

Matthew H. Leggett

Partner

Washington, DC
+1.202.778.9087

Matt.Leggett@klgates.com

OVERVIEW

Matt Leggett is a partner in the firm's Public Policy and Law practice group where he leads the global energy policy practice and serves as the group's recruiting partner. A former chief counsel for US Senate committees, Matt represents clients from across the energy, environment, and natural resources sectors, including data centers, oil and gas, hydrogen, nuclear, biofuels, renewables, transmission, chemicals, and minerals and materials.

Matt provides strategic legal counsel, regulatory guidance, policy solutions, and advocacy services in support of data centers, natural gas pipeline infrastructure, liquefied natural gas (LNG) export facilities, waste-to-energy biofuels projects, geologic hydrogen production activities, conventional and small modular nuclear reactor technologies, mining and minerals processing operations, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and other chemical issues, and energy infrastructure project permitting reform. He appears before the US Congress, White House, Department of the Interior (Interior), Department of Energy (DOE), Department of War (DOW), Department of Commerce (Commerce), Department of the Treasury (Treasury), Department of Agriculture (USDA), Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), and other federal agencies on matters relating to the multitude of statutes, regulations, policies, and personnel that govern data center, energy, environment, and natural resources companies at the federal level.

Prior to joining the firm, Matt served as minority chief counsel for the US Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. He managed the legal, policy, and communications teams that developed and implemented the strategic plan of the committee agenda. Previously, Matt had served as majority chief counsel for the US Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

In these jobs, Matt was responsible for overseeing committee staff, preparing for hearings, coordinating media strategies, and participating in the regulatory process. He provided legal counsel, advice, and legislative solutions to the Ranking Member and Chairman of the respective committees, Wyoming Senator John Barrasso, members of the committees, Senate Republican leadership, and other Senate offices. He directed committee hearings and Senate consideration of more than 65 presidential nominations in the energy, environment, natural resources, and transportation space. Matt also ensured compliance with Senate, committee, and Republican conference rules. He devised rules-based strategies to pass legislation, process nominees, defend committee jurisdiction, and

advocate before the Senate Parliamentarian. Additionally, he managed oversight and investigation activities, while also serving in an official role at committee business meetings.

Towards the end of his government service, Matt led his committees' legislative activities on the Senate floor relating to the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), and CHIPS and Science Act of 2022. He oversaw bipartisan enactment of an environmental innovation package to promote carbon capture and sequestration technologies, reduce diesel emissions, and phasedown hydrofluorocarbons. He managed committee passage of bipartisan infrastructure legislation to reauthorize the federal highway program and support the build-out of hydrogen, natural gas, and electric vehicle fueling infrastructure. He oversaw efforts to reform permitting of energy and transportation projects under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Clean Water Act (CWA), the Clean Air Act (CAA), the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), the Natural Gas Act (NGA), and other statutes.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Before his service as chief counsel, Matt served as policy counsel for the US Senate Republican Policy Committee under Senator Barrasso where he was in charge of energy, environment, and natural resources matters for US Senate Republican Leadership and the US Senate Republican Conference. He provided the Senate Republican Conference with strategic guidance, policy solutions, and communications support on energy, environment, natural resources, critical minerals, infrastructure, and agriculture matters. He oversaw all major legislation and drove the Senate Republican Conference's response to federal agency regulatory activities in these spaces. He frequently served as a featured speaker at legal, policy, and energy conferences, including the Energy Bar Association, Hudson Institute, Federalist Society, Institute for Energy Law, and Energy Policy Research Foundation.

Earlier in his career, Matt managed a US Congressman's senior assignment to the US House Energy and Commerce Committee, co-chairmanship of the Congressional Natural Gas Caucus, and chairmanship of the Congressional Steel Caucus. He also served on the staff of the US House Agriculture Committee and for a senior US Senator.

Much of Matt's tenure in the US Congress focused on natural gas, liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports and exports, and other energy infrastructure matters. As a result of his oversight and his management of all nominations for the DOE, FERC, EPA, Interior, and NRC, and his review of environmental impact statements throughout his career, Matt has deep knowledge of the inner workings of these agencies and the individuals who run them. He has led legislative efforts to ensure multiple use of our nation's federal lands for energy production, agricultural and ranching operations, outdoor recreational activities, and wildlife and habitat conservation. He has advocated for legal, regulatory, programmatic, permitting and funding reforms in connection with securing supply chains of critical minerals and fuel minerals from foreign and domestic sources, including re-establishing America's mining and minerals processing-capacity in the United States.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Recognized by *The Legal 500 United States* as a Recommended Lawyer for Government Relations, 2024-2026

EDUCATION

- J.D., Vanderbilt Law School, 2007
- B.A., University of Virginia, 2000

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of District of Columbia
- Bar of Virginia

