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To: Lt. Governor's OfficeLtGov@scstatehouse.gov

Date: 8/29/2018 10:40:21 AM

Subject: America's Natural Gas and Oil Industry: A Labor Day MVP

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August 29, 2018

## America's Natural Gas and Oil Industry: A Labor Day MVP

Dear Kevin,

Few sectors can match the energy industry in jobs impact and reach. America's natural gas and oil industry supports **10.3 million total U.S. jobs** – not just in production and refining but in related industries like construction, manufacturing and service and supply firms – including local small businesses that provide everything from tools to hard hats to software. For each direct natural gas and oil industry job, 2.7 jobs are supported elsewhere in the economy.

That **economic activity**, across all 50 states, generated \$1.3 trillion for the national economy and \$714 billion in labor income in 2015.

And the industry offers what *Bloomberg* termed “paycheck potency,” with salary levels that “topped all sectors, including utilities, tech and health care” in the latest rankings. Non-retail station jobs in the natural gas and oil industry pay an average annual wage of over \$100,000 — nearly \$50,000 more than the U.S. average.

That's not the only reason *Bloomberg* is right to say the industry is “the best bet for U.S. workers.” The **diversity of career opportunities** means there's something for everyone. Geologists, engineers, rig workers, communications professionals, truck drivers, environmental consultants, business analysts, computer technicians – **opportunities** are available for a variety of fields and education levels. And studies show natural gas and oil industry workers **earn more** across all education levels, degree majors, gender and race/ethnicity groups, and occupation types.

But it's not all about the paycheck. America's energy professionals are part an industry that **fuels the economy** and **powers daily life**. The world leader in natural gas and oil production/refining and a national leader in providing rewarding job opportunities – the industry has much to celebrate this Labor Day.

Sincerely,

**Mike Sommers**  
President and CEO  
API

### One Millennial's View of America's Energy Industry

Studies project significant opportunities for women, African-Americans, Hispanics and younger workers within the industry — hundreds of thousands of whom are projected to fill 1.9 million new job opportunities by 2035 as upwards of 40 percent of industry's worker base gets set to retire. [Read a firsthand perspective of industry opportunities for millennials.](#)



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