

Dear Editor,

Today's soaring energy costs are affecting every driver, both financially and emotionally. An expression unheard of until recently is sadly, all too true, "Pain at the pump." Often accompanying this is a feeling of quiet rage over the possibility that something is very wrong about the whole pricing and profit situation, one in which the oil companies find themselves to be unwilling partners. While we can take the lazy way out by pointing fingers at "Big oil" our primary attention should be focused on a much more pervasive influence and that is the total lack of a coherent government energy policy for the past 30 years or more. Our apathy has led us into the precarious situation of having to import 70% of our needed oil from foreign countries some of whom don't like us all that much. The present dollar cost figure is U.S.D.700 billion yearly. It won't take many more years at this spending rate to bankrupt this nation. Considering that this percentage will keep on increasing, it doesn't take much imagination to realize the security risk this presents. Energy is absolutely vital to the survival of mankind on any level above caveman existence. Both India and China are finding out this fact in their increasing appetite for energy.

Without presenting a lengthy treatise on the socio-economic factors involved in this massive transfer of wealth, the sobering realization is this: we need to find alternate energy sources right now today, not in 10 years. To those who say that independence from oil is pie-in-the-sky fiction, take a look at Brazil and Denmark.

There is one American who has stepped up to the plate and is willing to put his money where his mouth is, Texas billionaire oilman T. Boone Pickens who has a firm grasp on the realities of energy production and distribution. He is promoting all forms of alternate, renewable energy some of which can be applied with current technical know-how. He is concentrating on wind and natural gas, two fields he knows inside out. The value of his plan has been recognized by Carl Pope, the executive director of the Sierra Club.

I strongly encourage each one of your readers to log on to <pickensplan.com> for an eye-opening revelation of what has been accomplished so far. As a testimonial to the universal effect of the ubiquitous pain at the pump, a volunteer movement was started about three weeks ago. It has become known as "Boone's Army" with a phenomenal growth rate, up to 78,000 so far at this time of writing, Wed., July 23, 2008. With a truly ecumenical appeal it is pretty much bi-partisan with a wealth of talent. Anyone who wants their voice to be heard in Washington will find plenty of support in various groups, and also will be performing a great service to their fellow Americans, especially those who may be feeling helpless. To you I say, join with us, together we can find a creative solution to deal effectively with those unreal gas prices.

May the sun always shine with a fair wind down the channel,

John Grey, Humble, Texas

[WORD COUNT: 521. Suitable for Op-Ed Piece.
Letters to the Editor should generally be 250 words or less.]