



## **“We have a serious problem. America is addicted to oil.”** President George W. Bush, 2006 State of the Union

*“We are fighting a war against terror and paying for both sides of the war.”*

SET AMERICA FREE COALITION

The President is right. America’s appetite for oil is unsustainable. One solution broadly supported by American families, entrepreneurs, farmers, national security experts and many others is a *national commitment to oil savings*. By relying on *more efficient cars and trucks, sustainably made biofuels, and transportation choices* we can enhance our security, achieve a healthy, stable economy and reduce global warming pollution. Our future depends on reducing our oil demand now.

Oil dependence is a threat to our national security, our economy and our environment. With a 21-million-barrel-per-day oil habit, the United States consumes a quarter of the world’s annual oil production and exports about \$25 billion dollars a month, often to unstable and hostile regimes, since about 90 percent of the world’s reserves are in the hands of state-owned companies. Oil imports now account for 40 percent of our national trade deficit, and although our economy is strong, families and businesses alike feel the pinch from rising and uncertain oil prices.

U.S. transportation, which is 97 percent reliant on oil, is the driving force behind our

rapidly growing oil demand. This is partly because the fuel economy of cars and trucks has been stagnant since the 1988, and partly due to a lack of transportation choices in many communities (for example, only half of households have rail or bus access within three quarters of a mile).

Transportation also spews one-third of our annual emissions of heat-trapping carbon dioxide pollution. In fact, one study found that the fleet of each of Detroit’s automakers—GM, Ford and DaimlerChrysler—creates more global warming pollution every year than the country’s largest electric utility. If we continue with business as usual, the transportation sector will be responsible



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for 80 percent of our oil demand growth over the next 20 years and more than one-third of our global warming pollution emissions through 2030.

**Moving America Beyond Oil: A Clean, Renewable Path to Energy Security**

We have the technology and the know-how to reduce our oil dependence by 40 percent over the next two decades through efficiency, clean renewable fuels and better transportation choices. American farmers and entrepreneurs are already working to develop biofuels, and technologies ranging from simple engine design changes to hybrid-electric vehicles can independently and cumulatively improve the fuel economy of our cars and trucks. Better transportation choices,

*“We’ve got a coalition of tree huggers, do-gooders, sobbusters, cheap hawks, and evangelicals.”*

R. JAMES WOOLSEY,  
FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE CIA



such as transit, already save 100,000 barrels a day and could save much more. What’s missing is a firm national commitment, including clear benchmarks and incentives that will enable industries and consumers to use substantially less oil and reduce emissions of greenhouse gases that cause global warming.

*“We should take steps now to reduce emissions in effective and meaningful ways.”*

EXXONMOBIL CEO REX W. TILLERSON,  
NOVEMBER 30, 2006

To take advantage of our potential, any energy security policy should include:

- **Guaranteed oil savings** starting with 2.5 million barrels of oil per day by 2016 (about the amount of oil we currently import from the Persian Gulf and 10 percent of projected demand) by 2016; then increasing savings to 10 million barrels of oil per day in 25 years.
- **Improved fuel economy performance** in cars and light trucks, tires and heavy trucks to accelerate oil savings in transportation and maximize the impact of renewable fuels.
- **Renewable fuels that are cleaner and cheaper than oil** through new markets and incentives for a new generation of low-carbon fuels made from sustainable biomass resources, such as prairie grasses, grown right here on America’s farms.
- **Consumer fuel choice** to get low-carbon fuels into drivers’ tanks faster, including E85 fuel pumps at gas stations, standardizing fuel flexibility in new cars and trucks and closing an outdated legal loophole that weakens fuel economy levels for automakers producing flexible fuel vehicles, which wastes millions of gallons of oil.
- **Auto manufacturer retooling incentives** for American automakers and suppliers to regain competitiveness and job potential by investing in domestic production of hybrids and advanced clean diesel vehicles.
- **More transportation choices** through funding boosts for light rail, telecommuting and creation of new transit-oriented development corridors to reduce the need for commuters and families to drive to meet all their daily needs.

Democrats and Republicans; conservatives and liberals; defense hawks, religious leaders, environmentalists, farmers and labor—all agree that bipartisan oil savings policy will put America on a clean, sustainable path to energy independence. It’s a simple formula: the more oil we save, the less we have to buy. And the less we have to buy, the less exposed we are to the volatile global oil market, the less we contribute to global warming and the less hard-earned money we send to politically unstable and hostile countries.