of Public Policy For USAA**. According to the White House, “Mr. Brouillette is Senior Vice President and head of public policy for USAA, the Nation's leading provider of financial services to the military community.” [White House, 4/3/17]

**USAA Was Financial Services Company For Military Members.** According to USAA, “Welcome to USAA®. We have been proudly serving and providing financial products to military members and their families for over 90 years… USAA offers a wide range of financial services products, from banking and insurance to mutual funds, retirement planning and college savings. Our page moderation guidelines can be found under our mission.” [USAA , accessed [10/9/19](https://www.facebook.com/pg/USAA/about/?ref=page_internal)]

**Brouillette Made $800,000 Per Year As Head Of Public Policy At USAA.** According to an article in the Houston Chronicle, “Then he was gone, off the public payroll and working as a lobbyist. When Brouillette, the father of nine children left Capitol Hill in 2004, he was earning approximately $150,000 a year. By the time he left USAA, he was earning more than $800,000 a year - enough to buy a more than one-acre estate in the wealthy San Antonio enclave of Shavano Park.” [Houston Chronicle, [9/29/17](https://www.houstonchronicle.com/business/article/How-a-Texas-insurance-lobbyist-ended-up-in-the-12240445.php)]

**Brouillette Met Perry While Working For USAA**. According to an article in the Houston Chronicle, “The pair first met in the mid 2000s, while Brouillette was still at Ford and the automobile giant was considering building a factory in Texas. The plant never got built, but over a series of meetings in Texas, the two got to know each other. When Brouillette took the job with USAA in 2006, Perry was among the first to greet him with Texas's signature, "Glad you got here as fast as you could sort of welcome," Brouillette said. As the top lobbyist for a large insurance company, Brouillette moved within the moneyed classes that fund political campaigns.” [Houston Chronicle, [9/29/17](https://www.houstonchronicle.com/business/article/How-a-Texas-insurance-lobbyist-ended-up-in-the-12240445.php)]

**USAA Made $100,000 Donation To Republican Governors Association Which Got Brouillette Invited To Deer Valley Ski Resort Event**. According to an article in the Houston Chronicle, “With a more than $100,000 donation from USAA to to the Republican Governors Association, Brouillette was on the guest list for a 2012 ski weekend at the Deer Valley ski resort in Utah. The event attracted a who's who from politics and business, featuring mountain guides, shopping excursions and dinners with Republican governors and senior staff - including then Governor Perry's budget director.” [Houston Chronicle, [9/29/17](https://www.houstonchronicle.com/business/article/How-a-Texas-insurance-lobbyist-ended-up-in-the-12240445.php)]

**Brouillette Helped Perry’s 2012 Presidential Campaign By Courting Wealthy Donors In San Antonio.** According to an article in the Houston Chronicle, “When Perry first ran for president in 2012, Brouillette was recruited to help, working with wealthy San Antonians like Lowry Mays, the founder of Clear Channel Communications, and Red McCombs, the former owner of the San Antonio Spurs, Denver Nuggets and Minnesota Vikings. He arranged for Perry to speak at USAA's headquarters on the outskirts of San Antonio and helped with him raise $77,000 in contributions from USAA employees - not to mention his own $5,000 donation.” [Houston Chronicle, [9/29/17](https://www.houstonchronicle.com/business/article/How-a-Texas-insurance-lobbyist-ended-up-in-the-12240445.php)]

**USAA Donated $100,000 To SuperPAC Supporting Bobby Jindal after Jindal Gave Brouillette Spot On Louisiana State Mineral And Energy Board**. According to an article in the Houston Chronicle, “Brouillette built strong connections with other powerful politicians. When Jindal, then the Louisiana governor, was looking in 2013 to fill a spot on the influential Louisiana State Mineral and Energy Board, which manages the state's oil and gas holdings, he turned to Brouillette, a friend from George W. Bush administration. Two years later when Jindal ran for president, Brouillette helped him, too. USAA donated $100,000 to the American Future Project, an independent political and fund-raising committee supporting Jindal's campaign.” [Houston Chronicle, [9/29/17](https://www.houstonchronicle.com/business/article/How-a-Texas-insurance-lobbyist-ended-up-in-the-12240445.php)]

**Brouillette Made $1.6 Million In Salary And Bonus As Senior Vice President Of USAA**. According to his personal financial disclosure, Brouillette received $1,643,794 in 2016. [Daniel Ray Brouillette, Executive Branch Personal Financial Disclosure, signed [4/21/17](https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/3766824-Brouillette-Danny-R.html)]

