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U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) outlined in a speech "four grand principles" he said can "help the United States end an obsession with taxpayer subsidies and strategies for expensive energy and instead focus on doubling research and allowing marketplace solutions to create an abundance of clean, cheap, reliable energy."

The senator said that Germany's example of combining a cap-and-trade system to make carbon emissions more expensive with subsidies for wind and solar power had created "an energy policy mess that discourages job growth." He said the United States "has a better energy policy than we're given credit for because we rely on government-sponsored research, private property, access to capital, entrepreneurship and the advantages of a huge marketplace."

Alexander laid out these four grand principles he said should guide America's future energy policy:

1. Cheaper, not more expensive, energy
2. Clean, not just renewable, energy
3. Research and development, not government mandates
4. Free market, not government picking "winners and losers"

The senator presented his four grand principles five years after an address here in which he challenged the country to take on seven "grand challenges," which he termed "mini-Manhattan projects" that would tackle hurdles to energy independence in the same way the Manhattan Project sought to develop nuclear weapons before the Germans in World War II.

He said that five years ago some quarreled with his goal of "independence" but that "this was and is a good goal in the sense that the United States cannot be held hostage by any other country because of our need for energy."

What can we expect five years from now? To get a glimpse of the future, we might look at things that fit within the guiding principles I've suggested today. Small modular reactors and virtual reactors that scientists at Oak Ridge are developing will revolutionize the safety and effectiveness of our nuclear technology. Game-changing manufacturing is also on the horizon with 3-D printing. And ARPA-E and other groups are increasing the reliability of our electricity supply.

Electricity Pricing – May 31, 2013 Com Ed LMP Electric Price

Time Period	Average per Kwh
May, 2012	\$0.02816
June, 2012	\$0.03089
July, 2012	\$0.04303
Aug, 2012	\$0.03112
Sep, 2012	\$0.03034
Oct, 2012	\$0.02829
Nov, 2012	\$0.03327
Dec, 2012	\$0.03081
Jan, 2013	\$0.03111
Feb, 2013	\$0.03219
Mar, 2013	\$0.03665
April, 2013	\$0.03821
May 1–May 31, 2013	\$0.03501

Extended Temperature Forecast: Chicago Area

	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
High	69	74	66	65	69
Low	58	60	55	56	58

