



**ENERGY FUTURES
— INITIATIVE —**

**DAVID A. FOSTER
Distinguished Associate**

David Foster served as Senior Advisor to U.S. Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz from 2014-2017 on energy, environmental, climate, economic development, workforce development and labor relations issues. During that period he designed and implemented the creation of the Department of Energy's Jobs Strategy Council, an initiative that linked the department's technical and financial resources to a wide group of external stakeholders including state and local governments, private sector energy and manufacturing businesses, non-profits, academic institutions, and labor unions.

He also designed and oversaw the annual production of the U.S. Energy and Employment Report, a survey driven study of labor markets in four key energy-related sectors of the U.S. economy. In addition, he led the interagency effort to create the Energy and Advanced Manufacturing Workforce Initiative, which formally linked the Department of Energy with the Departments of Labor, Education, Commerce, Defense, and the National Science Foundation on workforce development issues. He also spurred the formation of the Utility Industry Workforce Initiative that joined six utility trade associations with four government agencies and two national labor unions to promote veterans hiring in the utility industry.

Prior to working at the Department of Energy, David Foster served as the founding Executive Director of the BlueGreen Alliance (BGA), a strategic partnership of 14 of America's most important unions and environmental organizations with a combined membership of 14.5 million. The BlueGreen Alliance is the country's foremost labor/environmental advocacy group on climate change policy solutions with a special emphasis on energy intensive industries, job creation, and the interchange between global warming and trade policy. He also formed BGA's Clean Energy Manufacturing Center which provided technical support and analysis on manufacturing growth opportunities through grants from the Departments of Commerce, Labor, and the private sector.

Foster has spoken extensively on the subjects of climate change, economic development and the transition to a low carbon economy to audiences of business, labor, environmental and government policy makers around the world, including the United Nations Environment Program Ministerial in Nairobi, Kenya, multiple UNFCCC events, and the German Green Party National Convention. He has testified before the U.S. Congress and Canadian Parliament on the linkage between jobs and climate change solutions.

From 1990-2006, he was the Director of United Steelworkers (USW), District #11, a 13 state region based in Minneapolis, MN. His responsibilities included serving on the union's International Executive Board and negotiating labor agreements with many of the country's largest steel, iron ore and aluminum companies. He has spoken on trade issues to labor and management audiences in the U.S., Canada, and Japan and cochaired the USW's initiative to establish a global network of unions in the aluminum industry in 2003. He also chaired the USW's International Executive Board Task Force on the Environment and authored its 2006 policy statement.



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In 2004, he was awarded the Jane Lehman Bagley Award from the Tides Foundation for his work building labor/environmental coalitions in the United States and in 2009 he received the first Peter A. Berle Award for Environmental Integrity along with Dr. James Hansen of the Goddard Space Institute. In 2010, he was recognized by the Aspen Institute with its 2010 Energy and Environment Award for Non-Governmental Organizations. Since 2009 Foster has served on the Board of Directors of Kaiser Aluminum Corporation and, since 2006 the Board of Directors of Oregon Steel Mills and its successor, Evraz, North America. Previously, he served on the Board of Directors of Physicians Health Plan, one of the first Preferred Provider Organizations in the country. He has also served on numerous non-profit boards and government advisory commissions.

From 2003-2010, he taught graduate classes on globalization, sustainability, and labor relations at the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota in the Twin Cities and at the University of Minnesota at Duluth in the Masters in Advocacy and Political Leadership.

Foster has a BA from Reed College in Portland, OR. He lives in Minneapolis, MN and is married to Sarah Stoesz, President and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota. They have three children and three grandchildren. (December 2018)