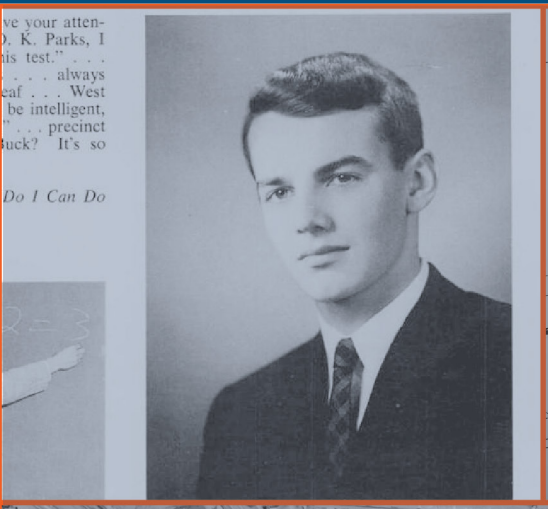
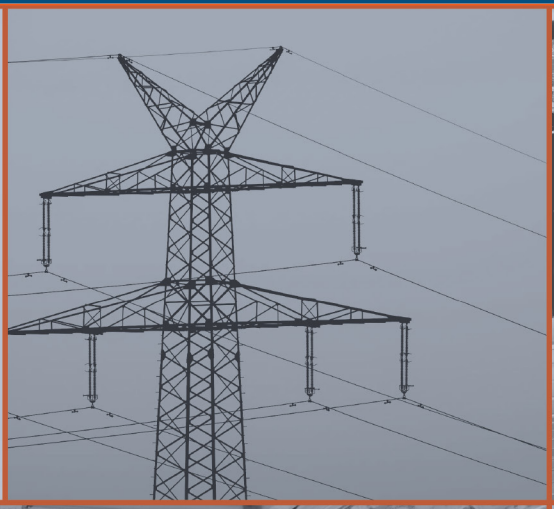
Gaskins Center for Energy Security Studies

at Energy Policy Research





About the Center

In April 2023, the Darius W. Gaskins, Jr. Center for Energy Security Studies at Energy Policy Research was established to explore strategies to sustain and enhance American energy security. The Center is now engaged in a long-term assessment of the costs, benefits, timing, and energy security implications of alternative pathways to a lower carbon energy future for the national economy.

Among the initial items on the Center's agenda will be a long-term assessment of the economic and strategic role of legacy fuels for sustaining U.S. economic growth and national security. Further, the critical role of large scale electrification, buildout of a secure national electric grid, and the development of supply chains for critical minerals and materials to support the energy transition are on the Center's agenda. In addition to conducting rigorous analytical work, the Center will serve as an impartial dialogue platform on these timely issues by actively engaging industry stakeholders, political leaders, and experts from both the United States and around the world.

The Center's Approach

It is vital for policymakers advocating for aggressive efforts to reduce carbon emissions to accurately quantify and more fully understand the scale and impacts of such a strategy. The most severe recessions in the past century were the direct consequence of the oil crises in 1973 and 1979, and it is critical to avoid similar events with high impact on U.S. energy security during the transition. Understanding whether an end to petroleum investment represents a cost-effective initiative to accelerate the energy transition is of crucial importance.

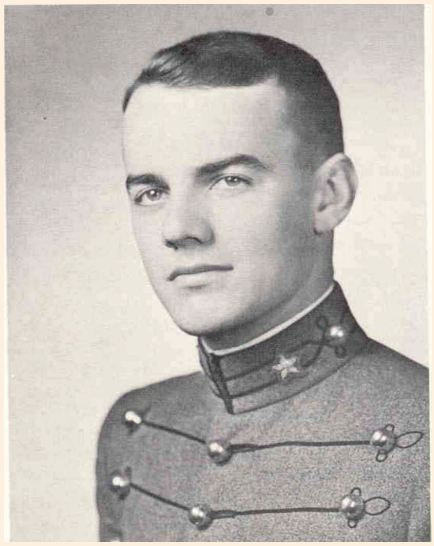
Moreover, most petroleum production centers outside the OECD are highly unlikely to follow the IEA's advice to curtail investment in new oil and gas fields and even within the OECD such initiatives are receiving mixed reviews. In the absence of a cost-effective and fully implemented energy transition, hydrocarbons would see a massive transfer of wealth to members of OPEC+, with adverse geopolitical consequences for large parts of the developing world and throughout the OECD.

About Dr. Gaskins

Dr. Darius W. Gaskins, Jr.

Dr. Darius W. Gaskins, Jr. is the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Energy Policy Research Foundation. Dr. Gaskins has had a distinguished career in industry, government, and academia and is a founding partner of Norbridge, Inc.

The Center was created through a generous grant from Dr. Darius W. Gaskins, Jr.



