

Melanie Stansbury has gone to war against our oil and gas industry while in Congress. She has joined Biden in opposing a policy that could lower gas prices, and has joined forces with radical environmentalists to shut down oil and gas development, which would mean thousands of jobs lost in New Mexico and threaten funding for our schools.

BACKUP:

During her time in Congress, Melanie Stansbury has gone to war against the oil and gas industry by co-sponsoring the Green New Deal, which seeks to shift the United States away from fossil fuels like oil and natural gas, and is supported by radical environmentalists like the Sunrise Movement:

- In a 2021 candidate questionnaire, Melanie Stansbury said she would co-sponsor the Green New Deal. (“Candidate: Melanie Stansbury,” [Adelante Progressive Caucus](#), Accessed 4/7/21)



Candidate: Melanie Stansbury

Candidate's Website: [melanieformm.com](http://melanieformm.com)

Section 1

Candidate's Responses to Yes-or-No Questions, with Optional Comments

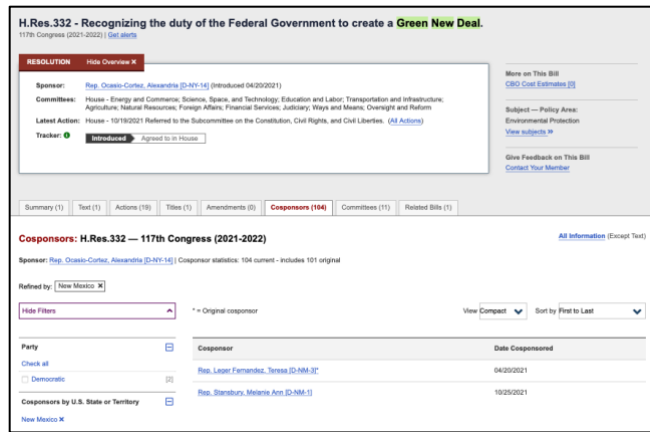
2. Will you co-sponsor the Green New Deal? —

Yes.

(“Candidate: Melanie Stansbury,” [Adelante Progressive Caucus](#), Accessed: 4/7/21)

*Editor's Note:* Stansbury's response to the questionnaire was [published](#) before Rep. Ocasio-Cortez [introduced](#) her Green New Deal legislation into the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress, suggesting that Stansbury would have also supported the version introduced in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress, [H.Res.109](#), as it was the only version of the bill at the time.

- Melanie Stansbury is a cosponsor of H.Res. 332, “Recognizing the duty of the Federal Government to create a Green New Deal.” (H.Res.332 - Recognizing the duty of the Federal Government to create a Green New Deal, [Co-sponsors](#), Introduced: 4/20/21)



(H.Res.332 - Recognizing the duty of the Federal Government to create a Green New Deal, [Co-sponsors](#), Accessed: 8/24/22)

- **The Green New Deal’s goals include 100 percent of the power demand in the United States with renewable energy sources.** “[T]he goals described in subparagraphs (A) 7 through (E) of paragraph (1) (referred to in this resolution as the ‘Green New Deal goals’) should be accomplished through a 10-year national mobilization (referred to in this resolution as the ‘Green New Deal mobilization’) that will require the following goals and projects....meeting 100 percent of the power demand in the United States through clean, renewable, and zero-emission energy sources...” ([H. Res. 332](#), Introduced 4/20/21)

