

[View this email in your browser](#)



News, Research and Events

March 16, 2022



## Senate testimony: Medlock and Michot Foss on use of energy as a tool & weapon

Energy security has vaulted to the top of energy policy concerns as the Russia-Ukraine crisis unfolds. The EU heavily depends on Russian gas and oil, and the war is having ripple effects on already stressed world energy markets. Can Europe reduce its dependence on Russian energy resources, and what role might the U.S. play?

In [written testimony](#) submitted prior to a U.S. Senate hearing on energy security last week, [Center for Energy Studies](#) senior director [Ken Medlock](#) explains that any European transition away from Russian gas will require major infrastructure to import gas from other countries; more efficient use of existing gas infrastructure; and the development of redundancies through alternative and existing energy sources. However, Medlock warns that these solutions need investment and time to be built. In the short term, the abundance of U.S. energy resources will play a critical role in blunting the impact of Russia's use of the "energy weapon" against Europe, he writes. [Read](#) his full written statement or [watch](#) the Senate hearing on the Baker Institute [website](#). Medlock's testimony starts at 00:59:22.

The Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee also heard testimony from [Michelle Michot Foss](#), fellow in energy, minerals and materials. Michot Foss discussed the development of critical minerals and metals supply chains and the role of materials for alternative energy technologies in long-term energy security. [Read](#) her written statement or [watch](#) her testimony starting at 00:42:10.

For more on how the Russian invasion of Ukraine is impacting oil and gas markets, read [Strategic Response Options if Russia Cuts Gas to Europe and Reroute, Reduce or Replace? How the Oil Market Might Cope with a Loss of Russian Exports](#) from the [Center for Energy Studies](#).

---

***“The EU, the U.S. and other countries need to anticipate and plan for multiple pathways to medium- and long-term protection (of Ukrainian refugees) in the event that the conflict continues.”***

[Kelsey Norman](#), Fellow for the Middle East and Director, Women's Rights, Human Rights & Refugees Program, in a Baker Institute [issue brief](#)

---

## Latest research



**Waste Management of Alternative Energy Supply Chains.** A new report by fellows [Rachel Meidl](#) and [Michelle Michot Foss](#) and MIT professor [Ju Li](#) calls for data transparency to support planning and coordination of waste management and recycling policies along the entire global supply chain for alternative energy technologies. Read it [here](#).



**The Impact and Accessibility of the PPP.** Did the Paycheck Protection Program succeed in aiding small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic? [Leyah Mathew](#) and [George Webb](#) of the [McNair Center for Entrepreneurship and Economic Growth](#) write that it helped some firms cover employment-related expenses but was inaccessible to others. Read their [issue brief](#).



**Mexican Immigrants and the U.S. Knowledge Economy.** Nonresident scholar [Elizabeth Salamanca Pacheco](#) explains how high-skilled migrants from Mexico are well positioned to alleviate a STEM talent shortage in the U.S. and stimulate innovation in their native country. Read her [research paper](#).

---

## Equal access to COVID-19 vaccines? How Texas fared



As the pandemic persisted across the state, did Texans living in cities have better access to COVID-19 vaccines than those in rural or low-income areas? How did race or age factor in? Experts from the [Center for Health and Biosciences](#) and the [Science and Technology Policy Program](#) assess the successes and shortfalls of Texas' vaccine distribution strategy, and how to do better next time. Read their [policy brief](#).

---

## Upcoming events

**Oil Market Update: Taking Stock after Russia's Invasion of Ukraine.** Toril Bosoni, head of the IEA's oil industry and markets division, presents the agency's latest Oil Market Report, followed by a discussion with Natasha Kaneva, head of global commodities strategy at J.P. Morgan. **March 23 | 9:00 am CDT**

**The Future of Women's Rights in Afghanistan: A Conversation with Dr. Sima Samar.** This event, the first in a two-part series on Afghanistan after the fall of Kabul, features a conversation between Dr. Sima Samar, renowned Afghan women and human rights advocate, and Sehba Sarwar, an artist, author and activist. **March 30 | 6:00 pm CDT**

**Things Are Never So Bad That They Can't Get Worse: Inside the Collapse of Venezuela.** Author and journalist William Neuman discusses his newest book, which chronicles Venezuela's devastating slide from petro-riches to poverty. **April 4 | 6:30 pm CDT**

---

## Get Involved with the Baker Institute

Become a member of the [Baker Institute Roundtable](#), [Corporate Roundtable](#) or [Roundtable Young Professionals](#). Contact [our development office](#) for more information on how you can join the conversation on the relevant issues and ideas that shape our world, or text **BAKER** to **243725** to donate today!



[Unsubscribe](#) | [Privacy policy](#)

Copyright © 2022 Baker Institute for Public Policy  
Rice University, MS-40, P.O. Box 1892, Houston, TX 77251-1892