

# The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

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## OPINION

### READERS WRITE

#### State prioritizes fossil fuels at consumers' expense

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*In rebuttal to a July 29 AJC column by state Senator John Albers on Georgia energy policy,  
"Energy independence is and American imperative."*

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While we agree with Sen. Albers' objective of conducting development with environmentally responsible practices, there is little evidence of Georgia achieving it. In comparing U.S. states using several key factors [environmental protection, energy consumption, waste disposal, and pollution], a 2025 assessment ranked Georgia below average, at 33<sup>rd</sup>. [See [2025's Best States for Environmental Protection](#).]

Although natural gas [methane] is cleaner-burning than coal or oil, even small amounts of methane leaked into the atmosphere can worsen heat-trapping emissions more than burning dirtier fossil-fuels. Experts say if more than 2% of natural gas is leaked, overheating effects would be worse than burning coal, the dirtiest fossil-fuel.

Higher costs of energy in Georgia directly result from political bias favoring the profits of Georgia Power and fossil-fuel producers. Prioritizing fossil-fuels in PSC-sanctioned power-generation plans has made unwary residential energy consumers in Georgia vulnerable to volatile global markets, while the use of less costly rooftop solar panels has been severely restricted under state policies.

The U.S. is already energy abundant, exporting more fossil fuels than any other nation on earth. If efficiency and energy-independence were truly the goals, surely it would be more prudent to stockpile our resources instead of exporting them.

David Kyler  
Center for a Sustainable Coast