

LETTER TO CONGRESS FORMULATED BY

Dear [Senator / Representative / Candidate]:

Thanks so much for your hard work. I want to commend you for your strong stand on energy independence. I am also very pleased with Newt Gingrich's efforts in American Solutions. However, I also want to express my concerns that we need to look for more than simply the "Drill Now" solutions to the problem. While I tend to agree with Republicans on some points, I do not always agree with Republicans that too often follow the Big Oil Companies lead. This problem is too big and potentially damaging to our country to overlook one simple fact: Big Oil Companies helped to get us in this mess. Long term Oil is not the answer. I fear that if we do not act soon our country could be in grave danger both economically, and the threat of a Global Energy War driven by oil shortages.

As Texas Oil man T. Boone Pickens has said "we are in a mess we can't drill our way out of". We must be realistic about the very serious dangers of being totally reliant on oil. Oil at best will be a viable energy source for 20 more years. The danger of putting all our eggs in a basket with a hole in the bottom is too great. The immediate cause of World War I was the 1914 assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, by one terrorist with one pistol, and one bullet. Today, we have the potential of a terrorist exploding a nuclear device to disrupt oil supplies in the Middle East. In 1941 Japan attacked the US in large part due to a shortage of oil. The US had to ration oil during World War II even though at that time we were 100% self-sufficient in producing oil.

As oil demand has grown exponentially since then we have gone from 24% imports in 1970, to 42% in 1990 to nearly 70% in 2008. More alarming is our ability to produce oil has declined steadily since 1970. World terrorism has brought on some increased risks that far exceed anything imaginable in 1914. Jimmy Carter warned the nation in 1979 of an over-dependence on foreign oil. Obviously, we have not heeded his warning. The fact is that 65% of the remaining oil reserves are located in the Middle East, and less than 2% in the United States. The risks of entering into a Global War are too great.

"I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones." - Albert Einstein

Like Einstein, I have no idea how World War III will be fought, but I can only say that if we continue on our current course it will be fought over oil.

The problem is we currently consume 25% of the world's current oil production. Add to this that we only have about 2% of the remaining oil reserves or about 21 billion barrels of known reserves. At our current yearly consumption rate we only have about 3 years of oil left. We are currently importing almost 70% of our oil from foreign countries and if the current trends continue we will transfer over \$ 10 trillion over the next 10 years to foreign countries that are more than happy to see our economic demise. This has been described as the biggest transfer of wealth in world history. To add insult to injury, we are borrowing from the Chinese to buy oil from the Arabs, and in part using this oil to continue the war in the Middle East to protect our right to buy more oil from the Arabs and borrow more money from the Chinese. Our National Security is at extreme risk as one terrorist can bring our economy to chaos

overnight. Furthermore, this buy now pay later approach will soon bankrupt our country. Our children will have to pay for our oil plus interest. Globally, China and India are increasing oil demands at an alarming rate.

What we desperately need is a National Energy Plan. Jimmy Carter set minimum gas mileage standards in the 1970s. Not only have we shown no progress in the last 30 years, we have lost the advantage that Carter mandated in the late 70's. He was able to bring this about when we did not have current Hybrid technology. All passenger cars today should meet 30 MPG minimum standards. With Hybrid technology, Plug in Electric, Hydrogen Fuel Cells, Natural Gas driven cars, Ethanol E85, Bio-Diesel B20, and others we have the technology to nearly double Carter's standards, let's use it. Congress has to force policy and action in Detroit. The American people are not well enough informed to make the right choices. Japanese cars are already exceeding these standards. In Catmandoo, Depaul they have been using plug in electrics effectively. Brazil is energy independent using E85 Ethanol. Honda has already introduced the new FCX Clarity in California, a car that runs on Hydrogen. It is simple and the only emissions are H2O or pure water.

These hybrid fuels make sense in the US, imagine all of the \$10 trillion of wealth we are shipping overseas producing real jobs in the US. Like T. Boone Pickens, I support anything American to replace our dependence on foreign oil. However, simply drilling for more oil does not dismiss the long term problem of a world shortage of crude. The Carbon age is soon going to be over whether we like it or not. Many are projecting all oil reserves will be completely depleted by 2040. Coal and Natural Gas will last longer, but will soon follow oil as a depleted carbon fuel resource. Imagine in 200 years we will have used all of the world's oil that took millions of years to produce. Nothing short of a full transfer from Carbon Fuels will serve us long term. Like many people today, I am calling for a full Comprehensive National Energy Plan by Congress. The current Road Taxes or Gas Tax will have to be transferred to other fuels, but the plan can address the need to address future Highway Tax revenues.

While you have my support as stated above, please do not adopt a Drill Now Policy as the solve all plan. I personally see a National Plan that starts with National Fuel MPG Standards that must be met by say 2012. I think mandating Hybrid Electric/Plug In technology is a key second step. The cost could be picked up by the Feds, and Offset by say a 40 cent tax on gas imports imposed directly on Big Oil companies. Exxon posted a \$ 12 billion profit for the last quarter. I am not a tax advocate, but when the need is so great I believe it is fair and reasonable. Time for the Big Oil to do their part. Over the next 7 to 10 years we need to transfer to safer, more reliable fuels that are produced in America by Americans. Likewise, if we put the National Fuel MPG Standards, Hybrid Electric/Plug In Plan and the Drill Now Plan in place, along with more domestic Drilling we could possibly force Arabia to lower oil prices to reduce the impact of the 40 cent tax. In any case, higher taxes make sense if we are dealing with a big huge transfer problem over the next 10 years. The 40 cents could be on imports thus encouraging Big Oil Companies to use domestic energy such as Bio Fuels. Under the Hybrid Requirements Vehicles could be also be required to handle more than 10% ethanol known as Flex Fuel Capable.

Finally, we need to recognize and support Regional Energy Efforts that are already underway. The Pickens Plan calls for using Natural Gas to replace oil in the Southwest. In the Midwestern States E85 is being used, and in California the Hydrogen Fuel Cell and Natural Gas are being considered. In Coal Producing States Coal Liquification is becoming reality. While I believe the best future energy source is Hydrogen Fuel Cells, we have to support Regional differences short term. Hydrogen is almost an endless energy source. While the Pickens Plan makes short term sense, long term it is easy to see it has the same short comings of oil. Coal Gasification can be a key part of the Pickens Plan as we can convert coal to Natural Gas.

In short, importing 70% of our oil from an unstable region of the world that considers Americans the "Great Satan" is insane. If we import more than 20% of our National oil needs this could soon prove to be a national suicide plan economically, or if we go to war. We must face the reality that these imports could be shut down by terrorists, triggering a Global World War Conflict of Biblical Proportions. Albert Einstein is right, such a war would destroy civilization as we know it. Hundreds of Millions of lives could be lost as well as any remaining oil. The risk is too great to continue to rely on foreign oil, or oil domestically produced as this creates a false sense of security.

Sincerely,

James Al Frazier, P.E.

Civil and Environmental Engineer