# Trump State Of The Union Energy & Environment Statements

## Trump Speech Quotes

**2019: Trump: “For The First Time In 65 Years, We Are A Net Exporter Of Energy.”** [State Of the Union, [2/5/19](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/president-donald-j-trumps-state-union-address-2/)]

**2019: Trump: “Companies Are Coming Back To Our Country In Large Numbers Thanks To Historic Reductions In Taxes And Regulations.”** [State Of the Union, [2/5/19](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/president-donald-j-trumps-state-union-address-2/)]

**2019: Trump: “We Have Unleashed A Revolution In American Energy — The United States Is Now The Number One Producer Of Oil And Natural Gas In The World.”** [State Of the Union, [2/5/19](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/president-donald-j-trumps-state-union-address-2/)]

**2018: Trump: “We Have Ended The War On American Energy, And We Have Ended The War On Beautiful Clean Coal.”** [State Of The Union, [1/28/18](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-president-trump-state-union-address/)]

**2018: We Are Now Very Proudly An Exporter Of Energy To The World.”** [State Of The Union, [1/28/18](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-president-trump-state-union-address/)]

**2018: Trump: “Many Car Companies Are Now Building And Expanding Plants In The United States — Something We Haven’t Seen For Decades”** [State Of The Union, [1/28/18](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-president-trump-state-union-address/)]

**2018: Trump: “In Detroit, I Halted Government Mandates That Crippled America’s Great, Beautiful Autoworkers So That We Can Get Motor City Revving Its Engines Again.”** [State Of The Union, [1/28/18](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-president-trump-state-union-address/)]

**2017: Trump: “My Administration Wants To Work With Members Of Both Parties… To Promote Clean Air And Clean Water.”** [Trump Address To Joint Session Of Congress, [2/28/17](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-president-trump-joint-address-congress/)]

**2017: Trump: “We’re Going To Stop The Regulations That Threaten The Future And Livelihood Of Our Great Coal Miners.”** [Trump Address To Joint Session Of Congress, [2/28/17](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-president-trump-joint-address-congress/)]

**2017: Trump: “We Have Cleared The Way For The Construction Of The Keystone And Dakota Access Pipelines Thereby Creating Tens Of Thousands Of Jobs.”** [Trump Address To Joint Session Of Congress, [2/28/17](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-president-trump-joint-address-congress/)]

## News and Reaction

### 2019

**Trump Wants Infrastructure — Is It A Deal Or A Disaster?** According to E&E News, “President Trump last night revived his calls for a sweeping infrastructure bill while touting the nation’s status as a net energy exporter — a direct challenge to newly elected progressive Democrats eager to replace oil, gas and coal with carbon-free energy. ‘We have unleashed a revolution in American energy — the United States is now the No. 1 producer of oil and natural gas in the world,’ Trump said during the State of the Union speech. That comment prompted a smile and wink from Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin of coal-rich West Virginia, ranking member on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. ‘And now, for the first time in 65 years, we are a net exporter of energy,’ Trump added, to applause. What the president failed to note is that the United States has been on the path toward becoming the largest oil and gas producer since the fracking boom took off under President Obama. Trump also threw a bone to Congress and Democrats on infrastructure, saying both parties should ‘unite for a great rebuilding.’ ‘I know that the Congress is eager to pass an infrastructure bill, and I am eager to work with you on legislation to deliver new and important infrastructure investment, including investments in the cutting-edge industries of the future,’ Trump said. ‘This is not an option. This is a necessity.’” [E&E News, [2/6/19](https://www.eenews.net/energywire/stories/1060119773/search?keyword=state+of+the+union)]

