SERVICE STATION DEALERS OF AMERICA AND ALLIED TRADES

SSDA News

Service Station Dealers of America and Allied Trades

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SSDA-AT Drives Federal Advocacy on REPAIR Act and Tax Policy Priorities

By Roy Littlefield

SSDA-AT has continued its strong federal advocacy efforts, actively lobbying in support of the REPAIR Act, a bipartisan measure gaining meaningful momentum in Congress. The House version of the bill (H.R. 1566) now has 46 bipartisan co-sponsors and recently advanced out of subcommittee to the full Energy and Commerce Committee. In the Senate, the companion bill (S. 1379) has secured eight bipartisan cosponsors, reflecting growing support for right-to-repair principles and expanded access to vehicle repair information.

In addition to advancing the REPAIR Act, SSDA-AT participated in a recent Family Business Coalition meeting focused on the evolving federal tax and reconciliation landscape. Coalition members received in-depth briefings from policy experts and representatives connected to House and Senate leadership offices, as well as officials from the United States Department of the Treasury. Discussions centered on the outlook for tax policy, estate tax considerations, and the broader reconciliation strategy currently shaping negotiations in Congress.

Speakers emphasized the importance of protecting family-owned and pass-through businesses as lawmakers debate budget and tax priorities. The meeting concluded with clear action steps to strengthen coordinated advocacy efforts and ensure that family business concerns remain front and center as legislative discussions move forward.

Through continued engagement on both the REPAIR Act and federal tax policy, SSDA-AT remains committed to advancing policies that support independent businesses and strengthen the broader automotive service industry.

Protect Your Businesses from These 3 Common Cyber Scams

In the last two years, criminals have taken advantage of the uptick in digital business by learning to exploit the gaps and weak links in online security. Q4 of 2021 was an all-time record high for cyberattacks, according to Forbes, and Q1 of this year indicates that cybersecurity will continue to be one a significant concern for businesses in 2022.

Net Driven is providing resources to help you and your team stop cyberattacks in their tracks. We recognize that companies are being faced with newer and more niche scams that are finding unexpected ways to swindle businesses out of money and peace of mind. The following cyber scams are new strategies cooked up by cybercriminals, and we're demonstrating how you can prevent them from affecting your business:

Unsafe Email Attachments

The basic rule of email attachments is to never open a document that ends in ".exe," but many people are not aware that PDFs and Word docs can also be corrupted and riddled with malware. Cybercriminals send these attachments under the guise of everyday business to hack or compromise your software.

Signs of an unsafe email attachment:

The attachment was unexpected. If you ever receive an attachment that you weren't expecting, even if it's from a coworker or vendor, leave it be unless you can get in contact with the sender (outside of replying to the email) and verify that it's safe.

The sender is unknown. As a general rule of internet safety, if you don't know the person who's sending the email and you didn't subscribe to a brand's content, don't interact with the email or click on any attachments. Again, unless you can verify in a roundabout way that the sender is legitimate, don't trust their emails.

The email address is wrong. Cybercriminals can imitate just about anyone, but they can't duplicate an existing email address. Always doublecheck the "from" email for any misspellings, incorrect domains or additional numbers/symbols.

RULE OF THUMB: If you receive an email attachment that you weren't expecting, whether or not you think you recognize the sender, contact them about the legitimacy of the email. NEVER click on an email attachment if you don't know why you were sent it or who the sender is.

Payment Scams Run Through QuickBooks

If you're one of the many businesses who use QuickBooks by Intuit to run your accounting and send/receive invoices by email, keep an eye out for potential invoice scams. Cybercriminals are drawn to QuickBooks's popularity because it allows them to launch Business Email Compromise (BEC) attacks, in which they pretend to be one of your vendors and submit an invoice to your business to intercept your normal payment. Some scams involve an automated clearing house (ACH) method, where you must include your bank account information in the invoice.

