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CSIS EXPERTS

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Gracelin Baskaran: Now that brings us to our keynote address, which I am incredibly excited for. We've had a phenomenal lineup of speakers today but the broader question, which is how critical minerals fit into the United States energy, industrial, and national security strategy, what role can Africa play in that effort. And there's no one better to speak to this than the U.S. Secretary of Energy Chris Wright. Secretary Wright has been, from his earliest days, one of the administration's clearest voices arguing that Africa's development must begin with energy abundance, and that African countries themselves should decide how they're going to achieve it.

Secretary Wright, thank you so much for joining us today.

Secretary Chris Wright: Thanks so much.

Dr. Baskaran: (Applause.) Secretary Wright, you have been one of the earliest advocates of Africa in this administration, from the very beginning. What is the role – why is energy such an important part of our bilateral cooperation with the continent?

Sec. Wright: Well, because energy is life. Energy is life. The creation of the modern world, two big forces changed the situation of humans all across the planet. Two hundred years ago, global life expectancy at birth was about 30 years, the same as it was 20,000 years ago before the invention of agriculture. You know, the world had changed, but the lot in life of the average person did not change, until two things changed – the growth of human liberty, bottom-up social organization, property rights, rule of law more broadly applied.

And maybe even bigger, the arrival of modern energy. First coal, then oil, then natural gas, and then all the others what I call the derivative energy sources. You only can make hydro and nuclear and wind turbines and solar panels because you have hydrocarbons. And so, this change in energy and human liberty, today global life expectancy is over 70 years. But the people that live fully-energized lives, like everyone in this room, in climate-controlled rooms and fancy clothes made with and out of hydrocarbons, and we get to travel different places, that's awesome. A billion people have that quality of life. Seven billion people want that quality of life, will get that quality of life, and should get that quality of life.

But it's just math on the numbers. Those lucky billion people, on average, consume 13 barrels of oil per person per year. The other 7 billion? Three barrels of oil per person per year. And in Africa, it's just under one. So you can't have a modern, wonderful lifestyle without growing the consumption of energy. It doesn't matter where it comes from, as long as it's affordable, reliable, and secure. And that's the math part of it. We tend to push energy sources that are none of the above. And it's different in different places. But

you can't have more efficient farming and therefore have less farmers and more people in manufacturing and better education – can't have that without massive growth in energy.

Africa has the two most important things in the world, which is awesome people – awesome, passionate people. I've spent a good amount of time in Africa. Who, of course, love their families and want better lives. They've got the human resources. And of course they have tremendous energy resources. So I think the future of Africa is bright. The future of the world is hugely dependent on the future of Africa. Fastest growing population. It'll soon be the biggest contributor to economic growth. It is awesomely important. But if we want to promote and help Africa as a partner to our benefit, to the world's benefit, and most importantly to Africans' benefits, we got to bring some common sense, and some commerce, and some business to the energy space.

Dr. Baskaran: Secretary Wright, I mean, as you said, I mean, it's the fastest growing continent in the world. You're going to have one-in-four people there by 2050. But yet, it's the most energy-starved continent in the world, right? We look at about 600 million people who don't have access to electricity. What is the – what opportunities does this create for the United States?

Sec. Wright: So, of course, enormous energy opportunities. Because progress – when I hear that word "sustainable," I'm generally against that word, because people usually have a different meaning for it than truly sustainable. What is sustainable is business and commerce. If you have a transaction where there's a seller of a product and a buyer of a product, they only engage in that transaction because it makes both of them better. That's sustainable. So we need to get more and closer commercial ties.

You mentioned 600 million people in Africa without any meaningful access to electricity. Of course, that's horrifying. And we need to work on that. But even bigger – even bigger is about a billion Africans don't have access to clean cooking fuels. To me, this is the gamechanger in energy innovation. It's a bigger problem. It has a bigger impact on changing life conditions. And it's more easily solvable than the electricity problem. We should do both of them, but too many people around the world equate the electricity sector with the energy sector.

Electricity is awesome. It's neat. It's 20 percent of global primary energy consumption. But we always talk about it like it's everything. It's great, but it's not even the most important piece of the energy stack. The most important piece of the energy stack is heat. Number one, heat to keep people alive. Millions of lives would be lost if we didn't have energy for heat around the world this year. Millions of people would not have the lives they have today without the heat to cook food.