  - **Fossil fuels such as oil and natural gas are non-renewable resources.** “Fossil energy sources, including oil, coal and natural gas, are non-renewable resources that formed when prehistoric plants and animals died and were gradually buried by layers of rock. Over millions of years, different types of fossil fuels formed ~ depending on what combination of organic matter was present, how long it was buried and what temperature and pressure conditions existed as time passed. Today, fossil fuel industries drill or mine for these energy sources, burn them to produce electricity, or refine them for use as fuel for heating or transportation. Over the past 20 years, nearly three-fourths of human-caused emissions came from the burning of fossil fuels.” (U.S. Department of Energy, “Fossil,” [Energy Sources](#), Accessed: 9/7/22)
  - **HEADLINE: “Democrats float 'Green New Deal' to end fossil fuel era”** (Valerie Volcovici, “Democrats float 'Green New Deal' to end fossil fuel era,” [Reuters](#), 2/7/19)
  - **The Green New Deal is an attempt to transition the U.S. economy away from fossil fuels.** “The document, unveiled by rising political star Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Senator Edward Markey, marks the first formal attempt by lawmakers to define potential legislation to create big government-led investments in clean energy and infrastructure to transition the U.S. economy away from fossil fuels.” (Valerie Volcovici, “Democrats float 'Green New Deal' to end fossil fuel era,” [Reuters](#), 2/7/19)
- **The New York Times described the 2019 version of the Green New Deal as “call[ing] on the federal government to wean the United States from fossil fuels.”** “Introduced by Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York and Senator Edward J. Markey of Massachusetts, both Democrats, the proposal calls on the federal government to wean the United States from fossil fuels and curb planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions across

the economy. It also aims to guarantee new high-paying jobs in clean energy industries.”  
(Lisa Friedman, “What Is the Green New Deal? A Climate Proposal, Explained,” [The New York Times](#), 2/21/19)

- **Oil, natural gas, and coal are all fossil fuels.** “Fossil energy sources, including oil, coal and natural gas, are non-renewable resources that formed when prehistoric plants and animals died and were gradually buried by layers of rock. Over millions of years, different types of fossil fuels formed – depending on what combination of organic matter was present, how long it was buried and what temperature and pressure conditions existed as time passed. Today, fossil fuel industries drill or mine for these energy sources, burn them to produce electricity, or refine them for use as fuel for heating or transportation. Over the past 20 years, nearly three-fourths of human-caused emissions came from the burning of fossil fuels.” (U.S. Department of Energy, “Fossil,” [Energy Sources](#), Accessed: 9/7/22)
- **The Sunrise Movement is a group of young climate activists that helped popularize the term Green New Deal.** “The new popularity of the term Green New Deal can be credited to this group of young climate activists known as the Sunrise Movement. After Donald Trump became President in January 2017, hopes for positive progress on the climate agenda shifted largely to grassroots groups, municipalities and a range of activist groups representing a range of interests including: feminist, LGBTQ+ rights, climate, economic and racial justice. The stakes were then high – a raging and worsening climate crisis, a growing socio-economic and racial divide, together with a national public health crisis. The dire situation and the progressive political vacuum fed into the fast and successful emergence of the Sunrise movement and its radical Green New Deal program.” (Rapid Transition, “The Sunrise Movement: how a US grassroots youth movement helped set the national climate agenda for rapid change,” [Story of Change](#), 1/28/21)
  - **The Sunrise Movement has radical politics and uses confrontational tactics, which has splintered the environmental movement.** “Some critics charge that Sunrise’s recent activism has been more hindrance than help. The group came out against last fall’s bipartisan infrastructure bill, calling it the Exxon Plan,’ even though it contained hundreds of millions of dollars in funding for things like renewable energy and environmental cleanup. Its actions usually target Democrats: chants of ‘Biden, you coward, fight for us!’; pursuing Senator Kyrsten Sinema to the Boston Marathon; hounding Sinema’s Democratic colleague Joe Manchin at the yacht where he lives in D.C. At the same time, Sunrise has demanded allies take up unpopular positions unrelated to climate, including Palestinian liberation and defunding the police. Fellow travelers on the left have balked at the group’s radical politics and confrontational tactics. Center-left writer Matt Yglesias called its attacks on Democrats a ‘total failure to read the political situation,’ while the socialist magazine Jacobin chided the group for being out of touch with the working-class people it claims to be advocating for. Though few are eager to risk the group’s ire for saying so, many professional Democrats believe Sunrise has splintered the environmental movement, alienating potential allies and hurting the image of the broader cause.” (Molly Ball, “What More Do We Need To Do To Win? A Controversial Climate Group Rethinks Its Strategy,” [TIME](#), 3/17/22)

**Melanie Stansbury joined Joe Biden in supporting the Build Back Better Act, legislation that would block previously authorized energy production and future energy exploration, and would**

increase royalties on domestic energy production – even though increasing domestic production could help lower the price of gas:

- **On November 19, 2021, Stansbury voted for H.R. 5376, the Build Back Better Act.** (H.R. 5376, [Roll Call 385](#), Passed 220-213: R 0-212, D 220-1, Stansbury voted Yea, 11/19/21)

*Editor's Note:* The version of the Build Back Better Act referenced is the one passed by the House of Representatives on November 19, 2021.

