Power is the bottleneck to everything America needs to accomplish in the next decade.

Many of America's most urgent challenges share the same root cause. Power.

The grid is the hidden constraint underneath all of it. Each of these challenges is being approached from a different vantage point — the AI community, the defense community, the manufacturing community, the energy community are all working urgently on their piece of the problem. What is missing is someone recognizing that the infrastructure underneath all of these conversations is the same — and that it is already showing signs of strain.

Power is the single thread running through all of it. Fix power — real, dispatchable, abundant baseload power — and everything else becomes possible. Leave it broken and nothing else works.

01 — THE PROBLEM

Decades of neglect meeting a moment that demands everything.

America's grid was built for a different era and has been chronically underinvested for decades. What was once adequate is now strained — and the demands being placed on it are accelerating faster than anyone planned. AI, chip manufacturing, defense modernization, and manufacturing reshoring are all converging on the same aging infrastructure at the same time. The grid was never designed for this moment.

— **AI** is gobbling chips and gigawatts at unprecedented scale. Data centers are consuming power at a pace the grid was never designed to handle. The demand curve is vertical and accelerating.

— **Chips** must reshore from Taiwan — but domestic fabs require massive, stable baseload power. IndustryWeek has reported that the country may be unable to generate enough electricity to power new fabrication plants, potentially leaving billions in federal CHIPS Act funds stranded. Power infrastructure is a central constraint alongside labor.

— **Defense** modernization depends on chip supply security we cannot guarantee. Every weapons system, every autonomous platform runs on chips. We cannot rely on Taiwan indefinitely.

— **Manufacturing reshoring** requires a grid capable of supporting large industrial loads. Bringing production back to America — whether electronics, pharmaceuticals, or industrial goods — is not possible without reliable, abundant power. In many regions the grid cannot support that today.

— **Geopolitics** is the forcing function. The decisions America makes about its power infrastructure over the next few years will determine whether it remains capable of competing, defending itself, and leading on the world stage. A nation that cannot guarantee its own power supply cannot guarantee its own future.

— **The grid itself** is aging, strained, and increasingly unable to meet the demands being placed on it. The majority of new capacity entering the pipeline is non-dispatchable — solar and wind that cannot run reliably when the grid needs them most.

"The nation that controls baseload power controls the data centers. The nation that controls the data centers shapes AI. The nation that shapes AI shapes the global order for the next generation."

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02 — SOLVING THE POWER PROBLEM

What actually needs to happen.

The priority is clear: dispatchable baseload power must come first. Renewables have a role in the mix — but intermittent generation cannot anchor a grid that needs to be reliable, resilient, and ready for unprecedented demand.

Baseload is the priority

A serious energy strategy leads with dispatchable baseload — power that runs when you need it, not when the wind blows or the sun shines. That means a mix of nuclear, hydro, natural gas, and emerging sources like geothermal working together. Germany is the cautionary tale. It shut down its nuclear fleet in pursuit of renewables, but renewables could not provide the reliable baseload the economy needed. To fill the gap, Germany built natural gas power plants — and sourced most of that gas from Russia. When war came and Russian supply was cut off, German power prices spiked and industrial competitiveness collapsed. The chain was simple: abandon nuclear, need baseload, buy Russian gas, lose leverage. America cannot build that same chain with different actors.

Domestic resources over foreign dependencies

The right energy mix is not just about what is dispatchable — it is about what is controllable. Solar panels are largely manufactured in China. Natural gas can come from overseas suppliers. Any power strategy that creates new dependencies on foreign actors for components or fuel simply trades one vulnerability for another. America must prioritize power generation that draws on domestic resources — whether nuclear, hydro, geothermal, domestic natural gas, or other sources — and domestic supply chains wherever possible.

Nuclear is an essential component — not a panacea

Nuclear must be a central part of the baseload mix. It is reliable, dispatchable, carbon-free, and domestically controlled. The regulatory environment must be reformed to allow new reactor permitting at the pace the situation demands. The proof that this is the right direction is not theoretical — China is aggressively building nuclear capacity at a scale that should give every American policymaker pause. When your primary strategic competitor is treating nuclear as a national priority, the conversation about whether we should do the same should be over.

Nuclear fuel recycling

France's reprocessing program has produced enough fuel to power its reactors for 14 years. America's stockpile of spent nuclear fuel represents an estimated century of potential energy. What is stopping us is policy uncertainty — not capability. Congress could resolve this. It is one of the most underleveraged energy policy opportunities available.

