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Louisiana is the latest state to redefine natural gas as green energy under a new law the Republican government signed this week, even though it's a fossil fuel that emits planet-warming greenhouse gases. Three other states led by Republicans Indiana, Ohio and Tennessee have passed similar legislation. In some Democratic-led states, there have been efforts to phase out natural gas. New York and California cities like San Francisco and Berkeley have moved to ban natural gas hookups in new buildings, though some of these policies have been successfully challenged in court. President Donald Trump has signed a state of executive orders promoting oil, gas and coal, which all warm the planet when burned to produce electricity. The European Union previously designated natural gas and nuclear as sustainable, a move that Greenpeace and the Austrian government are suing over. Louisiana Gov. Jeff Landry, a major booster of the states petrochemical industry, says the new law sets the tone for the future and will help the state pursue energy independence and dominance. Environmental groups say these new laws are part of a broader push by petrochemical industry-backed groups to rebrand fossil fuel as climate friendly and head off efforts to shift electric grids to renewables, such as solar and wind. Its pure Orwellian greenwashing, said Tim Donaghy, research director of Greenpeace USA. Globally, the term green energy is used to refer to energy derived from natural sources that do not pollute solar, wind, hydropower and geothermal energy. Louisiana law could enable funds slated for state clean energy initiatives to be used to support natural gas. Natural gas has been the top source of electricity generation in the United States for decades. Louisiana is the second largest producer of natural gas in the country, and the state's petrochemical industry is a powerful greenhouse gas, more potent at trapping heat than carbon dioxide and responsible for about 30% of todays global warming. Besides coal, everything else is better than gas for the planet, said Rob Jackson, a Stanford University climate scientist. Building new gas plants locks in fossil fuel emissions for decades, he added. Redefining natural gas. Louisiana law orders state agencies and utilities regulators to prioritize natural gas, along with nuclear power, on the grounds that it will improve the affordability and reliability of the states electricity. The laws author, Republican Rep. Jacob Landry, runs an oil and gas industry consulting firm. I dont think its anything crippling to wind or solar, but you got to realize the wind dont blow all the time and the sun dont shine every day, Landry said. The legislation is saying we need to prioritize what keeps the grid energized, he added. Landry told The Associated Press that he used a model bill by the American Legislative Exchange Council as a template. ALEC is a conservative think tank with ties to the oil and gas industries billionaire Koch family. ALEC helped shape Ohio 2023 law to legally redefine natural gas as a source of green energy, according to documents obtained by the watchdog group Energy and Policy Institute and first reported by the Washington Post. ALEC spokesperson Lars Dalseide said that just because an Ohio lawmaker left the 2022 ALEC conference with what he described as a model for legislation to define natural gas as clean energy does not mean the group shaped Ohio law. Dalseide said the convention is a place where legislators from across the country gather to exchange ideas. Ohios legislation was also heavily influenced by an advocacy group led by Republican megadonor Todd Rasch, a now retired gas industry executive. According to Dave Anderson, policy and communications manager for the energy and environment think tank, these laws are part of a long-running disinformation campaign by the gas industry to cast the product as clean to protect their businesses and prevent a socially responsible energy future. Greenpeace said the new Louisiana law could also boost production of fossil fuels and wind and solar. The new law is a move to make sure that residents and businesses have a reliable electricity grid. Nearly 80% of Louisianians grid is already powered by natural gas. Landry said that businesses will come to Louisiana if they know they can count on the states electric grid. He highlighted Metas plan to build a massive AI data center powered by three natural gas plants. Louisiana law orders utilities providers to prioritize nuclear energy as well. Nuclear power does not emit greenhouse gases while producing electricity. However, critics say it is more expensive than solar and wind and the U.S. does not have a sufficient long-term solution for storing the waste. Consumer advocates say states do not need to embrace natural gas at the expense of wind, solar and other technologies that have a reliable grid. Legally mandating that utilities prioritize natural gas is blind to innovation, market evolution, and the practical demands of modern electric systems, Jeffrey Clark, president of the Advanced Power Alliance, a renewable energy advocacy group, wrote in a statement opposing Louisianias law. Its unclear to what extent Louisianias utilities regulators will act on the order to prioritize natural gas over renewable energy. While Public Service Commissioner Davante Lewis, a Democrat, called the law unenforceable and pledged to ignore it, his Republican counterpart Jean-Paul Cousan said promoting natural gas aligns well with the states economic growth. McDermott reported from Providence, Rhode Island. Brook is a corps member for The Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative. Report for America is a nonprofit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on state politics. Associated Press climate and environmental coverage is funded in part by private foundations. AP is solely responsible for all content. Filmmakers are working with philanthropists, a list of supporters and funded coverage are at the top. Greenpeace said the new Louisiana law could also boost production of fossil fuels and wind and solar. The new law is a move to make sure that residents and businesses have a reliable electricity grid. 