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- 1 October 2026, Department of Energy Seeks Input on Opening Legacy Critical Mineral Inventories for Industry Use
- 22 July 2026, USGS Discovers 2.3-Million-Ton Appalachian Lithium Deposit
- 8 December 2025, 2025 in Review: International Nuclear Energy Updates
- 3 July 2025, FERC and DOE Roll Back NEPA Rules to Accelerate Permitting
- June 2025, Changes to Energy Policy and Energy Tax Incentives in the House Reconciliation Bill
- 5 June 2025, President Trump Issues Sweeping Executive Orders Targeting Nuclear Regulation
- June 2025, Embassy Series: Key Considerations in US Energy Investment Under the Trump Administration
- May 2025, Energy Policy in the Trump Administration Webinar Series–Session 6: Critical and Fuel Minerals
- May 2025, Energy Policy in the Trump Administration Webinar Series–Session 5: Electricity, Transmission, and Data Centers
- May 2025, Energy Policy in the Trump Administration Webinar Series–Session 4: Nuclear Energy
- April 2025, Energy Policy in the Trump Administration Webinar Series–Session 3: Fossil Fuels
- March 2025, Loper Bright: Navigating the New Regulatory State and Implications for the Trump Administration Agenda
- 7 March 2025, President Trump Touts America First Energy Dominance Agenda to Congress
- 22 January 2025, House Bipartisan Task Force on Artificial Intelligence Report

- 22 January 2025, Trump Issues Sweeping Executive Order Declaring National Energy Emergency
- December 2024, Energy Policy Under Full Republican Control
- 11 November 2024, FERC's Rejection of Data Center Co-Location Amendments to a Pennsylvania Nuclear Power Plant's Interconnection Agreement Raises Big Questions About What's Next
- November 2024, 2024 Post-Election Recap Discussion
- 7 August 2024, FERC to Hold Commissioner-Led Technical Conference to Discuss Co-Location of Large-Load Customers With Generating Facilities
- 18 July 2024, What Overturning Chevron Means for the Way Congress Does Its Business
- 16 May 2024, FERC Issues Landmark Transmission Planning Rule, Order No.1920: Final Rule Modifies the Proposed Rule, Drawing 2-1 Vote
- 30 January 2024, 2023 PFAS Regulatory Roundup and Looking Ahead
- 27 December 2023, US Treasury Department Releases Proposed Section 45V Hydrogen Tax Credit Regulations
- 29 September 2023, Impacts of a Government Shutdown: Executive and Congressional Meetings
- 27 September 2023, Impacts of a Government Shutdown: Grants
- 26 September 2023, Impacts of a Government Shutdown: Government Contractors
- 20 September 2023, Introduction: Impacts of a Government Shutdown
- 12 September 2023, LNG by Rail Rule Suspension
- 10 August 2023, The White House Continues to Advance NEPA Reform With CEQ's Proposed NEPA Phase Two
- June 2023, Tax Credit Revolution: Qualifying Advanced Energy Project Tax Credit
- 5 June 2023, Debt Ceiling Legislation Serves as a Vehicle for Substantive Changes to NEPA
- 12 May 2023, Full of Hot Air? EPA Tries Again to Impose Greenhouse Gas Emission Standards on Fossil Fuel-Fired Power Plants

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- "Federal Energy and Environmental Policies Under Trump," *The New Jersey Business & Industry Association (NJBA)*, 5 November 2025
- "What Chevron's End Means For How Congress Does Business," *Law360*, 30 July 2024
- "Businesses Must Prepare for Shutdown Impact on Grants, Contracts," *Bloomberg Law*, 27 September 2023

NEWS & EVENTS

- 25 September 2024, November Elections Outlook: Impacts and Considerations on Energy, Climate Policies, and Infrastructure - Newark
- 24 September 2024, November Elections Outlook: Impacts and Considerations on Energy, Climate Policies, and Infrastructure - New York
- 10 September 2024, Investing In the High-Tech Industries in the US Seminar
- 9 September 2024, Investing in the Semiconductor Industry in the US Seminar
- 14 February 2023, Former Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chief Counsel Joins K&L Gates as Washington, D.C., Partner