Human digestive systems are simpler than animals and ungulates and we can't break down complex carbohydrate chains to liberate calories we need from grains. We need to cook them. This is critically important for human survival. And process heat to manufacture steel and cement to plastics and fertilizers. All of those take high-temperature process heat. That's the biggest use of energy in the world, much bigger than electricity, is heat for those different forms.

But clean cooking fuels is – if you go back anywhere in the world several generations, six, seven, eight generations, all of our families, the world was 100 percent renewable. It ran on wood. And you burned wood to, you know, heat your home and to cook your meals. You know, we think of it as romantic, you know, burning of wood. But if you go to traditional societies, and again you just go back in time in our own country, you can go to Maine in the United States today and you'll see people where their primary source of power is wood. But that indoor air pollution from tending a stove and heating with wood or charcoal indoors, the indoor air pollution from that leads to a little over a million deaths a year just in Africa, 2 to 3 million deaths globally. Like, this is a gigantic problem, but an easily solvable problem.

Instead, I hear endlessly about deaths from extreme weather from climate change. Number one, that one's been plummeting like a stone for a century, and a little less than 10,000 people last year died from extreme weather events. Now, I hate 10,000 deaths, and continued better energy – better energy systems can continue to lower that number, but that's 10,000 deaths; 2 to 3 million people die every year because they don't have clean cooking fuels. And we don't talk about that problem. Why? Because in the rich world they decided the main solution – 75 percent of the people that have got access to clean cooking fuels globally in the last 20 years – we have pretty good data. Africa, in the last 10 years – 75 percent get it from burning liquid petroleum gas, what we think of as propane. You know, if you've got a remote house, you live in rural America, you run on propane. I have – I have a house, a ski house in the mountains; it runs on propane. If you're if you live in a city, well, you probably run more on natural gas. But it's the lack of this propane for cookstoves in Africa that we lose a million Africans every year.

And when you talk to African – travel around in Africa, we think of it as a public health thing – my God, we can save a million lives. For Africans, it's liberation. It's liberation of women. Women in traditional societies do all the labor. They get up, they gather the wood, they tend those fires, they tamp them down during the day, they bring them back up at night. This is hours a day of labor. And it does not allow women to participate economically, to have freedom to get education. It is – it is dangerous drudgery. You get – instead of gathering wood and tending a fire, you get to turn on a stove and

light it, cook a meal, leave it on to heat at night, and turn it off. It's game-changing for the quality of life. So, to me, the biggest and most easily fixable energy challenge in Africa is clean cooking fuels.

Absolutely we should grow electricity generation. We want to see, you know, more manufacturing opportunities in Africa. The great news is Africa, the continent, is blessed with abundant resources and entrepreneurial go-getter humans. It is – it is just rule of law, some – and some capital, and some common sense that could see energy flourish in Africa. Energy is flourishing in Africa. I don't want to – I don't want to downplay it. But it could grow much faster if we had common-sense policies from their trading partners.

Dr. Baskaran: And it's amazing how the commercial outcomes we talk about are actually linked to just making everybody's lives better off. You know, I think the humanitarian agenda, the commercial agenda, the economic security agenda, there are certain throughlines to what you're saying.

Sec. Wright: It's the same thing. You know, there was a belief – when I was a kid, I was always fascinated in history and different parts of the world. You know, I grew up in the middle of the United States of America. I wanted to – I wanted to see the rest of the world. And the – and the model when I was young and, you know, studying some development economics when I was in college was government-to-government aid; you know, our government gives money to that government. What does a government want? It wants – the biggest motivation for a government that's receiving aid is to stay in power. You know, it's not – you know, they're not naturally inclined to worry about everyone's well-being. And this government-to-government aid actually had a remarkably poor track record. You know, countries we gave more aid to and more long-term commitment aid actually slowed their development. Wasn't just a poor investment; maybe a negative return on investment.

So the movement of the United States now is commerce. What you want is more trade, mutually beneficial transactions that happen between people. That's the way.

And it should not be an aid organization in the United States that gives money to an African government and tells them what they can spend it on. That's not how the West got wealthy. That's not how we advanced. It's – it is freeing – now, Africa does have governments that tend to have too much power. They don't have as secure property rights as we'd like. So are there reforms or working together, we can encourage to develop the right ecosystem that can lead to faster wealth creation? Absolutely. You know, is there a role, you know, for a dialogue and some government-to-government interaction on that? Yes. But the wealth generation in Africa, it will come from the same way it comes from everywhere, which is from humans

becoming more productive, forming businesses, innovating, and doing different things.