- **Build Back Better plan is President Joe Biden's signature plan.** "President Joe Biden said he will likely have to break up his stalled plan to invest in social programs and climate policy, and that he believes Congress can still pass parts of it. 'I'm confident we can get pieces, big chunks of the Build Back Better law signed into law,' the president told reporters on Wednesday. Biden's signature proposal hit a wall in December after Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.V., said he would not vote for it. Every Senate Democrat would need to back the \$1.75 trillion House-passed bill for it to get to Biden's desk and become law." (Jacob Pramuk, "Biden says he thinks Congress can pass parts of broken-up Build Back Better plan," [CNBC](#), 1/19/22)
- **Build Back Better would restrict the Secretary of the Interior from issuing any lease or authorization for "exploration, development, or production of oil or natural gas" in specific planning areas.** "SEC. 71301. PROTECTION OF THE EASTERN GULF, ATLANTIC, AND PACIFIC COASTS. The Secretary of the Interior may not issue a lease or any other authorization for the exploration, development, or production of oil or natural gas in any of the planning areas on the Outer Continental Shelf in the Pacific Region Planning Areas, in the Atlantic Region Planning Areas, or in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico Planning Area identified on the map entitled 'Outer Continental Shelf Lower 48 States Planning Areas' and dated October 18, 2021." (Rules Committee Print 117-18, "Text of H.R. 5376 Build Back Better Act," [Page 922](#), 11/3/21)
  - **The Build Back Better Act would block previously authorized domestic energy production in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.** "The law would, if passed, repeal in its entirety the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Oil and Gas Program, cancel any leases issued pursuant to the same section of the related law, and return all payments for leases to the lessees within 30 days of enactment of the act. It also reinstates the prohibition of oil and gas leasing in certain areas of the Outer Continental Shelf, amends on and offshore fossil fuel royalty rates, and changes or introduces other fees related to fossil fuel exploration and development." (Beth Verge, "Biden administration takes aim at ANWR in Build Back Better Act," [Alaska's News Source](#), 10/29/21)
  - **The Build Back Better Act would also block future domestic energy exploration efforts in the eastern Gulf of Mexico, and in areas off the Atlantic and Pacific coasts.** "The measure is part of the bill's climate-related issues and would permanently ban leasing of areas set off limits by the Gulf of Mexico Security Act of 2006, which includes the eastern Gulf of Mexico. It would also ban drilling in areas off the Atlantic and Pacific coasts currently off limits in the 2017-2022 leasing programme." (Mark Passwaters, "Biden's Build Back Better bill would ban drilling offshore Florida, increase royalty rates," [Upstream Online](#), 11/4/21)

- **According to the National Association of Manufacturers, increasing domestic energy production, including the utilization of federal lands, could help lower gas prices and make the U.S. more competitive on the world stage,** “Policymakers can help alleviate the pain Americans are feeling at the pump and elsewhere—but by increasing domestic energy production, not through ill-conceived legislation, the NAM told U.S. House leadership this week... legislators should focus on increasing production of energy here at home, which will lower inflation and pump prices, as well as make the U.S. more competitive globally, Jones wrote. ‘That starts with opening our diverse resources on federal lands, approving responsible exploration and production, supporting sustainable permitting and quickly building out more energy infrastructure.’” (NAM News Room, “Increased Production, Not Regulations, Will Lower Gas Prices,” [National Association of Manufacturers](#), 5/20/22)
- **The Build Back Better Act would raise the royalty rates for all new oil, gas, and coal leases from 12.5% to 20%, and in some cases up to 25%.** “In the Build Back Better bill, minimum onshore royalty rates would be increased from 12.5% to 20%, while higher royalty rates of 16.67% would be increased to 25%. Offshore production royalties would be increased across the board from 12.5% to 20%.” (Mark Passwaters, “Biden’s Build Back Better bill would ban drilling offshore Florida, increase royalty rates,” [Upstream Online](#), 11/4/21)

