



## **Executive Director, Commanding Heights Initiative**

### **About SAFE**

SAFE is an action oriented, non-ideological organization working to enhance the nation's energy security and economic resurgence and resiliency, by advancing transformative transportation and mobility technologies and ensuring that the United States secures key aspects of the technology supply chain to achieve and maintain our strategic advantage.

When SAFE was founded, there was no lasting solution to achieving energy security by using a diverse set of American fuels in transportation unconnected to the volatile and manipulated global market. But with the vehicle technology that exists today, there is a clear path forward and SAFE is leading the charge. Near-total reliance on petroleum in the transportation sector undermines the nation's economic and national security and constrains U.S. foreign policy. To combat these threats, SAFE advocates for the widespread use of alternative fuels including electricity, natural gas and hydrogen, deployment of connected, shared and autonomous vehicles, responsible domestic production of U.S. resources, and improvements in fuel economy.

In 2006, to support its advocacy SAFE formed the Energy Security Leadership Council (ESLC), a group of business and former military leaders. The ESLC is co-chaired by Adam Goldstein, former CEO of Royal Caribbean International and General James T. Conway (Ret), 34th Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corp. In 2009, SAFE launched the Electrification Coalition (EC), a nonpartisan, nonprofit group to work with consumers, businesses, and policymakers, to launch award-winning "real-world" programs and enable the needed policies to accelerate transportation electrification around the country.

SAFE's policy proposals have been embraced by the leaders of both major political parties. In 2007, President George W. Bush used the State of the Union Address to propose a plan closely mirroring a SAFE proposal, which ultimately led to the first improvement in automotive fuel-economy standards in a generation. In his 2013 State of the Union Address, President Obama outlined his plan to implement one of SAFE's policy recommendations, the establishment of an Energy Security Trust, and credited the organization with generating the idea.

China's ambitions to wrest control of emerging transportation technologies threaten to open a new front on the battle for global economic leadership. The United States must redouble its efforts to maintain its technological and industrial advantage, which serve as the backbone of American economic power. Accordingly, SAFE has released a seminal paper entitled [The Commanding Heights of Global Transportation](#) establishing the intellectual foundation for understanding the threats posed by China and outlining the potential consequences to U.S. economic and national security. The paper and recommendations address supporting the advanced fuel vehicle market and domestic manufacturing, developing a critical minerals supply chain that is not controlled by China, advancing next-generation transportation technology, and combating predatory economic practices. Its ideas need to be widely understood and its recommendations now must be enacted into law. For this initiative to be successful, SAFE needs an experienced, passionate leader at its helm.

SAFE was founded in 2004 and with the EC employs more than 25 people and multiple consultants. It has an annual budget of over \$9 million comprised of foundations, corporate partners, and individual donors.

For more information, visit [secureenergy.org](http://secureenergy.org).

## **The Opportunity**

SAFE seeks a full-time Executive Director, Commanding Heights Initiative based in Washington, D.C. The Executive Director will report directly to the Chief Executive Officer and will manage SAFE's initiative with internal staff in policy, government relations, fundraising and communications as well as external consultants.

## **Key Responsibilities**

The Executive Director will, in partnership with and with support from the CEO, be the leader of SAFE's Commanding Heights initiative. S/he will set the vision and chart the path needed to be successful, from determining the next research focus area(s) to raising funds for the initiative with the CEO to publicizing the findings. S/he will collaborate with colleagues in SAFE's Development, Communications, and Government Affairs departments and the Executive Office, and as necessary with the National Director of the EC and the ED of the Commission on the Future of Mobility.

Efforts will be centered on:

- 1) *Research, Analysis and Content Creation*  
With Policy team, determine follow-up research needed to expand the original Commanding Heights report. Provide oversight and research assistance as focus areas determined.
- 2) *Fundraising*  
With support from the Development team, identify and solicit individual, foundation, and corporate donors interested in the work of the Commanding Heights initiative.
- 3) *Advocacy*  
Working with SAFE's Government Affairs team and political consultants to identify potential legislative and Administration champions, share SAFE's findings, advocate for the Commanding Heights recommendations, and engage third-party stakeholders in the advocacy.
- 4) *Communications*  
With support from the Communications department, work to publicize the findings and arguments of the initiative, from drafting op-eds and social media posts to providing interviews.
- 5) *Finance/Operations*  
With support from the Finance/Operations team, craft budgets as needed, manage project budgets, and hire additional staff as necessary or appropriate.

## **Professional Skills and Qualifications**

- Bachelor's degree required; advanced degree preferred.
- Outstanding leadership and management skills, as well as a deep understanding of the political process and issue advocacy.
- Minimum of 5-7 years of experience substantively engaged with policy or business issues directly related with China. Particular experience with or in the China energy, technology or supply chain space a plus.
- Ability to coordinate with senior public and private sector officials to advance the mission of the organization.
- A detailed understanding of political programs, fundraising, and the policy process is essential.
- Thrives in a high energy environment with the ability to manage multiple priorities simultaneously; comfortable working in a start-up-like environment with lean support staff.
- Embraces SAFE's mission, vision and strategic direction.
- Team player and collaborator who is open and transparent about process and progress. Willing to pitch in and help others when needed.
- Good sense of humor.

## **Salary/Benefits**

The opportunity garners a competitive salary and benefits package.

## **To Apply**

Please send cover letter and resume to [careers@secureenergy.org](mailto:careers@secureenergy.org) with subject "Executive Director, Commanding Heights Initiative."