**That Makes 3. Trump Is Silent On Climate In Third Address.** According to E&E News, “President Trump spoke for more than an hour yesterday and never said the words ‘climate change’ or ‘global warming’ — a rhetorical feat that keeps alive Trump’s streak of ignoring an issue that scientists have described as a looming catastrophe. Instead, Trump used his second State of the Union speech, and his third annual address to Congress, to reiterate his support for administration priorities such as a border wall with Mexico. In both 2017 and 2018, Trump also failed to mention climate change. It’s an approach that stands in contrast to the previous three presidents, who all talked about climate change in at least one State of the Union address. His omission also could develop into a political liability, critics contend, because some of the problems Trump highlighted yesterday have a connection to a warming planet. Those include issues such as cross-border migration, which experts expect to increase with climate change, and a broad range of threats to U.S. national security. Intelligence officials warned last week that global warming puts the United States more at risk for dangers such as infectious diseases and international strife. That Trump again ignored climate change is hardly surprising. The president previously described global warming as a hoax, and he claimed without evidence last year that climate change would reverse itself on its own (Climatewire, Nov. 5, 2018). ‘Drink every time the President talks about climate change during his speech,’ joked Sen. Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii) on Twitter a few hours before the address. ‘I mean, it’s a Tuesday.’” [E&E News, [2/6/19](https://www.eenews.net/climatewire/stories/1060119761/search?keyword=state+of+the+union)]

**Trump Touts Infrastructure; Dems Demand Climate Safeguards.** According to E&E News, “President Trump touted infrastructure in his State of the Union address last night without mentioning climate change. But the two issues are intimately related. Experts say the impacts of climate change — including floods, wildfires and sea-level rise — could place a big strain on the nation’s aging infrastructure. They caution that the country’s roads, highways and bridges must be rebuilt in a resilient manner so that they can withstand the consequences of a warming world. Otherwise, experts say, billions of dollars could be wasted on infrastructure projects that get swept away by the next major hurricane or other extreme weather event. Trump didn’t utter the words ‘climate change’ or ‘resilience’ last night. His remarks on infrastructure were largely confined to pleas for Democrats and Republicans to work together on a broad legislative package. ‘Both parties should be able to unite for a great rebuilding of America’s crumbling infrastructure,’ the president said. ‘I know that Congress is eager to pass an infrastructure bill — and I am eager to work with you on legislation to deliver new and important infrastructure investment, including investments in the cutting-edge industries of the future.’ Trump added, ‘This is not an option. This is a necessity.’” [E&E News, [2/6/19](https://www.eenews.net/climatewire/stories/1060119765/search?keyword=state+of+the+union)]

### 2018

**Trump's 2 Sentences On Energy.** According to E&E News, “President Trump gave only passing mention to energy and natural resources issues during his first State of the Union address last night, despite the administration’s efforts over the past year to make reversing Obama-era environmental regulations a centerpiece of its energy dominance agenda. ‘I think there was like two sentences,’ Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) told E&E News after the speech. She was right. ‘We have ended the war on American energy — and we have ended the war on beautiful clean coal. We are now an exporter of energy to the world,’ Trump said, adding that his administration has ‘eliminated more regulations in our first year than any administration in history.’ U.S. EPA and the Interior Department have largely driven those efforts. In Congress, Murkowski netted a major win for her state late last year when lawmakers approved oil and gas drilling in a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, a longtime goal for the congressional delegation. ‘I thought it was a strong speech,’ said Alaska Republican Sen. Dan Sullivan. ‘There wasn’t a lot of energy talk,’ he said, adding, ‘There’s a lot of things he needs to get into his speech.’ Still, Republicans, and at least one Democrat, were happy with those two lines in a speech that focused on the administration’s tax cuts enacted into law last year, a four-pronged immigration reform plan and national security issues.” [E&E News, [1/31/18](https://www.eenews.net/eedaily/stories/1060072455/search?keyword=state+of+the+union)]