1961 Graduating Class Yearbook

Dr. Gaskins is the former Chairman of Resources for the Future; served as President and Chief Executive Officer, Burlington Northern Railroad; Senior Vice President, Natomas North America; Chairman, Interstate Commerce Commission; Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Analysis at the Department of Energy; directed the economic analysis efforts at the Civil Aeronautics Board and the Federal Trade Commission; and Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, University of California-Berkeley. He also worked as an aeronautical engineer in the U.S. Air Force during the height of the Cold War, and as a policy director for the outer continental shelf at the U.S. Department of Interior.

About Dr. Gaskins *(continued)*

Dr. Gaskins holds a Ph.D. in economics and a Master's in Engineering from the University of Michigan, and a B.S. from the United States Military Academy (distinguished graduate). He has been an active advocate and thought leader in many of the important and critical economic policy measures that have improved the functioning of the national economy. His direct experience in leadership roles in government and industry demonstrates a unique understanding of how poorly designed regulatory programs can limit opportunities for average Americans.

Daring Test Pilot (Rightmost in Back Row)

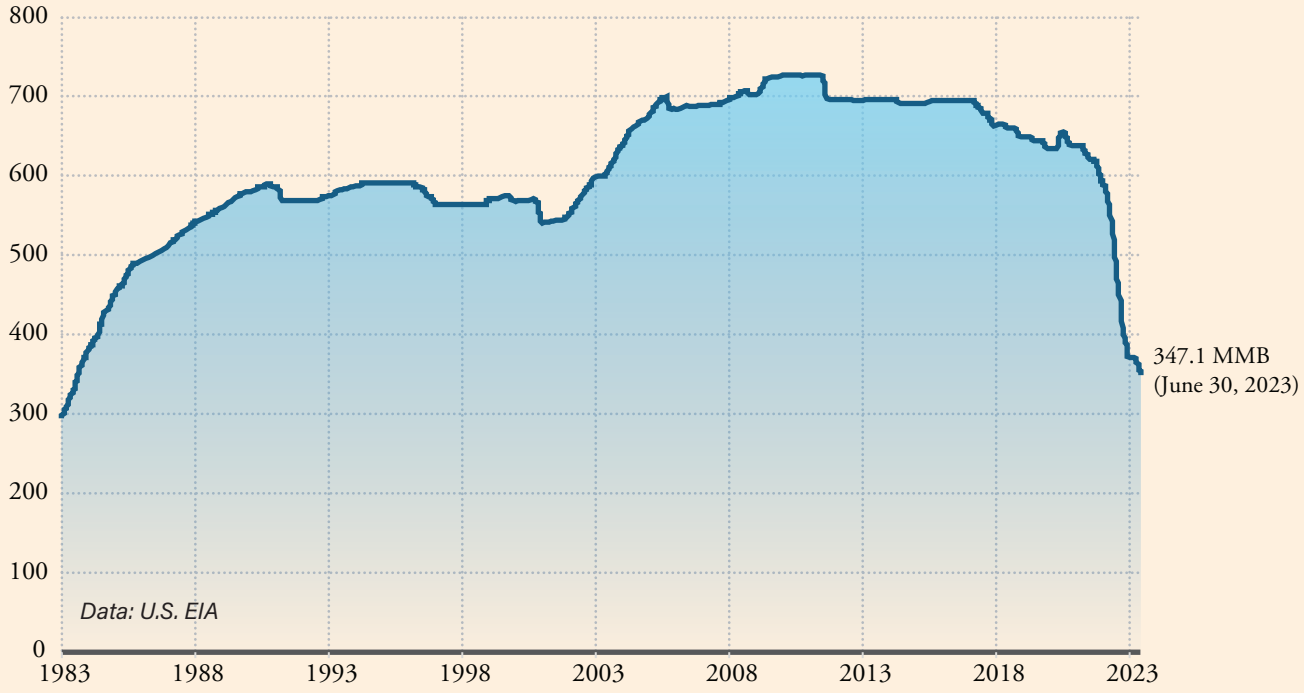
He played a central role in promoting the resurgence of the U.S. airline industry and expanding access to air travel as Chief Economist at the Civil Aeronautics Board under Administrator Fred Kahn in the late 1970s. His successful efforts in 1980 to deregulate and open both the trucking and railroad industries to market competition as Chairman of the Interstate Commerce Commission revolutionized both industries. In November 2022, he was inducted into the National Railroad Hall of Fame (NRRHF) at BNSF Railway headquarters in Fort Worth, Texas.