MEDIA MENTIONS

- 28 July 2026, *E&E News* | Data center boom sparks lobbying surge

OTHER MEDIA MENTIONS

- Quoted, "A Business Spotlight on the 'One Big Beautiful Bill Act," *New Jersey Business Magazine*, 17 July 2025
- Quoted, "Trump, Congress to Alter, Not Erase Biden Energy Legacy," *Forbes*, 12 December 2024
- Quoted, "Why Biden's $7.5B electric vehicle charger push is probably safe from Trump," *Politico*, 20 November 2024
- Quoted, "Trump vs. Biden's historic climate agenda," *Politico.com* and *Yahoo! News*, 29 July 2024
- Quoted, "What Does America's Confusion About The Economy Mean For Business?," *Forbes.com*, 26 May 2024
- Quoted, "Energy CEOs Split on Pursuing Biden Incentives So Close to Election," *Forbes*, 20 May 2024
- Quoted, "Clean energy in America awaits the presidential election, and 4 legislation at risk," *Attaqa*, 20 May 2024
- Quoted, "Biden CO2, Hydrogen Pipeline Dreams Get Wake-Up Call," *Forbes,* 12 April 2024
- Quoted, "Business Lobby Loses Ally With McConnell's Exit From Leadership," *Bloomberg Government*, 28 February 2024
- Quoted, "Texas Solar Projects First to Qualify for Key Climate Tax Credit," *E&E News EnergyWire*, 1 December 2023
- Quoted, "Lobbyists in the Dark on Speaker Johnson's Spending Strategy," *Bloomberg Government*, November 9, 2023

- Quoted, "K Street braces for potential shutdown," *The Hill*, *AOL.com*, and *Yahoo! News*, 27 September 2023
- Quoted, "K Street girds for a drawn out shutdown," *Politico Influence*, 28 September 2023
- Quoted, "Law Firms Brace Clients for Possible Government Shutdown," *National Law Journal*, 27 September 2023

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Public Policy and Law
- Administrative and Regulatory Law
- Environment and Energy
- International Trade, Investment Controls, and National Security
- US Congressional Investigations

INDUSTRIES

- Carbon Solutions
- Critical Minerals
- Energy
- Energy Storage and Distributed Resources
- Hydrogen
- Liquefied Natural Gas
- Mining, Minerals, and Metals
- Nuclear Energy
- Power Generation and Transmission
- Quantum
- Technology
- Utilities

EMERGING ISSUES

- Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- Data Centers and Energy Intensive Infrastructure

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

Oil and Gas and LNG Exports

- Serve as regulatory and policy counsel for an LNG export project developer on matters relating to development, financing, construction, and operation of an LNG export project in Alaska, including an 800-mile pipeline to transport North Slope natural gas to Southcentral Alaska in response to a statewide energy crisis, and a 20 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) liquefied natural gas (LNG) export facility to deliver LNG to foreign countries. Assist with relationship building before the US Congress, White House, DOW, DOE, Commerce, Treasury, Interior, and FERC. Assist with legal, regulatory, and policy matters relating to permits, approvals, and environmental reviews required for siting, construction, and export of LNG at FERC and DOE; loan, offtake, equity, and other project financing support at DOE, DOW, Commerce, and Interior; and other matters associated with federal government contracting, trade agreements, tariff revenues, energy project permitting reform, and budget reconciliation legislation.
- Serve as regulatory and policy counsel for an LNG export project developer on matters relating to development of the 25 mtpa LNG export facility in Louisiana, including representing client before FERC, DOE, and PHMSA.
- Serve as regulatory and policy counsel for an LNG export project developer on matters relating to development of the 9.5 mtpa LNG export facility on the Calcasieu Ship Channel in southwestern Louisiana, including representing client before FERC, DOE, and the US Congress.
- Serve as regulatory and policy counsel for an LNG export project developer on matters relating to development of the 4 mtpa LNG export facility in Brownsville, Texas, including representing client before FERC, DOE, and the US Congress.
- Serve as regulatory and policy counsel for an LNG export project developer on matters relating to development of the 8.8 mtpa LNG export facility in Lake Charles, Louisiana, including representing client before FERC, DOE, and the US Congress.
- Served as regulatory and policy counsel for a pressure-control technology company on matters relating to development of innovative blowout stopper technology delivering a new standard for safety and pressure control in the oil and gas industry, including representing client before the US Congress, DOE, and Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE).

Biofuels

- Serve as lead regulatory and policy counsel for a leading waste-to-energy biofuels company, a nationwide leader in the capture of methane emissions from organic waste matter at landfills, agricultural operations, wastewater treatment plants, and food waste facilities; conversion into low-carbon-intensity renewable natural gas (RNG) and renewable electricity; and distribution for use in heavy-duty transportation, industrial applications, and electric power. Lead direct engagement with federal policymakers in the US Congress, White House, EPA, DOE, Treasury, and USDA. Assist with researching, drafting, and submitting substantive legal, regulatory, and policy comments regarding energy tax credits under the IRA, renewable volume

obligations (RVOs) under the CAA's Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS), and additional policies under other statutes, regulations, and guidance documents impacting the biofuels sector. Assist with building coalition of similarly aligned waste-to-energy companies to strengthen the segment's voice within Washington, DC and the biofuels industry as a whole.