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NET DRIVEN

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Please note that all credible QuickBooks invoices will always list intuit.com as the sender. Doublecheck that the intuit.com domain is listed. If it's incorrect or the QuickBooks invoice arrives from the vendor, don't make the payment. Contact your vendor to inquire about the invoice, as the one you received is likely fake.

REMEMBER: Never interact with an email if the sender seems incorrect.

Phone-Based Scams

As an auto service provider, you most likely list your business phone number on public spaces, such as your website and digital ads, and cybercriminals may take advantage of that. They could pose as a prospect and send you a Google authentication code request, pretending they want the code as proof that your business is not a scam (ironic, we know). Once they have the Google code, they can create a Google Voice account using your phone number.

Google Voice generates virtual phone numbers for people and businesses who don't want to give out their main number, but creating an account requires a real phone number, and that's where cybercriminals need to use yours. They can then anonymously run other phone-based scams using the Google Voice number – and any activity would be traced back to you. With the authentication code in hand, they could also access your Google account.

The moral here is not to fear giving out your phone number, but to recognize when it's being misused. To avoid becoming involved in a Google Voice scam, tell prospects that if they're concerned about the legitimacy of your business, they can visit your website or your store. Never share an authentication code with an outside party.

Always Keep Up Your Guard

You may find it tedious to constantly double- and triple-check your incoming emails and phone calls, but please remember that it's much more preferable than dealing with the fallout of a cyberattack. Cybercriminals make a living off finding new ways to manipulate technology, and they're good at it. But one thing they can't hack is an employee who maintains constant vigilance over their business' cybersecurity. You and your team are the strongest security defense that your business has, which is why it's so important that every team member remains up to date on evolving cyberattack strategies.

Access to Cheap, Heavy Crude Lifts US Refining Outlook

Greater availability of discounted heavy crude, combined with fuel demand rising faster than refining capacity, should support strong US refining margins this year, though Rapidan Energy says market balances could tighten in 2027.

Major refiners closed 2025 with profits about $5 per barrel above fourth-quarter 2024 levels, while the 3-2-1 crack spread is hovering around $25 per barrel, higher than year-ago levels.

Republicans expand use of Congressional Review Act

Republicans have significantly increased their use of the Congressional Review Act since Donald Trump took office, overturning more regulations than any previous administration.

The GOP has targeted a broader range of actions, including those not traditionally considered rules, to roll back regulations on mining, drilling and environmental protections. Democrats have expressed concern about the long-term implications of this approach.

EPA Official Touts Controversial TSCA Reforms, TNL

A top US regulatory official championed controversial chemical review reforms that critics say will support industry interests while weakening protections against toxic chemicals for the public.

Douglas Troutman, confirmed in December to be the assistant administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, blamed former President Joe Biden's administration for a "backlog" of chemical reviews that he said will be addressed in the reforms to the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA).

"We're going to build a chemical safety program that supports the great American comeback," Troutman said in a keynote speech at the American Chemistry Council (ACC)'s conference in Washington, DC.

"Over the last four years, the backlog of new chemicals under review steadily increased because the prior administration chose to focus their efforts in other places," said Troutman.

Troutman said the work to amend TSCA, which provides for environmental and human health safety reviews of new chemicals, "is extremely important to the Trump administration."

He said the changes to TSCA would improve the timeliness of approvals without sacrificing scientific integrity, "because innovation should not sit in limbo."

The draft discussion bill introduced in January to amend TSCA would allow the EPA to fast-track chemicals approved in certain other countries. The agency would also be required to prioritize chemicals meant to replace more harmful ones and those designed to alleviate supply-chain risks for critical materials.

Troutman is a former chemical industry insider, and is one of several appointed to a high-level EPA position in the Trump administration. He most recently served as an interim CEO and lobbyist at the American Cleaning Institute, which represents cleaning product producers and has a track record of pushing back against chemical regulations.

At a hearing by the House Environment Subcommittee, tensions flared between Democrats and Republicans over the proposed changes to TSCA, with Rep. Frank Pallone from New Jersey calling the proposed bill an erosion of past bipartisan efforts around TSCA.