And as you travel I'm sure, and when I travel around Africa, you see entrepreneurs everywhere making stuff happen and creating opportunities. And if they had broader property rights, more secure rule of law, and if they had larger access to more affordable energy, oh my God, the pace of economic growth in Africa would be breathtaking – and I believe will be breathtaking in the coming years. There's some very, very positive things happening in Africa that were not happening in the eighties and nineties when I was watching Africa. Africa is truly economically starting to flower. And I love it.

Dr. Baskaran: I love it too. And, you know, you talk about innovation. And scarcity is a very powerful driver of innovation. We saw that in the 1970s during the oil embargo here in the U.S. So much of modern energy innovation was created through that time. What is the role, like, of our labs? I mean, the U.S. has incredible innovation it can deploy on the continent. How do we better leverage our labs and our human capital to support energy development in Africa?

Sec. Wright: Absolutely. And, again, you know, trade and back and forth. I met with some folks from Africa just last week at the G-20. And there was a dialogue about that. What are next-generation energy resources coming out of technology and innovation in the U.S.? Certainly, one is next-generation geothermal. You know, Kenya, for example, has great geothermal resources, which means hot rocks near the surface, and permeability and water-filled rocks. So you can produce that hot water and use it for heat, or electricity, or whatever. That's a great resource. But you got to be lucky to have that resource. Next-generation geothermal is drill deep wells underground anywhere where you have hot rocks, can be impermeable rock, and use the same technology we used in the shale revolution to essentially mine the heat from underground, create heat and create power. And you can do it anywhere.

You know, so are we going to see more remote power generation in Africa? Absolutely. Small modular reactors. You know, to wire a transmission system all across Africa, that's going to take generations. And in cities and in places that are easily done, we got to move that progress fast. But you got to bring power to remote places as well. And that can be done many different ways. There is enormous natural gas resources all over Africa. If you look from the financial crisis, and things changed after then is why I use that date. But if you look from 2010 until today, so 17 years, what's the fastest-growing energy source on planet Earth, in terms of more energy provided today than it provided in 2010? The winner in that is natural gas. That is the fastest-growing energy source on the planet.

Oil and coal are two and three, by the way. You know, these are where new energy in scale is coming from. But natural gas is growing fast. And there is enormous natural gas resources in Africa. What's needed is a little infrastructure to move it. You know, you're not going to – you know, to build a pipeline distribution every house and home, as we built over decades in this country, that won't happen overnight. But natural gas developed to source a power plant right there, maybe a fertilizer factory right there, maybe some manufacturing right there. When you process the liquids out of natural gas you get propane and butane. They're very easy – they're clean cooking fuels. You can transport those easily by truck and by scooter, by whatever.

So it's just developing what resources are there. I've got to say it because I say it everywhere, what is the biggest source of electricity on planet Earth today by far? Coal. It's got 126-and-0 record, as every year we have reliable data on global electricity production coal has led—126-and-0, and certainly is going at least 150-and-0. So let's be realistic. This is the largest source of electricity will be when probably most of us die. Natural gas is second. Nuclear is third, and I think will grow meaningfully. But Africa has abundant coal reserves, easy to transport coal, easy to mine it, easy to generate power. If you have gas, it's even easier.

But if you – in places that have gas, they have great resource there. If you don't have gas, you have coal. You want to electrify Africa? Absolutely, we should do it. But sort of this silly politics of the United States has told Africans, no, you can't do that. You can't – no, definitely not coal. You can't develop coal. We don't like gas either. You know, there's been a push that Africa should develop – you know, should skip over this step, and Africa should just run on renewables. I've seen this my whole life. It's quite frustrating. I was in a dialogue just a few days ago, I won't give any names, with Africans and a guy from Denmark.

And he was very – Denmark has the highest standard of living in the world. And we're wonderful. And, you know, we run on renewables. And you can too. And the African gal said, well, you didn't get wealthy by renewables, right? Didn't you use hydrocarbons to get wealthy? Shouldn't we have hydrocarbons to get wealthy? And so went a little bit back and forth. And he wasn't so sure that was even necessary. And I was sort of forced to intervene and say, do you know the three largest sources of energy in Denmark? Does anybody in the room know – you took a total energy consumption, what are the three largest sources of energy in Denmark?
Number one, and this is remarkable, is wood, biomass. Number two is oil. And number three is natural gas. Like that's 75 percent of the energy in Denmark, right? So if you make your electricity expensive, it becomes a smaller and smaller part of your energy slice. Only 17 percent of primary energy in Denmark is delivered electricity. And only some of that comes

from – solar panels, wind turbines, and batteries are about 10 percent of primary energy in Denmark. It is among the highest in the world, but they don't have any industry. They can live with the world's most expensive electricity prices. But their view of a renewable-powered Denmark, 10 percent of their energy.