**Trump On Energy: Mission Accomplished.** According to E&E News, “Ahead of his first State of the Union address, President Trump promised a ‘forward-looking’ discourse. But the president’s brief remarks on energy last night offered only a view of the past. ‘We have ended the war on American energy, and we have ended the war on beautiful clean coal,’ Trump said. ‘We are now very proudly an exporter of energy to the world.’ Hints of energy priorities were folded into Trump’s comments on his administration’s deregulatory strategy and infrastructure initiatives. Trump boasted that on his watch, the federal government has eliminated more regulations in its first year than any previous administration. Among those efforts was the rescission of hydraulic fracturing standards introduced under former President Obama. Although Trump’s Interior Department finalized the fracking rule’s repeal in December, the regulation — and its ripple effect — is far from finished, according to a research note yesterday from ClearView Energy Partners LLC. The rollback now faces legal challenges from the state of California and a coalition of environmental groups (Energywire, Jan. 25). ‘If that action survives pending legal review, it could shift the balance on pending rollbacks by the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Energy and other energy-relevant agencies,’ ClearView analysts wrote. Trump’s approach on energy drew applause from his Cabinet.” [E&E News, [1/31/18](https://www.eenews.net/energywire/stories/1060072469/search?keyword=state+of+the+union)]

**Trump Embraces 'Beautiful' Coal And Cites Disasters, Not CO2.** According to E&E News, “President Trump tried to strike a unifying tone on controversial issues during his first State of the Union address. Climate change was not one of them. Trump opened his speech by paying homage to American strength during a year of ‘floods and fires and storms,’ with some first responders attending the speech as his guests. He never mentioned rising temperatures. ‘We saw the volunteers of the ‘Cajun Navy,’ racing to the rescue with their fishing boats to save people in the aftermath of a devastating hurricane,’ Trump said. ‘We heard tales of Americans like Coast Guard Petty Officer Ashlee Leppert, who is here tonight in the gallery with Melania. Ashlee was aboard one of the first helicopters on the scene in Houston during Hurricane Harvey. Through 18 hours of wind and rain, Ashlee braved live power lines and deep water to help save more than 40 lives,’ he added. ‘We heard about Americans like firefighter David Dahlberg. He is here with us, too,’ Trump said. ‘David faced down walls of flame to rescue almost 60 children trapped at a California summer camp threatened by wildfires.’ Many of Trump’s policies, however, could exacerbate warming and expose more people to climate-fueled catastrophes, like the wildfires that ravaged the West and the severe flooding from Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria.” [E&E News, [1/31/18](https://www.eenews.net/climatewire/stories/1060072479/search?keyword=state+of+the+union)]

**Trump Made Strong Claims. Here's A Fact Check.** According to E&E News, “‘We have ended the war on American energy, and we have ended the war on beautiful clean coal.’ It’s hard to say if there was a ‘war on American energy.’ Under the previous administration, oil and gas production hit an all-time high, largely thanks to the boom created by hydraulic fracturing. It’s true that coal production was down, way down. Appalachian coal production dropped 45 percent between 2005 and 2015, in large part due to the rise of cheap natural gas, and coal production hit an all-time low in 2016. In Trump’s first year in office, coal production increased by 8 percent in the first 11 months. Analysts say that while production rates for metallurgical coal, or coal used to produce steel, may continue to rebound, production of coal burned for electricity is not likely to do the same. That’s because America’s aging coal-fired power plants continue to retire, which doesn’t bode well for the overall health of the industry. Utilities announced plans to close 22 gigawatts of coal capacity in 2017 (Climatewire, Dec. 22, 2017). As Ken Bone, who became famous, momentarily, for his question during a 2016 presidential debate, said on Twitter last night: ‘I work in the coal industry. Very little has changed.’ As for ‘beautiful clean coal,’ most energy experts would argue there is no such thing. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, coal tops the list as the highest emitter of carbon dioxide when burned. For example, bituminous coal releases 205.7 pounds of CO2 per million British thermal units of energy. Gasoline and natural gas release 157.2 and 117 pounds, respectively.” [E&E News, [1/31/18](https://www.eenews.net/climatewire/stories/1060072467/search?keyword=state+of+the+union)]

