



Restoring the American Dream **Energy for America**

The fundamental policy: Use every American energy source to provide American consumers with American energy harvested and generated by American companies employing American workers.

To rescue the U.S. from its terminal dependency on external energy sources, we must develop every available source of American energy. achieving energy security first, then energy independence. Because energy is integral to the function of every activity in the U.S. and critical to everything we do, it has become the United States' Achilles heel.

We became a great and prosperous nation in no small part because of abundant and relatively inexpensive energy, once again illustrated when high energy prices became a major contributor to the current recession. We've had since the early 1970's to fix this problem, but Washington has sadly lacked the leadership required to solve the problem.

While America's energy policy must include the development of renewable energy resources, we must also focus on immediately available technologies to harvest and generate available and affordable energy resources, including....

1. Nuclear: In addition to the efficient production of electricity, the development of environmentally safe nuclear-generated energy will make it possible to dramatically improve both environmentally desirable and practical transportation fuel options such as hydrogen.

Hydrogen-powered automobiles, which emit only water vapor, are already being successfully used in Japan and California. Mass adoption of hydrogen as a transportation fuel will require the feasible production of hydrogen using nuclear power.

2. Fossil fuels: America enjoys an abundance of fossil fuels, including oil and natural gas. The U.S. reportedly has more oil available for consumption by American consumers than all of the Middle East. Bureaucratic restrictions on drilling for oil both off shore and inland, including ANWR, must be lifted and/or revised. We must learn everything we can from the BP oil disaster in the Gulf of Mexico, but then we must press resolutely forward to energy security first, then energy independence.

Clean-burning and relatively inexpensive natural gas has been discovered to be abundantly available in the U.S., including in Arkansas in the Fayetteville shale, with estimates that the U.S. has enough natural gas to provide adequate energy for the next 100 years or more. We must encourage the development of a natural gas retail distribution infrastructure that will allow the transportation industry to utilize natural gas, which provides a 130 octane rating and allows engines to last 500,000-800,000 miles.

3. Coal: Coal is our primary source of energy and U.S. coal reserves represent the largest single unit of energy in the world secure within the borders of one country. Abundantly available lignite is used to generate electricity at a relatively low cost, approximately 1/3 the cost of using natural gas. New technologies exist that allow lignite-burning plants to meet all of EPA's strict federal ambient air quality standards (and 13 states that utilize lignite now meet these standards).

Approximately 9 billion tons of lignite are known to be available for relatively easy mining in Arkansas alone. The University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) has developed a technology that makes it possible for 1,000 barrels of light sweet crude oil to be produced from 1,000 tons of lignite, with little to no undesirable environmental impact, at a cost of approximately \$30 per barrel. Scientists at UTA believe that this technology can be improved to generate two barrels of light sweet crude per ton of lignite, further driving down the cost, using a production/conversion facility that cost only about \$5 million. Approximately 42-45 gallons of diesel fuel can be produced from each barrel of light sweet crude.

4. Bio-mass fuels: Dedicated energy crops, such as switch grass, can produce as much as 600-1,000 gallons of diesel fuel per acre. We must encourage the development of cellulosic bio-fuel sources and avoid, as a matter of policy, dramatic increases in food costs when food crops are used to produce bio-fuels.
5. Wind and solar: Wind and solar energy should be developed to supplement the energy needs of the country not adequately supplied through its other sources.

Cap and Trade: I am opposed to and will continue to oppose cap and trade legislation or similar legislation that will create a tax on the production or use of energy. The current cap and trade legislation will produce a mass exodus of American businesses and thousands of jobs with them, but it will be ultimately counterproductive as American industry moves out of the country to other countries that do not require the onerous payment of carbon emission fees where they will emit the same carbons they would have emitted in the U.S. (and perhaps with even less environmental restrictions).

Further, the EPA's power to implement by regulation what the Congress refuses to do by legislation must be eliminated.