



The 14th Congressional District's
Santa Cruz County Student Advisory Board

Alternative Energy

2004 Annual report

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Introduction

Nick Huber, Student Advisory Board Chair

Democratic representation is the essence of a functioning republic, but it is impossible to be a voice for the people without vital input from the people. While the young people of America may not have the right to vote, we will soon become working parts of the democratic process. This Student Advisory Board has provided students of dynamic backgrounds and opinions to come together and exchange thoughts and, in the end, formulate a report. We will discuss the topic of alternative energy on several fronts: environmental, economic, technological and international. In the economic sector, research towards alternative energy will be in the direct economic interests of the future of a stable American economy. From an environmental perspective, petroleum is diminishing and the rampant use of fossil fuel results in detrimental environmental effects. Furthermore, with the technology of a solar electrolyzer, hydrogen fuel is a viable solution to our energy needs. Finally, due to the immense international danger of a dependency on hostile, foreign regimes, alternative energy will provide increased safety in the domestic environment. Alternative energy is a necessary aspect for a healthy American future—times change and we must adapt. With the decreasing abundance of petroleum, the environmental effects, the logical notions of free-market economy linked with alternative energy and the international ramifications of a petroleum-based economy, alternative energy is a great step forwards towards the growth of our nation. The 1st Student Advisory Board of the 14th District, serving as the liaison for the voice of the people, recognizes the vast importance of this epochal shift in American policy, leading to a better tomorrow.

Economics

Andy Gaerlan

In the 108th Congress the debate over alternative energy solutions focused highly on the tax credits, incentives, budget, and provisions of the omnibus energy policy bill of H.R. 6. As a refresher of H.R. 6 this bill was addressed to congress in the hopes to further refine the energy usage and consumption of our nation. This bill on February 12, 2004 underwent a revision under the new legislation of S.2095 proposed by Senator Domenici. The results of this revision reduced the estimated cost of the expenses of H.R. 6 from 31 billion dollars to a mere 14 billion, the reasons for this being the delaying of incentive programs and the dropping of provisions such as “safe harbor” which protected MTBE refiners from liability suits.

Recognizing the fact of an energy crunch on the American horizon is only the first step, and bills like S.2095 should only be considered our first attempts into trying to provide viable solutions to the problem at hand. With that in mind it should be seen that with limited budgets the money that remains for our future needs to be treated with great responsibility. In order to reflect this economically we should analyze the budgets allowed under current bills like S.2095 and account for where the money is going and what exactly is its intended purpose. It is the job of those who stand on these comities to make sure that the money allotted by the government goes towards programs and projects intended to provide viable solutions to the energy problems the nation faces. In all it is important to recognize that this goal needs to be reached under tight circumstances therefore provisions and amendments to current bills as well as new legislation needs to be thought out. There is no room for error; if wasted provisions are passed with bills the effectiveness of our budget into finding solutions will be hindered.

The fiscal year budgets for the DOE need to also be reformed. FY2005 has a multi-million dollar addition for a new building to stand as the headquarters for the DOE. With that project taking away a good chunk of the department’s budget there needs to be more money allocated to the department so normal operations and programs can occur. The DOE is the nation’s tool for bringing alternative energy to the public. If they are to succeed they need a substantial amount of funding.

What all this information stems down to is a basic understanding. This is that economically there is not an easy solution to make a necessary switch from standard energy usage to alternative energy solutions. In short there is going to be expense and sacrifices to be made in the economic spectrum of our nation. From what H.R. 6 and the newest revised version of this bill S.2095 has tried to do is make alternative energy a solution by investing heavily into the research of various energy’s, holding corporations accountable for there energy usage and the results of there energy conservation techniques, and finally awarding tax credits and budget incentives for the energy aware. Beyond the bills however there needs to be attention into the fiscal year budgets for the Department of Energy. The energy situation in America needs to be addressed with the

utmost attention if there is not a viable solution attained in the near future America could be facing a drastic energy situation.

Environment

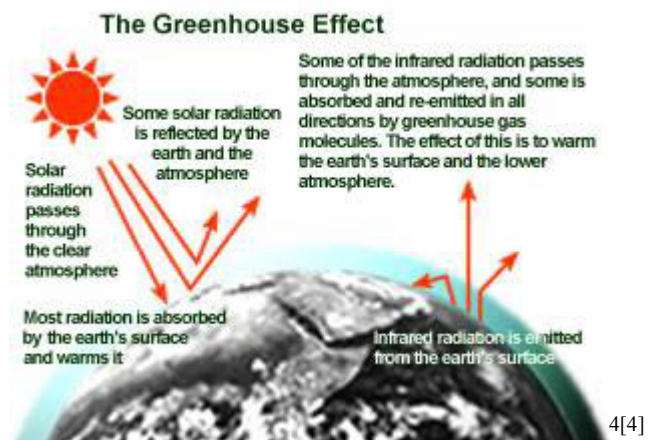
Lindsey O'Leary

Ben Rooks

Petroleum is not going to last forever and the use of fossil fuels promotes rapid, environmental depletion. A long term, environmentally sound solution is necessary for Americas Prosperity.