### 2017

**Trump Nods To Clean Air, Water And Ignores Climate Change.** According to E&E News, “President Trump subdued the antagonistic tones coloring his presidency and instead struck uplifting notes while promoting an agenda in his first address to Congress that likely includes rescinding the nation’s first major rule addressing climate change. Trump’s speech was delivered to lawmakers gathered in the House chamber, but perhaps his most important audience was a skeptical American public. He implored the nation to see a softer side to his bombastic personality by stepping back from the sometimes harsh language he has used to describe immigrants and by condemning threats directed to synagogues. He hewed closely to his prepared remarks, rather than venturing into ad-lib moments. Nearly six weeks into his presidency, Trump offered little that was new in the way of policies. Immigration, terrorism and health care were dominant themes, including a long and poignant moment in which Trump promised to ‘never forget’ Navy SEAL William ‘Ryan’ Owens, who was killed in Yemen in January. The operator’s widow, Carryn Owens, cried in anguish as she sat next to Ivanka Trump. The speech reaffirmed Trump’s desire to help coal miners and the idea that his policies are based largely on rolling back environmental regulations, perhaps more than providing assistance to hard-hit communities in Appalachia. He seemed to refer to the Stream Protection Rule, which he rescinded by signing legislation last week, without naming it. The rule would have prevented mountaintop coal mines from further polluting valley streams.” [E&E News, [3/1/17](https://www.eenews.net/climatewire/stories/1060050738/search?keyword=joint+address)]

**Trump's 'Buy American' Ushers In Era Of Big Energy.** According to E&E News, “In a speech short on specifics and long on Republican orthodoxy, President Trump laid out a list of priorities for Congress that included tax cuts, defense spending and a $1 trillion infrastructure plan. The president put a gold-plated stamp of approval on his administration’s first 40 days. To cheers from oil-state Republicans, he touted executive orders that clear the way for the Keystone XL and Dakota Access oil pipeline projects, and he promised to revive the U.S. steel industry by forcing pipeline builders to use American-made steel. ‘The time has come for a new program of national rebuilding,’ Trump said. ‘To launch our national rebuilding, I will be asking the Congress to approve legislation that produces a $1 trillion investment in the infrastructure of the United States, financed through both public and private capital, creating millions of new jobs. ‘This effort will be guided by two core principles: Buy American and hire American.’ Trump’s speech before a joint session of Congress was designed as a reset for the White House after one of the most turbulent presidential transitions in modern history. Trump’s speech lasted more than an hour, and he abandoned the dark, free-wheeling rhetoric of the campaign trail. Instead, he spoke slowly and deliberately and held tight to a speech that, as a basic outline of a Trump presidency, borrowed from Ronald Reagan’s free-market optimism and Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal.” [E&E News, [3/1/17](https://www.eenews.net/energywire/stories/1060050734/search?keyword=joint+address)]

**Trump's Pipeline Job Claims A Pipe Dream.** According to E&E News, “President Trump last night repeated his oft-made claim that the Dakota Access and Keystone pipelines would create tens of thousands of jobs. ‘We have cleared the way for the construction of the Keystone and Dakota Access pipelines, thereby creating tens of thousands of jobs. And I’ve issued a new directive that new American pipelines be made with American steel,’ Trump said in his address to Congress. The truth is more complicated. A 2014 State Department report found Keystone would create 42,000 jobs, directly and indirectly. Of those, 3,900 would be in construction — if the pipeline were built over one year. If it were built in two years, the State Department estimated, about 1,950 jobs would be created. The remaining positions would largely be in support industries. The number of full-time jobs once the pipeline goes into operation: 50. Similarly, Energy Transfer Partners, the developer of the Dakota Access pipeline, has reported that its project would create 12,000 jobs during construction. The Brookings Institution, a left-leaning think tank, has estimated that the project would create 40 full-time jobs.” [E&E News, [3/1/17](https://www.eenews.net/climatewire/stories/1060050735/search?keyword=joint+address)]