Tracey Woodruff, director of the Program on Reproductive Health and the Environment at the University of California, San Francisco, called the move an industry wishlist.

Chris Jahn, the ACC's president and CEO, said at the chemical industry conference that the proposed reforms to TSCA should be a bipartisan effort.

"To be clear, targeting reforms are not about weakening protections, despite what some may have you believe," said Jahn. "They're about strengthening the system so it can deliver the protections Congress intended."

A sluggish chemical review process discourages companies from investing in advanced materials and breakthrough technologies in America, encouraging them to move development overseas, he said.

"We can't allow the United States to fall behind because our regulatory system can't keep pace with scientific progress," Jahn said.

Texas Refineries See Opportunity in Venezuelan Oil Amid Mexico Export Declines, Texas Tribune

Texas oil refiners could soon have a stronger appetite for Venezuelan oil thanks to decreasing crude imports from Mexico as the Trump administration seeks to open Venezuela's energy sector to U.S. companies.

Refiners along the U.S. Gulf Coast are among the world's largest buyers of heavy crude oil — a variety with a peanut butter-like consistency that is more costly to extract and refine than Texas' light sweet grade. For years, Texas refiners' most prolific sources of heavy crude have been Canada, Mexico and Venezuela.

But after the Trump administration sent U.S. forces to capture Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, then promised to take control of Venezuela's oil sales, Gulf Coast refiners are eyeing the possibility of increased Venezuelan oil imports. Within hours of Maduro's capture, Trump placed a heavy emphasis on the country's oil, saying that U.S. oil companies will be "taking a tremendous amount of wealth out of the ground."

It remains unclear how much U.S. oil companies are willing to invest in increasing Venezuelan oil production. Many have said that they are seeking financial, legal and security assurances from the Trump administration before spending the billions of dollars necessary to significantly boost production levels.

Companies like ExxonMobil and ConocoPhillips are taking a cautious stance after their projects were seized by the Venezuelan government in 2007. Both companies continue to pursue compensation through international arbitration cases.

The Trump administration's attempt to revive Venezuela's oil industry coincides with Mexico's national strategy to build its own refineries. U.S. Gulf Coast imports of Mexican heavy oil, known as Maya crude, are projected to drop this year as Mexico seeks to feed its oil into its own burgeoning refining sector.

This could create an opportunity for more Venezuelan oil to flow into U.S. refineries, analysts say.

"You could argue that some of the Venezuelan barrels are needed to replace what Mexico might end up keeping," said Debnil Chowdhury, a Houston-based refining analyst at S&P Global Energy.

Valero Energy Corp., based in San Antonio, said it has already ramped up its Venezuelan oil purchases after the capture of Maduro. Speaking during a Jan. 29 earnings call, Valero Vice President Randy Hawkins told investors that Venezuelan crude will make up "a large part of our heavy diet as we move into February and March."

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Texas Refineries See Opportunity in Venezuelan Oil Amid Mexico Export Declines, Texas Tribune

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It's unclear how much more Venezuelan oil will begin flowing to the Gulf Coast as the Trump administration begins winding down sanctions that have been in place since 2019. Chevron, the only U.S. company currently authorized to operate in the country, has been producing 250,000 barrels per day, and the company is reportedly capable of increasing that figure by 50% within the next two years without major expenditures.

And Texas refiners are ready for it.

"Obviously having Venezuela supply back in the fold for our system is great news," Hawkins said.

Latin American decline, Canadian rise

As the supply of heavy crude from Mexico and Venezuela grew in the 1980s, U.S. refining companies entered into long-term agreements with the state-owned oil companies, Mexico's Pemex and Venezuela's PDVSA.

The arrangements allowed companies to justify building large refining complexes specifically configured to transform Latin American heavy crude into a range of products, from diesel fuels to asphalt. Global oil companies spent billions of dollars on new facilities that turned the U.S. Gulf Coast into one of the world's largest refining hubs.

"The refineries along the Gulf Coast, they were built thinking of Venezuelan oil," said Lorena Moscardelli, director of the University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology.

