

# Info Alert

**National Conference of State Legislatures  
Office of State-Federal Relations  
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## **Energy and Infrastructure Issues in the President's State of the Union Address**

On Feb. 12 President Obama delivered his fourth State of the Union address, within which he touched on proposals for our energy and transportation infrastructure sectors. On energy, the president mentioned various policies related to natural gas, oil, clean energy and renewable fuels including an "Energy Security Trust" to fund new research and technology to wean vehicles off of oil as well as a pledge that his "administration will keep cutting red tape and speeding up new oil and gas permits."

Additionally, the president announced that in order to achieve a goal of reducing the amount of energy wasted from homes and businesses by half in the next twenty years, "the states with the best ideas to create jobs and lower energy bills by constructing more efficient buildings will receive federal support to help make it happen." The president also called on Congress to make the renewable energy Production Tax Credit permanent and refundable.

Regarding our nation's infrastructure, the president proposed the "Fix-It-First" program to immediately employ citizens to work on urgent infrastructure repair needs, like the "70,000 structurally deficient bridges across the country." However, the president noted that the taxpayers should not carry the complete cost-burden of infrastructure reform, and proposed "a Partnership to Rebuild America that attracts private capital" to work with the public in partnering to expand and repair our necessary needs like ports, roads, and pipelines.

The White House also released a [blueprint](#), which further outlined, issue by issue, the policy proposals the president made in his State of the Union speech. A full transcript of the president's address and copy of a video of the speech can be found [here](#).

Finally, in addition to the State of the Union, the White House issued an Executive Order on [Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity](#) and a President Policy Directive on [Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience](#). We will be releasing further details on both of these items shortly.

If you have any questions or would like further information please contact [Ben Husch](#) (202-624-7779) or [Melanie Condon](#) (202-624-3597).