It is predicted, that in the year 2080, the world will experience a rapid decline in the production of petroleum. America consumes a massive 31 percent of the world's oil; 31 percent of natural gas, 24 percent of coal and 30 percent of electricity. it is a responsibility for America to focus on obtaining non- fossil fueled sources of energy.^{1[1]}

According to the EPA, through the use of fossil fuels, human activity has increase carbon dioxide levels nearly 30 percent, methane has more than doubled and nitrous oxide levels have risen 15 percent.^{2[2]} Due to the increased Green House Effect, Global Warming is rising. It is projected that temperatures will rise between 2.5°F and 10.4°F by the year 2100, and even higher in the United States.^{3[3]} This will cause a rise in sea levels, change in precipitation patterns, increase risk of drought and floods, threats to bio-diversity, and challenges to public health.



^{1[1]} Park, Gary. "NAFTA working group points to declining energy self-sufficiency."

<http://www.petroleumnews.com/pnarch/020825-13.html> (April 3rd, 2004)

^{2[2]} EPA, "Global Warming- Climate."

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^{3[3]} Dunham, Will. "Study Sees Earth's Temperature Soaring By 2100."

<http://www.global-warming.net/3to9friseby2100.htm> (April 5th, 2004)

^{4[4]} EPA, "Global Warming- Climate."

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/oar/globalwarming.nsf/content/climate.html> (April 8th, 2004)

It is crucial that these issues be addressed in order to protect ourselves from dangerous climate changes. A pursuit for more renewable sources is vital in order to conserve the environment.

Many renewable sources of energy do not pollute the air or water, and are safe to the public such as Solar or Wind power. Having renewable sources of energy does not take away from the environment and does not radically change its natural state. It is essential that action is taken towards the production of alternative energy; in order to preserve and replenish the environment.

Alternative Energy: Environment Ben Rooks

Hundreds of different species of fish and birds are at risk, due to pollution. In a recent study, numbers of fish such as trout and salmon are at risk of extinction. Also some of the worlds most exotic birds are also at danger. A number of lung diseases have also been developed due to pollution. We can prevent this problem by looking into windmills and hydro powered energy.

Americans are trying to help out but instead of working hard on a solution, they have just created a bigger problem for them selves. Arctic drilling an act, which may sound weird to people who, has no idea what it is. Arctic drilling is when the country takes toxic oil that is harmful to animal life and tries to freeze it. ANWR as it has come to be known is very dangerous and should be carefully thought out. The government allows people to drill holes in the ice and put big toxic oil products in the holes. Just in the long run, this will end up killing more fish. There are thirteen billion barrels of oil in the northern ice caps in the North Pole. There is a big chance of the oil spilling and ruining some beautiful wildlife. Due to the slight increase of weather changes and climate temperatures slowly rising, Mother earth could have no problem letting that entire oil spill into the ocean.

Each year thirty million acres of beautiful forests are lost, because of pollution in the air and also in the soil .In a matter of 20 years 1 billion acres of forest will be lost due to pollution in the soil.

President Bush has helped out some by pushing government officials to look into windmills as an alternative energy plan. He has also helped by assigning different programs that find out new ways to keep the air fresh. How can it stay fresh with all the polluted cars driving around, electric cars have been thought of and there are some today? Hopefully there can be billions of pollution free cars driving around. But the next issue is the expensive reconstruction of you petroleum based car.

President Bush's Energy Bill is supposed to make sure that every thing that we do is pollution free. But how do we know that he won't under fund this bill just like several other plans. Can we rely on President Bush to help us get a solution, because very soon it will be too late to preserve the earth? President Bush is not addressing this issue as well

as we would want him to but after all he is the president of the United States. So as many of the other people have begged please look into alternative energy as a hot topic in our world issues. Thank you for your time.

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Electricity, Transportation and Hydrogen

Jaclyn D'Arcy

The Electricity and Transportation Sectors of Energy Use

Power plants provide electricity from a centralized facility to homes, businesses and industry. The power plants need a source fuel to generate the electricity. Today, the full source of power comes from fossil fuels. However, electricity can be made from oil, natural gas, coal, and nuclear power.

The transportation sector includes automobiles, trains, planes, buses, boats, and ships. This sector uses oil as their main source of fuel. Today, we get oil from Middle Eastern countries, Mexico and Venezuela, and we can produce it domestically. Oil refineries turn the oil into usable fuels. Oil can also be made into jet fuel for planes, diesel for trucks or gasoline for cars.

The United States imports over sixty percent of the oil necessary to run our country. This leaves the United States at the mercy of other countries to get the oil needed to satisfy the demand. Because of this, war and diplomatic relations can effect how much oil is imported. Our national security depends on these relations. Fossil fuels create pollution, causing health problems and climate change. Hydrogen as a fuel, does not create any negative affects on our environment.

