



1 energy research and development, use, supply chain activity, and  
2 infrastructure related to Oklahoma's core energy competencies by:

3 1. Promoting research and development in the areas of  
4 conventional and unconventional oil and natural gas development and  
5 production, hydrogen production, storage, and distribution, CO<sub>2</sub>  
6 enhanced oil recovery, wind forecasting, advanced biofuels, energy  
7 storage, water management, nuclear energy, energy policy and  
8 economic analysis, energy system optimization, renewable energy  
9 integration into the electrical grid, and similar energy  
10 technologies;

11 2. Fostering communication and collaboration between state and  
12 federal governmental agencies, institutions of higher education, and  
13 private entities located throughout Oklahoma;

14 3. Advancing research and development programs and growing  
15 production, supply chain activity, and infrastructure that provide  
16 benefits to all industries and regions of the state;

17 4. Streamlining research and development efforts between  
18 private and public industry to create synergistic relationships that  
19 coordinate, not duplicate, efforts;

20 5. Establishing Oklahoma as a regional resource and  
21 clearinghouse for transformative energy technologies in the areas of  
22 traditional energy, hydrogen production, storage, and distribution,  
23 and renewable resource research and development;

24

1       6. Attracting best-in-class researchers to Oklahoma in  
2 competency areas aligned with Oklahoma's natural resource base;

3       7. Coordinating with the Oklahoma Department of Commerce to  
4 enhance venture capital investment in energy-related research and  
5 business opportunities; and

6       8. Promoting seed funding that can be leveraged against state,  
7 federal, and private-source funding to establish sufficient startup  
8 resources.

9       B. The Initiative may receive assistance from any state agency  
10 or public entity to implement the provisions of the Oklahoma Energy  
11 Initiative Act including, but not limited to, administrative  
12 assistance, staffing or legal counsel and provision of office space  
13 or equipment as necessary. Assistance agreements may be made by  
14 memorandums of understanding or as otherwise provided by law.

15       SECTION 2.       AMENDATORY       17 O.S. 2021, Section 802.3, as  
16 amended by Section 2, Chapter 27, O.S.L. 2022 (17 O.S. Supp. 2023,  
17 Section 802.3), is amended to read as follows:

18       Section 802.3. A. The Oklahoma Low Carbon Energy Initiative  
19 shall be administered and governed by the Oklahoma Low Carbon Energy  
20 Initiative Board, made up of representatives of the contributing  
21 institutions and entities of the Initiative which shall include but  
22 not be limited to the University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State  
23 University, and the University of Tulsa. Additional contributing  
24 members may be added at the discretion of the Board, if they

1 contribute to the purpose, objectives, and research coordinated by  
2 the Initiative.

3 B. The Board shall consist of ~~eleven (11)~~ thirteen (13) members  
4 as follows:

5 1. One member, who shall serve as the chair of the Board, shall  
6 be the Secretary of Energy and Environment or a member otherwise  
7 appointed by the Governor;

8 2. One member shall be the Vice President for Research from the  
9 University of Oklahoma or a member otherwise appointed by the  
10 President of the University of Oklahoma;

11 3. One member shall be the Vice President for Research from  
12 Oklahoma State University or a member otherwise appointed by the  
13 President of Oklahoma State University;

14 4. One member shall be the Vice President for Research and  
15 Economic Development from the University of Tulsa or a member  
16 otherwise appointed by the President of the University of Tulsa;

17 5. One member who shall represent the Oklahoma Department of  
18 Commerce, appointed by the Director of the Department of Commerce;

19 6. One member who shall represent the Department of Labor,  
20 appointed by the Commissioner of Labor;

21 7. One member who shall represent the Department of  
22 Environmental Quality, appointed by the Executive Director of the  
23 Department of Environmental Quality;

24

1 8. One member who shall represent the Corporation Commission,  
2 appointed by the Chair of the Commission;

3 9. One member who shall represent the Department of  
4 Transportation, appointed by the Director of the Department of  
5 Transportation;

6 10. One member who shall represent the Oklahoma Water Resources  
7 Board, appointed by the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Water  
8 Resources Board; ~~and~~

9 11. One member who shall represent the Oklahoma Center for the  
10 Advancement of Science and Technology, appointed by the Executive  
11 Director of the Center for the Advancement of Science and  
12 Technology;

13 12. One member, who shall represent an electric utility or  
14 cooperative regulated by the Corporation Commission, appointed by  
15 the President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and

16 13. One member, who shall represent the nuclear energy  
17 industry, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

18 C. 1. The Board shall establish an Energy Industry Advisory  
19 Council, appointed by the chair, for the purposes of providing  
20 industry expertise and knowledge, assisting the Board with annual  
21 report requirements, providing general recommendations, and other  
22 support as needed to advance the efforts of the Board.

23 2. Members appointed to the Council shall serve at the pleasure  
24 of the chair of the Board.

1 D. Board members shall serve for a term of four (4) years,  
2 which shall begin on January 1 of the first year of the appointment  
3 and end on December 31 of the fourth year. There shall be no limit  
4 to the number of consecutive terms served. If a vacancy should  
5 occur during a member's term, the appointing authority for the  
6 vacant position shall appoint a new member to fill the remainder of  
7 the unexpired term. Board members shall serve without compensation  
8 but may be eligible for necessary travel expenses pursuant to the  
9 State Travel Reimbursement Act.

10 E. The Board shall be responsible for establishing procedures  
11 for the Initiative and operations of the Board and the Advisory  
12 Council. The rules may provide for protection from public  
13 disclosure of trade secrets and proprietary information of any kind  
14 including, but not limited to, data, processes and technology, as  
15 the Board determines necessary.

16 F. The Board shall undertake activities and commission  
17 programs, through the contributing institutions and entities, to  
18 achieve the purpose and satisfy the objectives of the Initiative as  
19 provided in the Oklahoma Energy Initiative Act. The Board shall  
20 have authority to distribute funding for such activities and  
21 programs. The Board may employ staff as it deems necessary.

22 G. The Board, in consultation with the Advisory Council and any  
23 other party deemed necessary, shall ~~prepare~~ submit and publish  
24 electronically an annual, written report to summarize the annual

1 progress of the Initiative including summaries of its programs and  
2 their progress and outcomes. The report shall be made available to  
3 the public and shall be distributed electronically to the Governor,  
4 the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the  
5 House of Representatives.

6 H. The provisions of the Oklahoma Central Purchasing Act shall  
7 not apply to any project, activity or contract of the Initiative or  
8 the Board.

9 I. No Board member or any person acting on behalf of the Board,  
10 Advisory Council, or Initiative executing any contracts, commitments  
11 or agreements issued by or on behalf of the Oklahoma Low Carbon  
12 Energy Initiative shall be personally liable for the contracts,  
13 commitments, or agreements or be subject to any personal liability  
14 or accountability by reason thereof. No director or any person  
15 acting on behalf of the Board or Initiative shall be personally  
16 liable for damage or injury resulting from the performance of duties  
17 hereunder.

18 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2024.

19  
20 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT, dated  
21 04/02/2024 - DO PASS.  
22  
23  
24