DEBUNKING COMMON MYTHS ABOUT AMERICA’S ENERGY FUTURE

For those reporting on tonight’s presidential primary debate, please see below for the Facts debunking some frequently heard talking points about America’s energy future:

**Myth 1:** Plans that mandate a transition to renewable energy will create jobs that pay as well as the union jobs that will be lost. [The Facts](#)

**Myth 2:** Americans who lose their job in the natural gas and oil industry can easily transition to a new job working in renewable energy. [The Facts](#)

**Myth 3:** A ban on U.S. natural gas and oil exports will help reduce CO₂ emissions. [The Facts](#)

**Myth 4:** Iowa would benefit from policies limiting natural gas and oil. [The Facts](#)

“The risks of climate change are real and so the solutions must be real as well. Policy proposals that hide the key role of natural gas and oil in powering America towards a brighter, cleaner energy future are more focused on powering applause lines than power lines, and can delay progress towards finding real policy solutions,” API’s Director of Communications Ben Marter said.

The American natural gas and oil industry is committed to addressing the challenge of climate change while meeting society’s growing energy needs. Bold and achievable action on climate change at the global level is essential, and America’s natural gas and oil industry is committed to innovation and leadership to make these ambitions more than just hopes and dreams.

**Myth:**

Plans that mandate a transition to renewable energy will create jobs that pay as well as the union jobs that will be lost.

**Facts:**

Bloomberg Law reports that a “shift to renewable energy is a move away from an industry with union jobs.” ([Bloomberg Law](#), 2/21/19)

- According to Vox, many renewable energy companies are led by individuals “hostile” to union activity and the industry relies on labor practices that “hamper organizing.” ([Vox](#), 7/19/19)

- 3.4% of solar photovoltaic workers are unionized while 4% of workers in wind power generation were unionized. ([“U.S. Energy and Employment Report,” U.S. Department of Energy](#), 1/20/17)

- President of the North America’s Building Trades Unions: “Members working in the oil and gas sector can make a middle-class living, whereas renewable energy firms have been less generous.” ([Reuters](#), 2/12/19)

- AFL-CIO President: “[P]lans that devastate communities today, while offering vague promises about the future... are not worthy of the American heroes who build and power this country every day.” ([AFL-CIO](#), 7/24/19)

- President of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers: “Workers who have completed an apprentice program or otherwise dedicated years of their lives in a craft don’t want to see their skill sets devalued or be thrown into junior positions in a new occupation.” ([International Brotherhood of Boilermakers](#), 3/7/19/19)

The average annual pay for natural gas and oil extraction workers is $91,370. ([BLS](#), 5/2018)