Hydrogen

- Served as regulatory and policy counsel for a leading hydrogen company on matters relating to development of geologic (natural) hydrogen resources, including representing client before the US Congress, White House, DOE, and Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Nuclear

- Served as regulatory and policy counsel for a leading US nuclear company on matters relating to development of large-load reactors, small modular reactors (SMRs), and microreactors, including representing client before the US Congress, White House, DOE, and DOW.
- Served as regulatory and policy counsel for a leading Japanese nuclear company on matters relating to trade, tariffs, and foreign investment into the United States, including providing strategic legal, regulatory, and policy research, analysis, and advice on Commerce, US Trade Representative (USTR), and Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) processes.

Minerals, Mining, and Processing

- Serve as regulatory and policy counsel for US critical minerals projects and interests being developed by a Canadian mining company, a subsidiary of a Polish foreign multinational mining corporation, on matters relating to federal government financing opportunities at DOE, DOW, Commerce, and Interior.
- Serve as regulatory and policy counsel for a US critical minerals project being developed by a Canadian mining company on matters relating to federal government financing opportunities at DOE, DOW, Commerce, and Interior.
- Served as regulatory and policy counsel for a Canadian critical minerals mining company on matters relating to US federal government financing opportunities at DOE and DOW, as well as US federal government political support through the US Embassy in Canada and other channels.
- Served as regulatory and policy counsel for a minerals processing and remediation technology company on matters relating to development of innovative mineral processing, remediation, and recycling technology that unlocks additional economic and environmental value from mined ore and legacy waste. Assisted with strategic legal counsel, regulatory guidance, and advocacy services before EPA in support of a partnership with the Navajo Nation to remediate abandoned uranium mines (AUMs) on tribal lands, as well as before Interior and USDA to determine activities needed to remediate AUMs on federal lands. Assisted with engagement before DOE and DOW with regard to federal financing in support of minerals processing and waste remediation technology, and to advocate for conversion of Defense-Related Uranium Mines (DRUM) program from a focus on inventorying DRUMs to proactively remediating them.

Transmission

- Serve as lead regulatory and policy counsel for a leading renewable energy producer, transmission developer, and power marketer on energy policy matters before the US federal government. Assist with legal, regulatory, and policy analysis, strategic guidance, and relationship building with federal policymakers, including before the US Congress, White House, DOE, and other federal agencies. Assist with managing, navigating, and expediting federal energy project permitting processes, including environmental reviews and cross-border export-import permits relating to electric transmission facilities.

Permitting Reform

- Serve as lead regulatory and policy counsel for a leading energy holding company with a portfolio of generating, pipeline, and electric transmission assets on federal legal, regulatory, policy, and legislative activities relating to energy project permitting reform, including with regard to NEPA, CAA, CWA, ESA, NHPA, FLPMA, NGA, the Federal Power Act, and other energy and environmental statutes. Assist with relationship building, information gathering, legal analysis, legislative drafting, and strategic guidance, and directly engage with the US Congress, White House, DOE, Interior, EPA, DOW, and Commerce on energy project permitting reform matters. Assist with Interior's Bureau of Land Management environmental review processes relating to electric transmission line projects and other energy infrastructure facilities on federal lands.
- Serve as lead regulatory and policy counsel for a leading trade association consisting of member companies engaged in engineering, procurement, and construction activities for energy, transportation, and other infrastructure projects. Assist with regulatory and legislative analysis, relationship building, information gathering, and strategic guidance, and regularly represent client before the US Congress, White House, EPA, DOE, and Interior on legal, regulatory, policy, and legislative developments related to energy project permitting reform.

Environmental

- Serve as regulatory and policy counsel for a leading industrial waste management and environmental services company with regard to federal legal, regulatory, policy, and legislative activities relating to treatment of per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), including their destruction through high-temperature incineration. Assist with relationship-building, information gathering, legal analysis, legislative drafting, and strategic guidance, and regularly represent client before the US Congress, White House, EPA, and DOW.

Other

- Serve as legal, regulatory, and policy counsel for a leading global commercial client on matters relating to international trade, including tariffs, import requirements, and trade-related policy matters. Assist with strategic advice, preparation of briefing materials for government engagement, and drafting submissions for regulatory processes. Assist with analysis of trade measures and their potential impacts on cross-border supply chains, as well as engagement with government stakeholders on emerging policy initiatives and international frameworks.
- Serve as regulatory and policy counsel for a leading steel manufacturing company on its multibillion-dollar redevelopment of steel manufacturing capacity in the United States. Assist with relationship building and strategic legal, regulatory, and policy guidance with regard to state and federal grant, loan, equity, offtake,

contractual, and other project financing and political support before the US Congress, the White House, DOE, Commerce, DOW, Interior, the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and other federal agencies.