

Conventional energy sources remain important: US Senator

A leader in the US Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources has raised concerns about the impacts of President Obama's 10-year budget blueprint on domestic conventional energy production. "President Obama and I agree that we need to do everything we can to encourage development of renewable and alternative sources of energy," Senator Lisa Murkowski says. "Even under the most optimistic projections, however, America will continue to depend on conventional sources of energy for decades." She says the budget increases domestic oil and gas companies' cost of doing business by at least US\$31 billion over the next 10 years through a combination of new fees, taxes, and other regulatory shifts. "Instead of declaring war on the domestic production of conventional energy – as I believe the President's budget does – we need to focus on how we can use our abundant domestic resources of oil, natural gas and coal in the cleanest, most environmentally friendly way possible for the sake of our nation's economy, our nation's security and the world's environment," the Republican Senator says. Murkowski also expresses concern over the lack of nuclear power in the budget proposal, especially as Congress takes on the challenge of tackling global climate change. "The President's proposal ignores the single largest source of carbon-free energy we have," Murkowski says. "Expanding nuclear power can help both meet our growing energy demand and create high-paying jobs."

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