About Dr. Gaskins *(continued)*

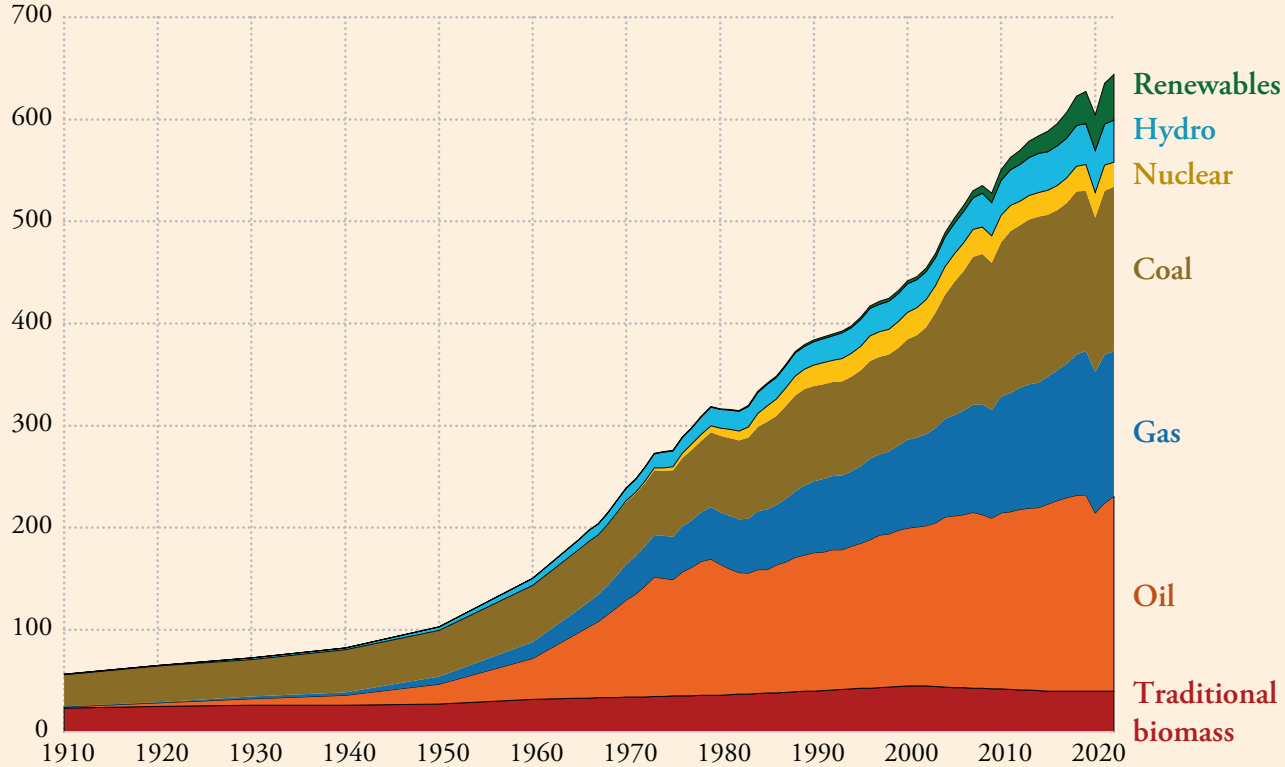
More importantly, Dr. Gaskins' entire career documents his understanding of the importance of setting the ground rules to improve the resilience of the American energy complex. He played a central role in expanding and reforming the programs of the U.S. Department of Interior to open more offshore provinces for oil and gas development and led early efforts at the U.S. Department of Energy to remove price and allocation controls on U.S. production of crude oil and petroleum products.

Energy Security in Graphs

Weekly U.S. Ending Stocks of Crude Oil in SPR Million Barrels



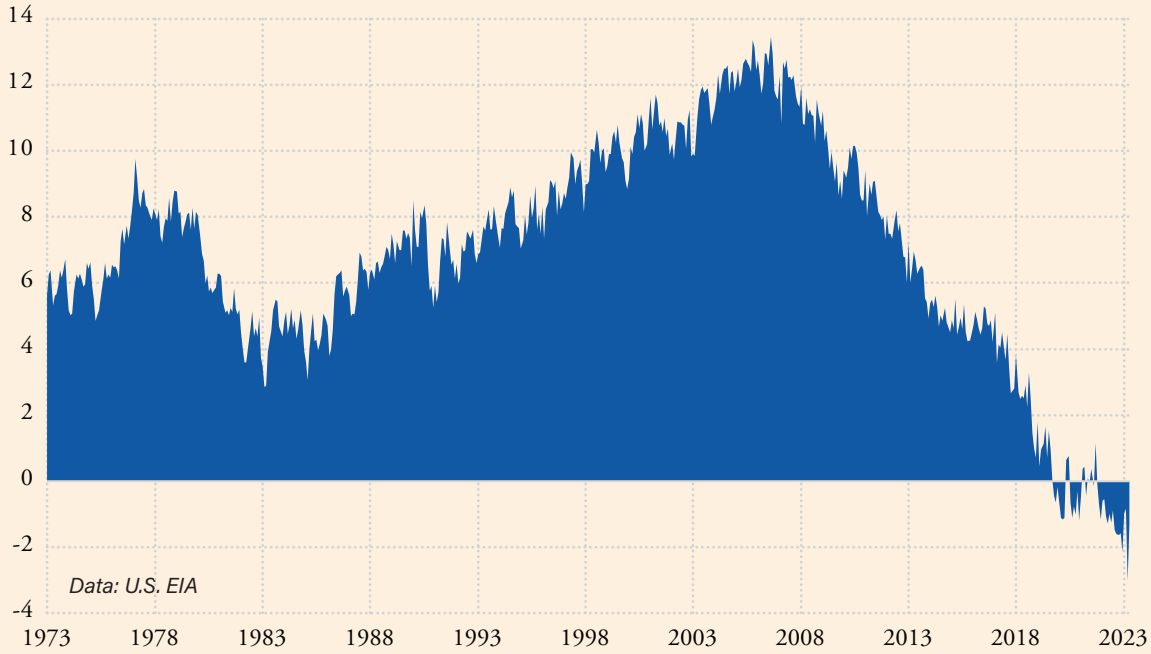
Global Primary Energy Supply (1910-2022) Exajoules