Over time, however, Latin American heavy crude production began to decline. Mexico's offshore Cantarell field reached peak production at 2.14 million barrels per day in 2004 and has since declined to 115,000 barrels per day, according to Pemex data. Although a portion of those losses has been offset by the discovery and development of other, smaller oil fields.

Venezuelan production volumes recorded gradual declines in the years following Hugo Chávez's 1999 ascent to the presidency. After recording peak production of nearly 3.5 million barrels per day in 1997, strikes, mass layoffs and mismanagement of PDVSA brought volumes to under 2.7 million barrels per day by Chávez's 2013 death, according to data from the US Energy Information Administration. Production volumes continued to plummet under Maduro and today stand at under 1 million barrels per day.

Trump Could Ratchet Up Trade Threats Amid USMCA talks, S&P Global

The US Supreme Court decision that struck down some Trump administration tariffs puts a high-stakes review of the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) in the spotlight, experts told Platts, part of S&P Global Energy.

The USMCA review, set to unfold in July, requires Canada, Mexico and the US to agree to maintain the 2020 trade deal that was negotiated by President Donald Trump during his first term. As it stands, products traded between the three countries flow duty-free if they are USMCA-compliant. This includes most metals and mining materials that are not subject to separate, unaffected sectoral tariffs.

Now, with his preferred tariff authorization deemed unconstitutional, Trump could become more aggressive or unpredictable with new duties or in seeking other concessions as the USMCA talks unfold, experts said.

"The main implication for the USMCA negotiations is that President Trump is now more frustrated and more in need of a 'win,'" Robert Embree, vice president and senior economist at Rosenberg Research & Associates, told Platts. "He's more determined than ever to prove that tariffs are good policy. This makes him more likely to use new, unpredictable threats of tariffs as we approach the summer USMCA renewal deadline. Trump may also be looking for additional tariff revenue, which is another reason that Canada could be vulnerable."

Experts are watching for potential Trump administration use of other legal authorities, particularly national security tariffs, referred to as Section 232 for the part of the law they rely on, and Section 301 tariffs, which respond to unfair trade practices by other countries, or Section 122 tariffs, which attempt to address imbalances in payments.These trade remedies require more due diligence by the US government, as opposed to the tariffs the Supreme Court struck down that were imposed under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA).

The Supreme Court finding may give Canada and Mexico some leverage, an expert said. But it could prove fleeting.

"The president didn't lose his leverage, he just lost a lever," Barry Appleton, a managing partner at Appleton & Associates International Lawyers, said, according to Bloomberg. He added, "We're going to see weaponizations of a variety of different tools that were never, ever conceived of in that way, utilized in that fashion, because the president does not want to go to Congress."

After the ruling, Trump criticized the Supreme Court for its decision, and he told countries not to "play games" over the tariff reversal. Trump said the US would issue more trade restrictions in the coming months.

"For one thing, I can use Licenses to do absolutely 'terrible' things to foreign countries, especially those countries that have been RIPPING US OFF for many decades," Trump said Feb. 23 on social media.

The White House has issued no details on potential licenses.

Trump Could Ratchet Up Trade Threats Amid USMCA talks, S&P Global

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US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer, who is the top US negotiator for the USMCA, has made it clear that Canada should expect higher US tariffs and agree to further open up Canadian markets to American companies.

"When we go to other countries, and we make a deal with them ... they agree that we can have a tariff on them," Greer said, according to a Feb. 25 report by CBC News. "If Canada wants to agree that we can have some level of higher tariff on them while they open up their markets to us on things like dairy and other things, then that's a helpful conversation."

Still, the ruling could give some opponents of tariffs more confidence in pushing back against Trump, one analyst said.

"Hard to say what Trump may do as he is totally unpredictable," David Davidson, an analyst at Paradigm Capital, told Platts. "Suffice to say he is finally getting some resistance from the Supreme Court which may give some backbone to some other factions."