A truly American grid

Transformers, switchgear, control systems — too much of the grid's components come from geopolitical competitors. This vulnerability hides in plain sight. Hardening and domesticating the grid is not optional. It is foundational. Physical and cyber resilience must be built in from the ground up as new capacity comes online.

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03 — THE VISION

Power as the infrastructure floor of a renewed America.

When Eisenhower built the interstate highway system the stated purpose was national defense. The second order effects were transformational — suburban growth, the trucking industry, economic integration across the country. A modern abundant power grid is the same bet for the 21st century. Fix power and you do not just solve chips and AI — you unlock a fundamentally different version of what America can be.

— **Energy independence** No more prices spiking when a war breaks out or a regime changes. A fully resourced domestic grid severs the link between foreign instability and American energy costs.

— **Water security** Desalination plants on US coastlines — power-intensive but transformative for water-scarce regions. Abundant power makes this viable at scale.

— **Transportation transformation** Electrification, high speed rail, and public transit powered by abundant domestic energy. A grid with real capacity enables a transportation system that isn't held hostage to oil markets.

— **An electrified economy** Batteries and hydrogen — generated from water using surplus power — become the storage and fuel layer of an electrified America. Together they reduce reliance on volatile resources like natural gas and oil, moving us toward an economy powered by electrons rather than extraction.

— **Manufacturing revival** Broad industrial reshoring made viable by abundant cheap power — not just chips but the full manufacturing base America has been losing for decades.

— **Defense readiness** A grid that survives conflict, cyberattack, and extreme weather — a true national security asset rather than a vulnerability hiding in plain sight.

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04 — THE GAP

Nobody is holding the full picture.

The pieces of this argument exist in separate places. People are saying the parts. Nobody is holding the whole.

— **CSET / IAPS** Strong on chips and AI geopolitics — no power angle.

— **Breakthrough Institute** Pro-nuclear ideas org — not a convener.

— **Bipartisan Policy Center** AI and energy task force — not chips or defense.

— **EPRI** Serious power research — utility-facing, not cross-domain.

— **SIA** Chip industry advocacy — single industry, not a neutral table.

Nobody holds the full picture. Nobody convenes across all domains. Nobody is speaking with one voice. The Sovereign Grid Initiative exists to fill that gap.

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05 — WHAT WE DO

One mission: abundant, sovereign, American power.

Everything we do serves one end — ensuring America has the power infrastructure to compete, defend itself, and thrive in the decades ahead.

1 — Map the problem nobody has mapped

Specific, credible analysis of power bottlenecks, regulatory chokepoints, and what each domain needs — in real numbers. Actionable intelligence for industry and policymakers.

2 — Hold the only neutral table

Convene chip manufacturers, utilities, defense contractors, AI companies, and policymakers not currently in the same room. We are the only entity without a single-industry agenda.

3 — Turn coordination into policy action

Faster nuclear permitting, fuel recycling reform, onsite power deregulation, grid hardening — pushed with one voice across all four industries in a way no single player can do alone.

4 — Protect the public interest

Our goal is to ensure that the benefits of solving this problem flow to every American — not just the industries and institutions that push for it. Cheaper and more reliable energy, water security, manufacturing jobs, and a country not held hostage to foreign supply chains or volatile commodity markets — that is the payoff we are working toward.

5 — Follow the impact

Change does not only happen in Washington. Consequential decisions on power permitting, grid investment, and energy regulation happen at every level of government — often faster at the state and local level than in Washington. We go where the doors are ready to open.

GET INVOLVED

If you work in energy, chips, AI, defense, or policy — and you see what we see — we want to hear from you. The table is being set. The question is whether you are at it.

The Sovereign Grid Initiative

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Sources & Further Reading

NERC 2025 Long-Term Reliability Assessment (Jan 2026) · ASCE 2025 Infrastructure Report Card · EIA US Energy Data and Statistics · CHIPS Act Implementation Reports, US Dept. of Commerce · China Nuclear Energy Development Report 2025 (CNEA) · World Nuclear Association Reactor Database · FERC Summer 2025 Energy Market and Reliability Assessment · IndustryWeek: The Success of US Chip Manufacturing Hinges on Our Electric Grid (2024) · Power Magazine: NERC Warns Long-Term Grid Reliability Risks Mounting (Feb 2026)