#### **More than 100,000 jobs in New Mexico are supported by the oil and natural gas industry:**

- **The New Mexico oil and natural gas industry supported over 100,000 jobs in 2021.** “The state’s oil and natural gas industry supported 134,000 jobs in New Mexico in 2021, NMOGA said.” (Mike Cook, “Oil and gas production boomed in New Mexico in 2021,” [Las Cruces Bulletin](#), 1/12/22)

#### **New Mexico public schools receive funding from state oil and gas leasing revenue:**

- **In 2021, one third of New Mexico’s education budget came from oil and gas activity across federal, state and private lands.** “Industry attempts to convince New Mexicans that the state’s public education system is wholly dependent on oil and gas are based on a tough truth: decades of steep tax cuts have indeed positioned fossil fuels as the thunder behind Democratic-led New Mexico’s economy. In 2021, 15% of the state’s general fund came from royalties, rents and other fees that the Department of the Interior collects from mineral extraction on federal lands. Oil and gas activity across federal, state and private lands contributes around a third of the state’s general fund of \$7.2bn, as well as a third of its education budget.” (Leanne First-Arai, “How the oil and gas industry is trying to hold US public schools hostage,” [The Guardian](#), 5/4/22)
- **New Mexico public school operational funds come in part from Federal Mineral Leasing Revenue.** “Nearly all state-level school district operational funds are distributed through the Public School Fund. Revenues are derived from the following sources: the General Fund, the Current School Fund, and the Federal Mineral Leasing Revenue.” (New Mexico Public Education Department, “[How New Mexico Public Schools are Funded](#),” 4/2016)

#### **ADDITIONAL ANTI-ENERGY POSITIONS**

**Melanie Stansbury supports banning all fossil fuel extraction on public and Tribal lands, and has said that Tribes should sell art and wool to replace their lost income:**

- In a candidate questionnaire, Stansbury said she supported banning all fossil fuel extraction on public and Tribal lands. (“Candidate: Melanie Stansbury,” [Adelante Progressive Caucus](#), Archived 4/1/21)

3. Do you have an executable plan to end fossil fuel extraction on public and tribal lands? —  
If yes, what is it?

My plan to address our carbon footprint and tackle climate change includes banning extraction on Tribal and public lands. To do so we must help our communities be resilient and diversify our economy. Through economic diversification we will grow our green economy and transition away from the dangerous reliance on oil and gas. In this State Legislature, I introduced HB9 - The Climate Solutions Act, which is a comprehensive bill that helps foster resilience and economic diversification, creates a foundation for a just transition to a clean economy, and bring the most impacted and historically disadvantaged communities to the table and empower those communities to shape their future. In Congress, I will continue this critical work and put legislation into place to protect sacred land and water.

(“Candidate: Melanie Stansbury,” [Adelante Progressive Caucus](#), Archived 4/1/21)

- **VIDEO:** In a February 2021 committee hearing, Stansbury said that Native Americans should sell their art or wool to make up for the lost income as a result of a fossil fuel ban. **STANSBURY:** “You’re in a rural (unintelligible) community, that could be selling your art or your wool using the internet, who knows what it is. But the whole point of this bill is not to, um, to say or to dictate, or to try to make the economy be a certain thing, and if you read the details of the bill, which I really, really encourage you to do, it is about creating a seat at the table for our communities to be empowered with tools, resources, and the opportunity to actually define what the future of our economy will look like. So, representative Montoya, you are asking exactly the right questions. And that is what this bill is trying to do.” **REPRESENTATIVE MONTOYA:** “Mr. Chairman and representative Stansbury, I know I’m asking the right questions, but there are no answers. Perpetually there are no answers. It is platitudes, um, we’re talking about empowerment. If the Navajo nation is forced to shut down Four Corners Generating Station, Navajo coal mine, Navajo Oil and Gas Company, Navajo Transmission and Utility Authority, they’re forced to shut them down.” (“Melanie Stansbury says Tribes should sell their art or wool to make up for lost fossil fuel income,” [YouTube](#), 2/6/21)