Court reduces advantage

Canada and Mexico are key US markets for steel, as well as significant sources of US metals and minerals. Aluminum, steel and semi-finished copper products are subject to separate sectoral tariffs, while other products flow through with lower or no duties if they are USMCA compliant.

Canada accounted for about 70% of US imports of primary aluminum in 2024, according to S&P Global Market Intelligence data. Meanwhile, Canada and Mexico accounted for 93% of total US steel exports in 2024, the DC-based American Iron and Steel Institute said in an Oct. 31 letter to the US Trade Representative's office.

The exemption to tariffs for USMCA compliant products had given Canada and Mexico a relative advantage to other countries that had faced duty rates up to 50% under the IEEPA tariff. Trump on Feb. 20 replaced those illegal duties with a 10% global tariff under Section 122, which addresses imbalances in payments. The duty can only last 150 days, after which Congress would have to decide if the trade measures are extended.

"Canada does see a modest short-term reduction in our relative tariff advantage compared to other countries, but that effect is small in macro terms," Embree said.

The Canadian and US governments did not respond to a request for comment.

Mexico is taking a wait-and-see approach to the impact of the court ruling.

"Let's first see what measures he is going to take, so we can determine how they might affect our country," said Marcelo Ebrard, Mexico's Economy Minister, at an event on Feb. 20, adding that he is visiting Washington.

Most Natural Gas Pipelines Built in 2025 Connect the South Central United States to Supply, EIA

Natural gas pipeline projects completed in the United States in 2025 increased capacity by approximately 6.3 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d), according to our recently updated Natural Gas Pipeline Projects Tracker. A substantial portion, 85%, or 5.3 Bcf/d, of this new capacity is dedicated to delivering natural gas to the South Central region of the United States. This region includes the Gulf Coast, where much of the nation's growing natural gas demand, particularly from liquefied natural gas (LNG), is concentrated. The new capacity primarily connects both new and existing supply sources to consumers in the region.

Approximately 65% of the total pipeline capacity built in 2025 consists of intrastate pipelines, continuing the recent trend of intrastate pipeline builds outpacing interstate capacity additions. These pipelines operate primarily within state lines and are therefore not subject to the jurisdiction of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

The new intrastate capacity built in 2025 largely functions as gathering systems, which are essential for transporting natural gas from producers into the wider transmission system. Two such projects completed in 2025 expanded pipeline capacity by a combined 3.5 Bcf/d to connect natural gas production from the natural gas-producing Haynesville formation to the Gillis Hub in southeastern Louisiana. The Louisiana Energy Gateway project added 1.8 Bcf/d, and the New Generation Gas Gathering system added 1.7 Bcf/d. Both were in service as of October 2025.

In addition, three major projects expanded natural gas pipeline capacity for delivery to growing demand centers on the Gulf Coast by a combined 1.8 Bcf/d. The Evangeline Pass Expansion project added 1.1 Bcf/d, and the East Lateral Xpress Project added 0.3 Bcf/d. These two projects deliver feedgas directly to Plaquemines LNG, which shipped its first cargo in 2025. The Texas to Louisiana Pathway Project added 0.4 Bcf/d in interstate capacity from Texas through to eastern Louisiana.

House Misses Year-Round E15 Deadline Amid Ethanol Push, RFDTV

House lawmakers missed their self-imposed late-February deadline to introduce legislation allowing permanent, nationwide year-round E15 sales, drawing renewed pressure from ethanol groups meeting in Orlando. Industry leaders say the delay adds uncertainty for farmers counting on stronger corn demand and lower fuel costs.

The E15 Rural Domestic Energy Council had pledged action by February 25, but no bill has been filed. Renewable Fuels Association President and CEO Geoff Cooper and Growth Energy CEO Emily Skor both urged Congress to move quickly, arguing that bipartisan, supply-chain-supported legislation is already in place.

For producers, year-round E15 remains central to expanding domestic ethanol use. Federal limits currently restrict E15 sales during the summer in many markets. Ethanol advocates contend permanent access would increase corn grind, reduce fuel prices, and strengthen rural income during a period of tight margins.

