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By Robert Osborne

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While the President of the U.S. owns the podium, the U.S. Congress controls the purse strings. Translation: the President can send a message to the Congress and the America people with his proposed budget to finance the operation of the federal government, but it is the members of Congress that allocate funding.

President Trump sent a message to Congress a few weeks ago that he wanted to decrease spending for the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Energy, and the Department of Interior in an effort get America moving in a direction that will ultimately result in “energy independence.”

"We must eliminate every outdated, unnecessary, or ineffective federal regulation, and move aggressively to build regulatory frameworks that stimulate—rather than stagnate—job creation," Trump writes in his budget message. "Even for those regulations we must leave in place, we must strike every provision that is counterproductive, ineffective, or outdated."

Here's a summary of some of the President's budget includes:

- Reduce EPA's budget by \$2.6 billion to \$5.7 billion (31%), and 50 programs closed and lay off about 20% of the agency's 15,000 employees. Also, discontinue funding for the Clean Power Plan, international climate change programs, and climate change research and partnership programs with estimated savings of \$100 million.
- DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy would see a 69% budget cut compared with 2016 levels, the Office of Fossil Energy budget would be reduced 44%, and the Office of Nuclear Energy budget would decline by about 30%.
- DOE's funding of programs focused on renewables, nuclear, fossil fuels, and carbon capture and storage would decline about 84%.

The President's message is loud and clear: The federal government has overregulated the oil and gas industry for the decades. President Trump and his administration are to be commended for their actions to reduce federal regulations.

The Texas Alliance of Energy Producers Board of Directors has approved a resolution calling on state and federal policymakers to repeal, or revise, or delegate back to the states regulations that are not need to be implemented by the federal government.

The Federal Regulatory Energy Delegation (FRED) Committee was formed and went to work educating the Texas Legislature about the importance of this movement, and it passed a resolution endorsing FRED. Special thanks to State Senator Craig Estes, Chairman of the Natural Resources and Business Development Committee, and Rep. Drew Darby, Chairman of the Energy Resources Committee, for the leadership and hard work in getting the resolution passed.

Now, it is on to Washington to educated members of the House and Senate about the importance of reducing the size and overreach of the federal government.

The Alliance is committed to reducing the size of government and regulation of the oil and gas industry.