## 2017 – Present: Deputy Secretary, Department of Energy

**Tauzin Was Rick Perry’s Hunting Buddy And Told Him That Brouillette Would Make His Career As Energy Secretary A Success.** According to an article in the Houston Chronicle, “The confirmation hearing was a big success. When it came time to choose Perry's deputy, there was no shortage of applicants. A deputy secretary is near the top of Washington's food chain, a position that confers influence and can lead to Cabinet posts or the presidency of a major university. The decision was obvious to everyone around Perry. Not only was Brouillette a proven Washington hand, he had the business background that Trump sought. Tauzin, a hunting buddy of Perry's, recalled contacting the former governor to congratulate him on his selection. ‘I told him Dan is so well positioned to make Rick's career a big success,’ Tauzin recounted. ‘Rick said he already knew that.’” [Houston Chronicle, [9/29/17](https://www.houstonchronicle.com/business/article/How-a-Texas-insurance-lobbyist-ended-up-in-the-12240445.php)]

**2017: Donald Trump Nominated Career Lobbyist Dan Brouillette To Energy Department Post**. [White House, 4/3/17]

**Brouillette Was Deputy Secretary Of Energy**. According to the Columbia Center on Global Energy Policy, “an R. Brouillette is the Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy. Dan Brouillette was nominated by President Trump in May and confirmed by the U.S. Senate in August 2017 to be the Deputy Secretary of Energy. In this role, he serves as the Chief Operating Officer for the Department of Energy, directing a $30 billion annual budget, overseeing the work of nearly 100,000 federal and contractor employees.” [Columbia Center on Global Energy Policy, accessed [10/9/19](https://energypolicy.columbia.edu/dan-brouillette)]

**Brouillette Worked To Remove Public Interest Authorization Requirement From LNG Export Facility Permitting Process**. According to an interview with Hugh Hewitt, “For instance, in the past administration, if you wanted to build a LNG export facility, you had to first come to DOE and get what was called a public interest authorization. That allowed you to go to FERC and actually get the permit that you needed to begin the work, or make your investment. We looked at that and said wait a minute, you know, we’ve got some pretty smart people here at the Department of Energy, but we’re not economists. And certainly, if someone wants to risk their money on an export facility, who are we to tell them it’s not in the public interest? So we just took away that requirement and said put your money on the table, go to FERC, get your permit, and build your business. We think that’s a common sense approach. And the President has directed us, other agencies as well, to do the same thing.” [Hugh Hewitt, [9/17/19](https://www.hughhewitt.com/deputy-secretary-of-energy-dan-brouillette/)]

**Brouillette’s Expected Move To Energy Secretary Will Not Change “Energy Dominance” Agenda**. According to an article in the Washington Examiner, “Rick Perry resigning from the Energy Department won’t change the “energy dominance” agenda set by the agency during his tenure, which focused mostly on exporting coal and natural gas. Sources confirmed to Josh that Perry is planning to resign in the coming months before the 2020 election campaign heats up, ending his reign as the last original cabinet head from the core energy and environment agencies, after the EPA’s Scott Pruitt and Interior’s Ryan Zinke previously quit… The agenda won’t change, with a ready replacement: Just like Pruitt and Zinke were replaced by more seasoned operators, Perry would be succeeded, at least on a temporary basis and likely more permanently, by a career conservative bureaucrat, Deputy Energy Secretary Dan Brouillette.” [Washington Examiner, [10/9/19](https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/energy/daily-on-energy-rick-perry-set-to-hand-off-energy-dominance-agenda-to-dan-brouillette)]

**Brouillette “Primed To Carry On The Agency’s ‘Energy Dominance’ Agenda.”** According to an article in Roll Call, “The No. 2 man at the Energy Department is primed to carry on the agency’s “energy dominance” agenda should his boss, Energy Secretary Rick Perry, step down. Perry is preparing to step down before the end of November, Politico and other media outlets reported Thursday, a decision that would end the service of one of President Donald Trump’s longest-lasting Cabinet secretaries. Perry’s departure would likely place Dan Brouillette, the deputy secretary, in charge of the Energy Department.” [Roll Call, [10/9/19](https://www.rollcall.com/news/whitehouse/perry-leaves-energy-deputy-seems-likely-sustain-policies)]

**Brouillette On Lobbying Career: “It Is What Is. I’m Not Embarrassed By My History… There's Also Value In Understanding Government And How It Works. To Take The Absolutist View That In Order To Serve You Have To Have Never Served, To Me Is A Bit Far.”** [Houston Chronicle, [9/29/17](https://www.houstonchronicle.com/business/article/How-a-Texas-insurance-lobbyist-ended-up-in-the-12240445.php)]