So it's just – we have so much unrealism. So to come from a country where 90 percent of your energy comes from carbon-based sources and go to Africa and say you should only develop renewables, to me is not only foolish – it's not to understand how energy systems work – but just the idea of it to me is offensive. You know, we're going to tell you what's virtuous. Now, what's virtuous is to make African lives better, to raise the quality of life, to raise the health standards, to raise life expectancy, to raise the freedom of Africans to do whatever Africans want.

And, of course, that's what Africans want. Of course, that's what Africans are going to do. But if we could – "we," meaning from the Western world – not be obstructionists of that, not prevent the financing or funding of the things that built our world and that still run our world today, we can have a much more productive relationship. They've been trying to build a coal-fired power plant in Mombasa, in Kenya for years. And no one, no international development bank, no commercial bank, no government would fund that. That's nuts. And it's wrong.

So what the United States, the Trump administration, are all about is how can we help Africa develop the energy resources that Africans want? And that's going to be all over the map. That's going to be coal. That's going to be gas. They need oil refineries. That's going to be oil refineries. That's going to be next-generation small modular reactors. That's going to be cool new geothermal technologies. That is going to be solar in remote locations, particularly if we can enhance energy storage so we can bring electricity to places way off grid that are small or whatever. That's going to be whatever works and whatever the Africans are interested in doing.

And, as lovers of energy, and as a country full of – full of businesses, oh my gosh, there could be all sorts of stuff happening. But when the government's telling you, don't go do that in Africa, does that encourage businesses to go out on the risk curve and travel to Africa? No. It does the opposite. We're not going to fund you if you do anything in Africa. You know, we have been – we have been suppressing the normal commercial relationships would be happen.

And last thing, I cannot get off the clean cooking fuel thing because it is so many lives at stake. The shale revolution that transformed America, we used to be the largest importer of oil in the world, the largest importer of natural gas in the world just 20 years ago. Now we're by far and away the world's

largest natural gas exporter, by far and away the world's largest producer of oil. We've tripled our oil production and doubled our natural gas production. But what I'm even more proud of, we've five times grown our production of LPG, liquid petroleum gas, or clean cooking fuels, that are mostly used in petrochemicals, but they are the supply for the world for clean cooking – for clean cooking fuels.

We used to – we used to be number eight in the exporters of LPG. I would say my favorite hydrocarbon, because it's the hydrocarbon that has the flexibility to transport as a liquid, burn cleanly as a gas, and to make the greatest impact on low-income people in our country and around the world. We've become so big now we export more LPG than the other seven big exporters in the world combined. So by growing the supply of that, American supply of that, it's pushed down the relative price of it and allowed – you know, of course, it goes to Bangladesh, and India, Latin America – I mean, everywhere wants LPG, liquid petroleum gas.

But nowhere can we bring greater benefit by delivering that LPG than to increase our supply to Africa. We have the supply. We have the exporters of it. If we had a little more infrastructure in Africa to move it and transport it, incredible transformation of lives.

Dr. Baskaran: I have to say, I've never thought about my favorite hydrocarbon, but I'm going to go home and think about that today.

You know –

Sec. Wright: I wrote a thing on it, why propane was my favorite hydrocarbon.

Dr. Baskaran: I love that. I mean, I almost want to make, like, Pokémon cards out of our hydrocarbon options. Now, I want to move to a separate but related topic. You know, African countries really want to industrialize. And you cannot industrialize without energy. They talk a lot about building mineral processing on the continent, but the reality is the biggest constraint to mineral processing is the energy availability. I mean, even here in the United States, when you look at the cost of producing a ton of copper, 30 to 40 percent of that can just be the electricity cost. So if we want to start to build processing in the DRC and Tanzania and Namibia, we're going to have to create more energy. How do we –

Sec. Wright: Amen! You're right on. (Laughter.)

Dr. Baskaran: Love it. We're making a lot of progress today. So how does the United States see that connection between electrification and kind of building our critical minerals goals on the continent? Because, obviously, we know critical minerals – I mean, the work that Audrey is doing, the work that the – your

Office of International Affairs is doing is to really push both of these agendas in parallel. How do we support electrification for mining?

