

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Climate change is motivating the U.S. energy industry to continue to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, while simultaneously ensuring the reliability, resilience, and security of the on-demand services that customers have come to expect. At the same time, these companies and load-serving entities must maintain financial stability and focus on customer equity and affordability.

States and local governments have long led the way by adopting laws and policies on climate change, renewable energy, and energy efficiency. Federal policy now will be instrumental in driving investments in energy infrastructure that will be required to accelerate the transition of the U.S. energy supply. Two recently passed laws, the November 2021, *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* and the August 2022, *Inflation Reduction Act*, the most comprehensive climate-related legislation in U.S. history, are poised to hasten the transition to a cleaner energy future, if spent effectively.

The IRA alone rises to the challenge of climate change by encouraging, *inter alia*, the adoption of clean energy alternatives through positive reinforcement of climate-wise choices, e.g., tax credits, investment incentives, consumer rebates, and the allocation of billions of dollars for communities based on environmental justice-related criteria. As the United States takes bold steps to achieve its GHG reduction goals, the administration and many utilities have made clear that environmental justice and equity must be pillars of a customer-focused clean energy transition.

In this issue of the Energy Law Journal, there is an article by Priya Patel entitled “Energy Equity: A Framework for Evaluating Solar Programs Targeting Low-Income Communities.” In it, she examines the concepts of “energy burden” and “energy equity” when implementing solar programs that have an impact on low-income communities. She offers an energy equity framework to analyze the effectiveness of certain solar programs. Improving equity requires intentionally designed policies and programs. I believe this energy equity framework Priya offers can be extrapolated to other customer programs as we transition to clean energy.

In “The Chilean Case on Improving Power Transmission Within the Non-Conventional Renewable Energies Paradigm,” author Sebastian Luengo Troncoso provides readers lessons learned from Chile, as it improved its transmission system to accommodate increasing renewables. It is clear from this article that Chile has been taking climate change and the transition away from fossil fuels seriously. The key here was the support of the regulatory framework.

This edition wraps up with the symposium transcript entitled “Managing Energy Security Imperatives and Climate Aspirations in an Era of Global Conflict.” The panel Gillian Giannetti, Patrick Nevins, and András Simonyi, moderated by Bob Gee, discussed how the Russian invasion of Ukraine has created uncertainty in global markets, including that of energy supply and affordability. The panelists had a healthy discussion about the dual energy and climate security concerns. I believe it will become increasingly clearer that addressing climate change as

quickly as practicable, taking reliability into account, are more closely than ever linked to energy security.

I want to thank the Journal's leadership and its volunteers for putting together another quality edition for us – the faithful Journal readers. I also want to thank the University of Tulsa College of Law, the faculty advisor and student editors there, for your continued dedication and hard work. You all are fantastic!

Sincerely,

/s/ Delia D. Patterson

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President, Energy Bar Association