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Medical Examiners. Use the Department of Children & Family Services portal to find the nearest Safe Haven site to relinquish custody of newborns up to 60 days old without the threat of prosecution for neglect, abandonment or child cruelty. Salvage yards can report when a vehicle is crushed using this tool from the Office of Motor Vehicles. Renew your Sanitarian license online through the State Board of Examiners for Sanitarians. Search for released opinions of the Attorney General. Search for business entities (i.e., corporations, limited liability companies, limited liability partnerships, non-profit corporations, trade names, trademarks, or service marks), including information on officers, address, filing date and other basic contact information. Online payment portal to pay into the Second Injury Fund through the Louisiana Workforce Commission. Experience Louisiana's Old State Capitol, as well as nine other smaller, culturally diverse museums dotting Louisiana's landscape. Renew payment for seed programs with the Department of Agriculture & Forestry. Access archival broadcast footage of the Louisiana Senate hearings and meetings dating from 2008. Use My DOTD to stay connected with the Department of Transportation and Development including up-to-date information on local projects, lane and road statuses and other DOTD activity. Apply online for licensure as a Registered Social Worker, Certified Social Worker or Licensed Clinical Social Worker through the State Board of Social Work Examiners. Renew your Registered Social Worker, Certified Social Worker or Licensed Clinical Social Worker license online through the State Board of Social Work Examiners. Find Registered Social Workers, Certified Social Workers or Licensed Clinical Social Workers licensed through the State Board of Social Work Examiners. The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources SONRIS (Strategic Online Natural Resources Information System) tool provides data access (e.g., oil and gas information, coastal information), document access (e.g., Office of Conservation oil/gas production cards and field orders, Office of Mineral Resources lease records), GIS access (e.g., interactive mapping) and more. Submit requests for special license plates online at the Office of Motor Vehicles. File a complaint online against an Speech-Language Pathologist. Apply online for licensure as a Speech-Language Pathologist through the Board of Examiners for Speech Pathology & Audiology. Renew your Speech-Language Pathologist license online through the Board of Examiners for Speech Pathology & Audiology. Find Speech-Language Pathologists licensed through the Board of Examiners for Speech Pathology & Audiology. Louisiana Jobs is an interactive recruiting site designed to help job seekers connect their passion with the mission of Louisiana State agencies. The website includes a job events calendar, mission-driven and agency specific job searches, and featured jobs. Use the Ask A Librarian form allows users to submit reference questions to the State Library. Search the catalog of the State Library of Louisiana The Louisiana State Museum provides the ability to rent several locations for events. Use this application form to begin the process of hosting your special event at a museum location. Book a cabin at one of Louisiana's 21 state parks using Culture, Recreation & Tourism's online reservation system. Louisiana Supreme Court E-Filingallows counsel to electronically file documents with the Louisiana Supreme Court. Live streaming of oral arguments when the Louisiana Supreme Court is in session. Access online government-surplus auctions, and see items for sale at the monthly live auction, through the Louisiana Property Assistance Agency. Check on the status of your individual income tax refund through the Department of Revenue's website. Find Teacher authorizations issued through the Department of Education. Tow/Storage facilittes can request permission to dispose of a junk vehicle using this tool from the Office of Motor Vehicles. Review and sign up for training opportunities offered by the State Fire Marshal's Office Online bidding can be submitted by businesses to the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development through Bid Express. Start or re-open an unemployment claim online as well as file for weekly benefits through the Louisiana Workforce Commission. Individuals are also provided assistance finding a job, creating a resume and finding training opportunities. Search for adjustments made to gas or fuel utility prices within the Public Service Commission's database. Renew your Louisiana vehicle registration online through the Office of Motor Vehicles. Cancel the liability insurance on a vehicle that you own and will not be using on any roads or highways. Your vehicle record will immediately be updated to indicate that the vehicle will not be used on the date range indicated. Veterans Affairs operates four Veterans Cemeteries located across the state, offering a variety of burial options for veterans, spouses and dependent children. Complete the online Internment Application for consideration. Apply online for nursing home care through Louisianas five state-of-the-art Veterans Homes across the state. Find Veterinarians and Veterinarian Technicians licensed through the Board of Veterinary Medicine. Find Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors licensed through the Professional Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors Board of Examiners. Renew payment for weights and measures with the Department of Agriculture & Forestry. Online payment portal to pay workers compensation assessment fees through the Louisiana Workforce Commission. Submit an online request for Workers' Compensation records. 511 is Louisiana's official, easy-to-remember traveler information service. 511 provides continual updates about weather-related road conditions, road work, commercial vehicle restrictions, road closures, live video feeds from traffic cameras and other travel information.

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