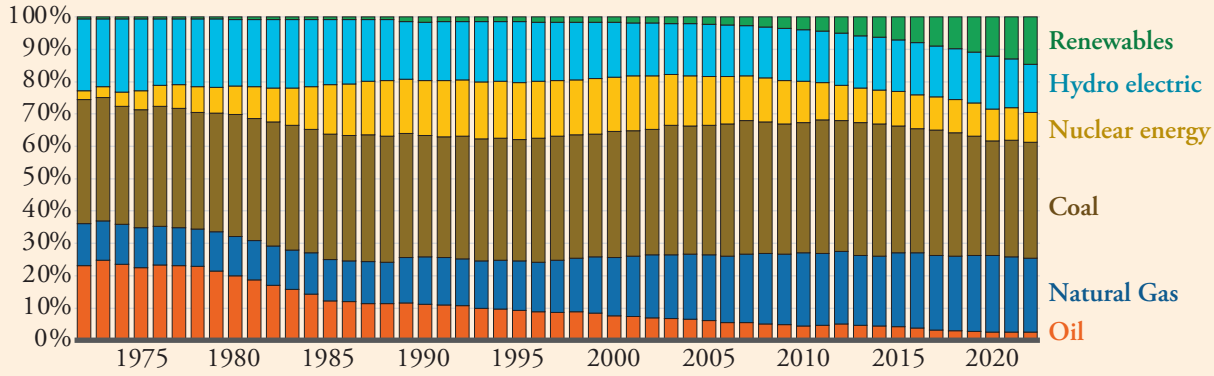
Source: Energy Institute, BP, Vaclav Smil

Energy Security in Graphs

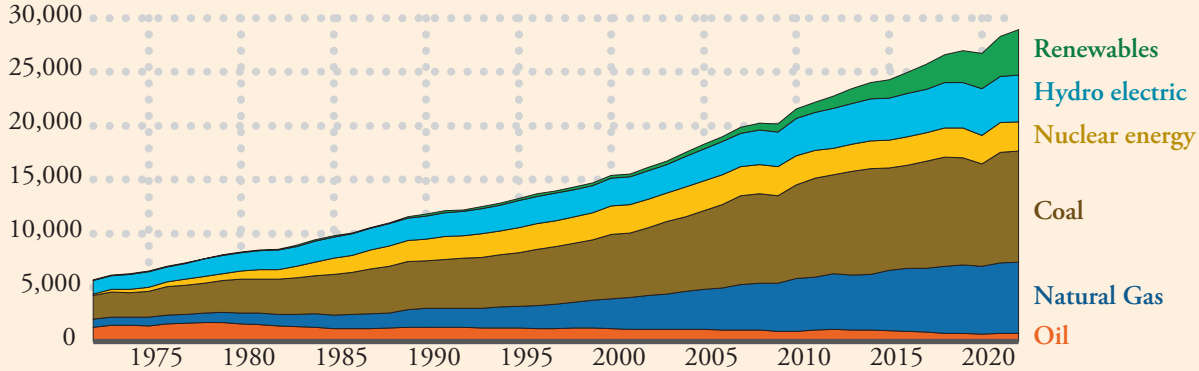
Monthly U.S. Net Imports of Crude Oil and Petroleum Products (Jan 1973 - Apr 2023) Million Barrels per Day



Global Electricity Generation by Fuel (1972-2022) Share of Total



Terawatt Hours (TWh)



Data: IEA, Energy Institute (excludes "other" sources and statistical differences)

Energy Policy Research Foundation

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