

Dentons Global Smart Cities & Connected Communities Think Tank

Grow | Protect | Operate | Finance



What to Expect with a New Congress and Administration – Navigating the Future of Energy Transition

Tuesday, November 12, 2024

11:30am-1:00pm ET



Opening Remarks: Clint Vince, Chair of the US Energy practice, Co-chair of the Global Transportation & Infrastructure sector for the US Region, and Co-chair of the Global Smart Cities & Connected Communities Think Tank, Dentons



Moderator: Linda Willard, Counsel, Energy practice at Dentons and Executive Director, Dentons Smart Cities & Connected Communities Think Tank



Joe Crowley
Senior Policy Director,
Dentons
Keynote



Congressman Joe Crowley provides strategic advice and consulting to clients on a wide range of public policy matters, including tax, financial services, and healthcare. As a former Chairman of the Democratic Caucus, the fourth-highest ranking position among House Democrats, Congressman Crowley brings strong negotiation skills, a deep understanding of complex congressional politics, and extensive experience in navigating the legislative process to his practice.

Congressman Crowley represented the people of New York's 14th congressional district, including his hometown of Woodside, Queens, for 20 years. He served in the House Democratic leadership for six years, first as Vice-Chair and then as Chairman of the Democratic Caucus. He also served as chair of the New Democrat Coalition, a chief deputy whip, and sat on the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee.

During his tenure, Congressman Crowley served on the prestigious House Ways and Means Committee, where he worked to protect Social Security and Medicare, championed efforts to pass the Affordable Care Act and make healthcare more affordable, and pushed to cut taxes for middle class Americans and small businesses. Before being appointed to the Ways and Means Committee, Congressman Crowley was a member of the House Financial Services and Foreign Affairs Committees. He was a three-time co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian-Americans, co-chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Irish Affairs and an active member of the Friends of Ireland Caucus, and co-founder of both the Bangladesh Caucus and the Rare Diseases Caucus.

Congressman Crowley's rise in the House of Representatives and in the Democratic Party leadership is indicative of his tireless work to elect Democrats at every level of



	<p>government and his commitment to mentoring both colleagues and candidates. Recognized as one of Capitol Hill’s most strategic and influential legislators, Congressman Crowley earned the respect of Democrats and Republicans alike. Before entering national politics, Congressman Crowley served in the New York State Assembly from 1987 to 1998.</p> <p>In 2021, Congressman Crowley was appointed by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to serve on the America 250 Commission (U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission), which is charged with orchestrating the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States. He is also involved with many charitable organizations, including N Street Village and Ford’s Theatre, and is a co-producer of the Broadway musical “Paradise Square.”</p>
 <p>Jeff Dehnam Senior Policy Director, Dentons <i>Keynote</i></p>	<p>Jeff Dehnam brings significant experience in transportation and infrastructure, agriculture, natural resources and energy policy to the role.</p> <p>Jeff is a former member of the US House of Representatives, having served four terms, from 2010 to 2018, representing California's 10th and formerly 19th districts. As a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, he served as chairman of the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials and the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management. He was also a member of the Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Veterans' Affairs Committees. During his time in Congress, Jeff helped draft dozens of bills that were subsequently signed into law, including the 2012 Veterans Skills to Jobs Act; the 2015 Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act; the 2018 ENLIST Act; and Stafford Act revisions as a part of the 2013 Sandy Recovery Improvement Act.</p> <p>From 2001 to 2009, before his election to the House, Jeff was a member of the California State Senate, representing the state’s 12th District, which encompassed the counties of Monterey, San Benito, Madera, Merced, and Stanislaus. He was chairman of the Agriculture and Veterans' Affairs Committees and focused on such issues as education, government waste, agriculture and economic development.</p> <p>A staff sergeant in the US Air Force, Jeff served in Operation Desert Storm with the 452nd Air Force Refueling Wing and was awarded a Meritorious Service Medal, the Kuwait Liberation Medal and various campaign medals for combat duty. Additionally, he served in Operation Restore Hope with the 349th Air Mobility Wing and was awarded a second Meritorious Service Medal and various campaign medals for duty.</p> <p>Jeff founded Denham Plastics LLC, a full-service provider of plastic material handling solutions in Salinas, CA, and also owns an almond farm in the state.</p>
 <p>Karen Wayland CEO, GridWise Alliance <i>Panelist</i></p>	<p>Dr. Karen Wayland is the CEO of GridWise Alliance and a recognized expert in national energy and environmental policy. She served in leadership positions at the highest levels of government and nonprofit organizations. Through her consulting firm, kW Energy Strategies, she also provides strategic consulting on policy development, coalition building and communications for major clean energy companies, national environmental organizations, local officials, and foundations. She is regularly listed on Washingtonian Magazine’s 500 Most Influential People Shaping Policy.</p> <p>Wayland worked on energy and climate legislation for Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Senator Harry Reid when he was Majority Whip. She was a political appointee and Senior Executive Service (SES) member at the U.S. Department of Energy in the Obama Administration, where she established a team for Secretary Moniz to conduct analyses and develop strategies for DOE’s work with states, local authorities. She served on</p>