The urgency comes as the industry reported record performance in 2025, producing 16.4 billion gallons of ethanol, exporting 2.2 billion gallons, and supporting more than 300,000 jobs. California also approved E15, though implementation awaits regulatory certification.

Looking ahead, industry leaders are watching the EPA's renewable volume proposals and the implementation of the 45Z Clean Fuel Production Credit for further growth opportunities.

Ocean Freight Rates Fall Across Key Routes in Early 2026 Amid Capacity Uncertainty, Global Trade Mag

According to Xeneta, average spot freight rates declined across all main trades from the Far East during the week ending February 19. The analysis indicates a standard market development where falling spot rates are occurring alongside a slight increase in the available shipping capacity on routes to the United States.
Read also: Freight Market Enters 2026 with Cautious Optimism Amid Divergent Strategies
Specifically, the market average spot rate from the Far East to the U.S. West Coast was $1,889 per forty-foot container, down from $2,052 the prior week. The rate to the U.S. East Coast settled at $2,688 per container, a decrease from $2,882.

The trans-Pacific trade lane has been characterized by importers delaying shipments and carriers dealing with an oversupply of vessel space. Xeneta's data showed a four-week rolling average of offered capacity as of February 16 increased by 2.7% on Asia-West Coast services and by 2.2% to the East Coast compared to the previous week.

This market uncertainty arrives as shipping lines begin annual contract negotiations with cargo owners. Following a difficult 2025 that saw year-on-year profit decreases for major public carriers, an anticipated push for higher contracted rates may be undermined if demand remains weak due to economic concerns exacerbated by tariffs.
Other major Asian trade routes also experienced rate softening, but under different conditions. On the Far East to North Europe lane, spot rates continued to fall even though offered capacity decreased week-on-week, signaling a particularly weak market. This development is notable given that China developed substantial export markets in Europe during 2025 after tariffs significantly reduced shipping volumes to the U.S.
Xeneta's chief analyst projected that 2026 is expected to be a year defined by overcapacity in container shipping, a situation that will be intensified by a large-scale return of services to the Red Sea. However, rising tensions between the U.S. and Iran could influence this dynamic, particularly if it leads to a resumption of attacks on merchant ships in the Red Sea by Houthi militia. Even without a full escalation of conflict, military posturing and rhetoric from political leaders could affect regional security and cause carriers to delay plans to resume Red Sea transits. Such a delay would postpone the wider return of container shipping to that route and alleviate overcapacity pressures for carriers later into 2026.

In a separate lane, the spot rate from North Europe to the U.S. East Coast saw a slight increase to $1,492 per container from $1,484 the previous week, occurring alongside a capacity reduction of nearly 10%.

Shell Signs LNG Deal to Boost Supply to Southern Europe, Oilprice.com

Shell and Greek energy and metals firm Metlen have signed a cooperation deal for LNG supply and trading, which would boost deliveries to Greek import terminals and supply to southern and central Europe.

Metlen and the UK-based supermajor, which is the world's top LNG trader, will supply and trade 0.5 to 1.0 billion cubic meters of LNG per year over the five-year period 2027–2031, the Greek company said.

Deliveries will be made to the Greek LNG regasification facilities in Revithoussa and Alexandroupolis. The agreement also envisages the use of the Vertical Gas Corridor, enabling access to additional European markets beyond Southeast Europe.

Greece aims to become a gas hub for non-Russian gas entering Europe, while Shell is the biggest buyer of LNG from the United States, positioning the supermajor to support growing natural gas supply needs through its global portfolio, Metlen said.

The Greek company says that the deal "is further strengthening its position as a key natural gas player in the region, enhancing market liquidity while contributing to regional energy security and reinforcing Greece's role as a strategic regional energy hub."

The memorandum of understanding, signed in Washington, D.C., in the presence of U.S. Secretary of Energy Chris Wright, reflects the intention of both parties to pursue joint development across a number of European countries, in alignment with the Vertical Gas Corridor initiative.