**In 2019, Stansbury voted for the Energy Transition Act, a “mini-Green New Deal” that set a target of 100% carbon-free energy by 2045, and threatened the nearly 120,000 jobs that rely on the oil and gas industry in New Mexico:**

- In 2019, the New Mexico Legislature passed a controversial climate bill, SB 489. “The Legislature has moved to Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham’s desk a controversial bill designed to dramatically increase the amount of renewable energy used to produce electricity in New Mexico while also helping the Public Service Company of New Mexico recoup its investments in the coal-burning San Juan Generating Station near Farmington. Following a three-hour debate Tuesday, the House passed Senate Bill 489 by a margin of 43-22. It was a mostly party-line vote, with almost all Democrats in favor of the bill and almost all Republicans voting against it. The measure goes now to Lujan Grisham, who has enthusiastically supported it.” (Steve Terrell, “Energy bill’s passage portends end of coal era in NM,” [NM Political Report](#), 3/13/2019)

- **The Energy Transition Act has been hailed as a “mini-Green New Deal.”** “On March 23, New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham signed into law the Energy Transition Act, a complex bill that will move the state toward cleaner electricity generation, clear the way for the state’s biggest utility to shutter one of the West’s largest coal-fired power plants in 2022, and provide mechanisms for a just transition for economically affected communities...The bill has the support of the state’s biggest utility—Public Service Company of New Mexico, or PNM—as well as environmental groups such as the Natural Resources Defense Council, Western Resource Advocates and the San Juan Citizens Alliance. National media are hailing it as a mini-Green New Deal.” (Jonathan Thompson, “New Mexico’s ‘mini’ Green New Deal, dissected,” [High Country News](#), 3/25/2019)
- **The bill called for 50% renewable energy by 2030, and 80% by 2040.** “The bill calls for a 50 percent renewable energy portfolio standard in the state by 2030, with a goal of 80 percent by 2040.” (Steve Terrell, “Energy bill’s passage portends end of coal era in NM,” [NM Political Report](#), 3/13/2019)
- **The bill set a target of 100% carbon free energy by 2045—one of the fastest timelines in the nation.** “Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham championed legislation introduced Feb. 1 that set a timeline for moving the state’s electricity supply from coal to solar, wind and geothermal power to 50 percent by 2030 and 80 percent by 2040. This bill lists those timelines as well, and sets the mark to 100 percent carbon-free power by 2045. It ranks among the fastest timelines in the nation, tying with California but mandating what that state set as an aspiration.” (Elizabeth Miller, “New bill calls for zero-carbon electricity for New Mexico,” [New Mexico In Depth](#), 2/7/2019)
- **As of 2018, the oil and gas industry employed over 117,000 people in New Mexico, and was responsible for more than \$17 billion to the state’s economy.** “The natural gas and oil industry supported over 117,000 jobs and contributed more than \$17 billion to New Mexico’s economy in 2018.” (“A Federal Leasing and Development Ban Threatens New Mexico’s Energy Security, Economic Growth and Environmental Progress,” [New Mexico Oil and Gas Association](#), 2020)
- **In March, 2019, Stansbury voted for SB 489, the Energy Transition Act.** (SB 489, [New Mexico House of Representatives](#), 3/12/19)
  - **SB 489 is the Energy Transition Act.** “Surrounded by dozens of advocates and statewide leaders, Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham on Friday signed Senate Bill 489, the Energy Transition Act, landmark legislation that sets bold statewide renewable energy standards and establishes a pathway for a low-carbon energy transition away from coal while providing workforce training and transition assistance to affected communities.” (Office of the Governor, Michelle Lujan Grisham, “Governor Signs Landmark Energy Legislation, Establishing New Mexico as a National Leader in Renewable Transition Efforts,” [Office of the Governor](#), 3/22/19)