Sec. Wright: And think how well they go together, right? You get a mining company, a very capital-intensive business, as you just said, they can't mine; it's not viable without secure, large-scale energy generating resources. If they're going to build and fund that anyway, build it bigger; powers not just the mine, it powers the communities around it. It starts this ball rolling of building large energy infrastructure. I absolutely believe an African and an American partnership on developing critical minerals will help transform the energy situation in Africa.

So, and if I can elaborate a little bit, you know, when people say the great – we have these great resources underground or whatever resources underground, I say, I'm not even sure that's the right word because the oil and gas, the cobalt, the germanium, all the – all the minerals underground that we need so much, they've been there for millions of years. And how much have they helped the lives of the Africans or the Americans or the Europeans or Latin Americans that it's under the ground? Not at all. They're just – they're just materials that are underground. They only become resources when capital arrives, when technology is deployed, and they're pulled to the surface. Now they – now they are resources. Now they generate wealth and opportunity.

But the Chinese model is to go in and extract the raw material and export it to China for processing. So there's some money that comes into the African countries from that extraction process, but as you just said that's just a slice of the value, right? The real value, if you – if you just export oil, you know, you get a lot of value for exporting oil, but all the big oil exporting countries said, you know, there's a lot of value in refining it, and turning it into products, and maybe making fertilizer and plastics and other things from it. You want to capture more of the value where those resources are.

So imagine in Africa that has – because they do have incredible rocks underground. Let's turn them into resources together, bring them to the surface, build the energy infrastructure economically by businesses to do it. Now that processing is jobs and economic value added in Africa. The technologies they learn and skills from processing these minerals, hell, that could be in small manufacturing. That could be in so many other spinoff industries that'll come from that. And let's have as much of that value add done in Africa for wealth, for jobs, for skills training.

That's how a ball gets rolling for, you know, broader industrialization. You know you start industrialization maybe from a foreign company that comes into mine, but that'll spur all sorts of industries in Africa. And as you started the whole question, you can't do that without building energy. Well, now

you've got external parties that want to bring capital in to build that energy because they can't do what they're going to do without that energy. We just align business interests with the people in Africa's interest. I think you've hit on the model for the future.

Dr. Baskaran: And it makes it so much more economically viable. You know, I was thinking about Assistant Secretary of State Garcia this morning. He talked about the Lobito Corridor from a transport perspective, and how you need not just mining to make that corridor but also agriculture and these other sectors to move back and forth, right? And energy is so much so the same. You're not powering one industry. When we were fortunate to hold – we hosted Mike Kopp and Dan Mahanty in Namibia last month, and they were talking about how, you know, you – to reach economies of scale, energy has to support more than one economic sector. So it can be transformative to the whole economy.

Sen. Wright: Absolutely. And what you just said there, as well, is just so right: Energy is infrastructure. Roads are infrastructure. Energy is infrastructure. Which is also why – I've used that term, but we shouldn't politicize. It's been very frustrating. You know, when President Obama got elected in 2009, we decided energy was political and energy has been politicized for 17 years. It was politicized before, but it got supercharged in 2009. And my view, and the view of the Trump administration, is that energy should be about humans and math. What's the pathway to better human lives? What's the math that that does it in a sustainable – meaning it's viable – way?

If you produce energy in a more politically favored way and you make it so expensive that nobody will make anything in your state, and all the jobs leave, and all the industry leave, well then you are California. And you take a rich, vibrant state that today has the highest adjusted poverty rate of any state in the United States. Think of California, the most spectacular real estate in the world. Hollywood. The defense industry. Silicon Valley. Like it has incredible agricultural land. Everything going for it. Number one, it passed Mississippi and Alabama for the highest adjusted poverty rate in the United States.

That's the cost of getting energy wrong. And to me, that's not good for humans. And imagine an Africa – and, again, this will be driven by Africans, not by us. But if we can stop doing bad things and stop hampering their development, stop saying, no, we don't want to do business with you, we want to preach to you. We want to impose – we want to impose on you expensive, unreliable energy systems. If we can just say we want to be your partners, how can we benefit ourselves by helping you in Africa? Whew! That'll lead – that will lead to great places.

Dr. Baskaran: So what is the U.S. doing differently to other countries in Africa now?