As the European Union moves to ditch Russian gas – both pipeline and LNG – by 2027, Europe is increasingly relying on LNG from the United States.

Before the Russian invasion of Ukraine began in 2022, Asia received the most volumes of U.S. LNG exports, averaging 46% from 2017 through 2021, according to EIA data. Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, exports to Europe surged, and in 2022, Europe received 69% of all LNG exports from the United States, up from 34% in 2021. From January through November 2025, Europe received 68% of U.S.-origin volumes.

North Dakota Crude Output to Remain Steady Despite Winter Storm, Tariff Ruling, PGJ

Crude output is expected to be relatively steady in North Dakota in February, the third-largest U.S. oil-producing state, a state regulator said on Feb. 23, with little change expected in drilling activity.

Operators are likely to hold their drilling rig count, an indicator of future output, near current operational levels of 26 for the year, said Nathan Anderson, director of the North Dakota Department of Mineral Resources.

Oil production in North Dakota fell by 76,000 barrels per day to 1.12 million bpd in December, according to the department's latest data.

Output is estimated to have fallen 80,000 bpd to 110,000 bpd for several days of January, according to the North Dakota Pipeline Authority, as a winter storm pushed operators to shut in production.

"In January (data) we will see the effects of winter," said Justin Kringstad, director of the North Dakota Pipeline Authority, referring to crude production figures. The Supreme Court's decision on Feb. 20 to strike down U.S. President Donald Trump's emergency tariffs is unlikely to boost North Dakota's oil output in the short term, Anderson said. He added output growth would be dependent on capital costs, expenses and oil prices.

Trump's tariffs raised costs for U.S. crude producers and service companies who buy imported equipment and materials. Many absorbed the additional costs; others tried to pass them on to customers.

Ten Years After First Cargo, US LNG Dominance Set to Keep Growing, US News

In the ten years since the first export cargo of liquefied natural gas left Louisiana, the United States has grown rapidly into the top supplier of the ultra-cooled fuel to world consumers.

That dramatic expansion shows no sign of slowing down, with analysts and industry executives projecting that record U.S. LNG export capacity will double in just five years.

Whether the world market, already showing signs of saturation, will be able to absorb those supplies is an open question. Shell's CEO Wael Sawan said earlier that the LNG sector was expanding at a rate of about 3% per annum, outpacing the gas market.

Cheniere Energy exported the first LNG cargo from the lower 48 states on February 24, 2016, from its Sabine Pass facility, marking a new era for the U.S. LNG industry that would eventually see it overtake heavyweights Qatar and Australia.

Cargoes of LNG had previously been exported from Alaska in thin quantities.

Now, the United States is processing around 18 billion cubic feet per day of natural gas into LNG, according to LSEG and EIA data, making it the top supplier. Gas at the wellhead is measured in cubic feet while LNG is measured in metric tons.

"LNG exports from the United States increased for several reasons, including abundant natural gas supply and reserves, flexible LNG export contracts, and relatively low feedgas costs," the U.S. Energy Information Administration said in a statement.

Ten Years After First Cargo, US LNG Dominance Set to Keep Growing, US News

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Increasing international demand, particularly from Europe following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and a favorable investment climate have supported LNG infrastructure expansions in the U.S., the EIA said.

The EIA said late last year that LNG exporters in the U.S. have announced plans to bring U.S. liquefaction capacity up to 28.7 bcfd by 2029, from 11.4 bcfd at the start of 2024.

Two of the world's three largest LNG exporters are located in the U.S., Cheniere and Venture Global LNG.

"Venture Global went from a startup with zero LNG capacity to operating or constructing three facilities within six years, and over 100 (million tons per annum) of planned capacity in production, construction, or development," the company.

Cheniere told Reuters it has invested $50 billion in growing its two export facilities over the past decade and aims to double output to 100 million tons per annum by the mid-2030s.

"At the end of 2016, our operational capacity was approximately 9 mtpa. Today, it is approximately 52 mtpa and climbing, as we continue to bring Corpus Christi Stage 3 trains online," Cheniere said.

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