leadership team for Obama Administration’s Quadrennial Energy Review (QER) and was primary author of the “Modernizing the Grid” chapter and policy recommendations. While at DOE, she also served as Senior Advisor for Domestic Energy Policy to the Deputy Secretary Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall.

Dr. Wayland has extensive experience working with nonprofit organizations. She was the Executive Director of the Clean Energy Project, a Nevada-based nonprofit that produced the National Clean Energy Summit, an annual conference chaired by Senator Reid to convene business executives, government leaders, investors, and thought leaders around the benefits of clean energy. She was the Legislative Director at the Natural Resources Defense Council for five years, where she oversaw the organization’s federal environmental initiatives and political activity and chaired the national environmental community’s climate and energy coalition during congressional debates over major climate and energy legislation. She also directed the Earth and Marine Sciences Program at Earthwatch, a nonprofit that funds scientific research through support from paying volunteers. She is on the board of the Keystone Policy Center, the Center for Sustainable Energy, and the Desert Research Institute Foundation. Dr. Wayland is a Distinguished Associate at the Energy Futures Initiative and serves on the Board of Managers for Innogy e-Mobility US, the holding company for BTC Power, the leading manufacturer of electric vehicle charging systems.

Prior to moving to Washington, she conducted research and consulting in environmental geochemistry, watershed management, and ground and surface water modeling. She holds a Master of Science from the University of Connecticut and a Dual PhD in the fields of geochemistry and resource development from Michigan State University.



Kellie Donnelly
Executive Vice President &
General Counsel,
LotSixteen
Panelist

Kellie Donnelly joined Lot Sixteen as Executive Vice President and General Counsel in April 2020 after retiring from the federal government. With more than 25 years of experience in the areas of energy, the environment, and natural resources, she helps clients strategically advocate for their interests and influence policymaking.

Previously, Ms. Donnelly served on the US Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee for 17 years, most recently as Chief Counsel. During her time in the Senate, she provided counsel on all energy policy and federal land management issues within the Committee’s vast jurisdiction. She also helped negotiate, draft, and enact everything from major legislative packages and budget reconciliations measures, to targeted provisions and stand-alone bills.

Prior to serving on the Committee, Ms. Donnelly was an attorney with Sullivan & Worcester, LLP (previously affiliated with Verner Lipfert). In this capacity, she represented clients before U.S. federal courts, FERC, and state regulatory commissions.

Earlier in her career, Ms. Donnelly was a Counsel at the US Department of the Interior. She also served as Counsel to the US Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

Ms. Donnelly holds a J.D. from the Columbus School of Law, Catholic University of America and a BA from The College of the Holy Cross. She received the 2019 *Women with Hydro Vision* award from HydroVision International. She was also selected as a Hoover Institution Fellow in the 115th Congress and as a Congressional Stennis Fellow for the 110th Congress. She is admitted to practice in the District of Columbia.



Nicole Buell
Senior Director-US
Climate Implementation,
Environmental Defense
Fund
Panelist

Nicole Buell is the Senior Director for US Climate Implementation at the Environmental Defense Fund. In this role, Nicole leads EDF's work supporting the implementation of the bipartisan infrastructure law and the Inflation Reduction Act. She works with teams across the organization utilizing their expertise on hydrogen science to orphan well closures, from methane regulations to innovative agricultural financing – and everything in between – in order to drive success of this unprecedented investment in climate and energy policy. Nicole joined EDF in 2022 as the Director of Federal Climate Innovation, where she oversaw the development of tools and strategies to advance an effective energy transition, with an emphasis on the intersection of innovation and federal policy. Nicole joined EDF after a decade in federal government, working for both the Legislative and Executive branches. She most recently worked for the US Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, focusing on energy grid resilience and security, international energy and trade, and energy financing programs within the Department of Energy. Prior to the Senate, she worked for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission as an economist in the energy market division, where her work focused on transmission planning and capacity market design in the eastern RTOs/ISOs. Nicole has also worked for the White House Office of Management and Budget and the USDA Forest Service. She holds a master's degree from Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment and a BS from the University of Richmond.