Sec. Wright: We stopped the preaching. We stopped the preaching and started to see things not through, like, our political eyes, but through, how can – how can we help Africa thrive? And the great thing is, Africa thriving is great for America, right? Because business is mutually beneficial, both sides. Like, Africa will be transformed by having massively more clean cooking fuels, but someone's got to produce those clean cooking fuels. You know, and that's going to be in the United States and a few other countries. That's going to be shipped over and sold. African businesses are going to carry that, and distribute it, and deliver it to their homes.

This foundation I launched, when we looked at outside of Accra in Ghana, the cost for a day of heating and cooking fuels – once you move – if you're out in the rural areas, you actually are gathering the wood. If you get into a little bit more higher population density, someone else is doing that, massive deforestation. You take six pounds of wood and turn it into one pound of charcoal. And people buy charcoal, you know, and the thing. And charcoal, $1 a day, you know, is about the cost of a bundle of charcoal to cook and heat for the day. Well, what's the cost of the same LPG to have the same amount of energy? About $1 a day. That same cost, massively – saving massive hours, liberating women, reducing dramatically – just ending indoor air pollution, for the same cost.

The only reason you have one versus the other is just not the availability, not the infrastructure yet. But that can be done. That will be done by African businesses in partnership, likely, with American businesses and American products. Let's go do it.

Dr. Baskaran: And there's so many American companies here who are doing phenomenal work on the continent and really looking to expand in partnership with government. Secretary Wright, if we look back in two to three years what does success look like for U.S. energy policy in Africa?

Sec. Wright: Oh, thriving economies in Africa, better qualities of life, better healthcare system, and a lot of that done in partnership with American businesses. But not American businesses chose by the U.S. government. American business is chose by the people in Botswana, or in Malawi, or in Chad, who said, hey, well, you know, this is what we think would be good for our energy system. And American businesses go over there and partner with them to make it happen. And if Africa grows successfully, guess what? Our customer's getting bigger and buying more. Like, business and markets are win-win scenarios. And so, yeah, a thriving, prosperous, happy, abundant Africa is a big win for the United States.

Dr. Baskaran: I think you probably have uniform consensus in this room. I don't know if we're a self-selected crowd, but I suspect we all are very much in alignment

there. So I have one last question for you. When are you going to Africa next?

Sec. Wright: January.

Dr. Baskaran: What are you going for?

Sec. Wright: End of January. Going for the Clean Cooking Fuel Summit. I just came from G-20. And here's something I'm proud of, 20 nations of the world – and maybe a lot of them were complicit in this crowd of preaching what's virtuous and not. We got all 20 nations to sign on to clean cooking fuels as an urgent global priority. All 20 nations pledging to that. And so – and what was our other – what was our other joint statement from all of the G-20 nations? Which is energy security. You know, energy security. And, of course, clean cooking fuels is just energy security for the bottom one quarter. For the still 2 billion people, one quarter of humanity, don't have clean cooking fuels. For them, energy access, energy security. The biggest thing there – they'd love electricity too – the biggest thing is clean cooking fuels.

Our other thing was just a broader statement of energy security for our nations, for our peoples, for our countries. We should – we should strive for affordable, reliable, secure energy in all of our nations. And that's a dramatic difference than the energy dialogue that's been had between the United States and Europe and other wealthy nations the last 15 years. So starting to make progress, I think.

Dr. Baskaran: I think that's really a testament of your leadership. Getting 20 countries to move in the same direction is not the easiest challenge these days.

Sec. Wright: Well, not my leadership, but our leadership. Plenty of people were involved in the negotiations of that. This is an absolute team effort. Plenty of people from the United States of America – from the State Department, from the Energy Department, from the Commerce Department – and plenty of people from all those other countries. You know, great dialogues. I give hats off to those other 19 nations as well to say, yeah, you know, maybe you're right; yeah, I mean you know, maybe the focus has been in the wrong place. And so I think that's a sign of victory of diplomacy done by a lot of people, a lot of Americans and our counterparts in the other G-20 nations, and I'm proud of all of them.

Ds. Baskaran: Secretary Wright, thank you so much for joining us for this discussion and the incredible, insightful thoughts; I mean, covered so much ground between clean cooking, energy justice, energy abundance, industrialization. So please join me in giving Secretary Wright a round of applause. (Applause.)

Thank you so much.

Sec. Wright: Thank you.

Dr. Baskaran: Thank you. Really appreciate it, and all of the work from your team. Thank you.

Sec. Wright Thanks, everyone. Take care. Appreciate you all.

(END.)