

Energy and Education

People think that energy policy and education policy are completely separate topics. As the director of Utah's school trust lands administration, I can assure you they are not. Land and energy policies interconnect in many ways, including

Economics- Modern economies rely upon cheap, abundant power. Without affordable gas in our car, heat in our homes, or electricity in our computers we would not have our way of life.

Jobs and Income- The energy sector accounted for 7% of all new jobs created in America last year. And it is mostly through income taxes that we fund our public schools.

Conveniences- Anything not grown is mined. Rare earth minerals are in every cell phone. The products we use and buy are come from natural resources.

National Defense- Natural resources have historically been, and remain, a top strategic priority for every nation in foreign policy, diplomacy, and wars.

Health- Efficiency gains in the exploration, production, and consumption of energy have mitigated many of the worst impacts associated with natural resource extraction. Education has the potential to lead to further technological advancements in the energy markets to improve our air, water, and soils.

Property and Severance Taxes and Fees- Energy companies contribute to our education through taxes paid to states and local communities in many ways. Energy is also a driving force in higher education, through endowments, scholarships, research, and public-private partnerships.

Trust Lands- Millions of acres of land are held in trust by the states to financially support schools. Some of the highest revenue producing lands are those used to fuel the energy markets which in turn fuel our nation.

Stewardship- We take responsible stewardship of the lands we manage seriously, and often engage with industry in initiating proactive stewardship projects.