It is the most abundant element in the universe, however it does not exist abundantly by itself. Hydrogen must be separated from other compounds before it can be used and it must be transported and stored.

Power plants should be powered by hydrogen. They can use a renewable energy, such as solar power, to make hydrogen. In turn, it will provide clean electricity for our businesses, and most importantly, our homes.

Because it will not be polluting, industrial parks can bring electricity to homes and businesses. Refueling stations could provide fuel for cars, busses and business fleets. We could build the facilities in rural areas bringing energy closer distance to its point of use, homes and cars. Families could also make hydrogen in their own home so they can become self-sufficient. Although hydrogen is a clean energy source, the production of hydrogen can be extremely polluting. The term "black hydrogen" is the production of hydrogen by burning fossil fuels such as oil and coal and using nuclear power. These techniques to produce hydrogen create greenhouse gases or radioactive waste and they are not sustainable.

Using renewable clean energy is a smarter way to produce hydrogen. Wind, solar, geothermal, and tidal sources are good examples of renewable energy. The cleanest way to make hydrogen is to use a renewable resource to split water molecules in an electrolyzer to produce hydrogen and oxygen. Hydrogen can be used as a fuel just like

gasoline. Hydrogen can be used as a fuel to create a chemical reaction in a fuel cell which produces electricity. Thus, there is no more need for fossil fuels to run our cars or make electricity.

As a congresswoman of the United States of America, you can support the production of hydrogen as the next alternative fuel. It is now apparent that hydrogen will be the primary renewable resource to replace oil. By taking action now, clean hydrogen will become a reality for the future. America's youth are concerned about the delay of our hydrogen economy. Please promote the production and use of clean hydrogen fuel nationwide. Help the United States become the world leader in the race to protect our precious Earth. Don't support oil companies as they try to produce hydrogen with fossil fuels. Set up an infrastructure that produces clean hydrogen so we can create jobs, build a secure nation, and protect our environment for future generations. Stand up to oil companies and special interest and support the hydrogen economy!

International Ramifications

Nick Huber, Student Advisory Board Chair

Brandon Adams, Student Advisory Board Vice-Chair

The International Ramifications of a Fuel-Based Economy Coupled with the Benefits of Alternative Energy in the Global Community

Nick Huber and Brandon Adams

Prelude: Oil Dependency

The United States imports more than half of its oil. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, by 2020 oil imports will account for two-thirds of US consumption. Even if the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is opened for oil exploration, it would only slightly slow our increasing dependence on foreign oil. As long as the US is dependent on oil, we will be increasingly dependent on imports and on the Persian Gulf. True security can only be achieved by reducing demand for oil. The fastest and cheapest route to real security, through economic independence, is to reduce our reliance upon unstable and violent international nations by promoting more diverse means of energy production.

Contemporary Legislative Measure: Bush-Cheney Energy Bill

The Bush-Cheney plan, entitled *Reliable, Affordable and Environmentally Sound Energy for America's Future*, argues: "A significant disruption in world oil supplies could adversely affect our economy and our ability to promote key foreign and economic policy objectives, regardless of the level of U.S. dependence on oil imports." One of these objectives is to open markets to U.S. investors. Accordingly, the Cheney task force calls for new or reinvigorated efforts to promote free market, pro-competitive agendas under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), at the World Trade Organization (WTO), and through bilateral investment treaties. It also highlights a number of projects and places where U.S. oil and gas companies are jockeying for position. Such recommendations further dovetail with World Bank Group, International Monetary Fund (IMF), and U.S. Export-Import Bank efforts to create opportunities for investors.

Accordingly, the plan calls for the United States to further press WTO "members to open markets eligible for private participation in the entire range of energy services, from exploration to the final customer ... [and] attempt to ensure nondiscriminatory access to foreign providers of energy services." It also urges Washington to stiffen its insistence that members of the WTO, an eventual Free Trade Area of the Americas, and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum ensure a "pro-competitive regulatory environment for energy services."

The proposed Bush-Cheney Energy Bill continues to give oil corporations vast incentives for oil exploration. This bill allows for up to \$8 billion in tax breaks and furthers the corporations' rationales to continue petroleum production by refusing to raise environmental standards. The government gives a huge impetus for corporations to persist with their oil focus and neglects to provide alternative energy solutions with these same incentives. In the words of Charles Schumer of New York, "Unfortunately, at a time when America demands a thoughtful and far-reaching energy policy, this proposal

instead delivered little bags of goodies to some individuals, not others, and says that is a substitute for policy”.

International Ramifications

However, in the new plan advanced by Bush and Cheney, energy is seen not only as a domestic imperative, but also as a means to project U.S. influence internationally. As such, the administration's energy strategy, presented by President Bush in May, could have serious political and environmental consequences around the world. This will be especially true in areas embroiled in conflicts between states or between governments and armed secessionists, ethnic groups, peasants, or labor unions. Bush's aggressive energy strategy is likely, for example, to stir up more conflict in the following countries and regions: Brazil, Venezuela, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, West Africa and the Caspian region. We can examine the case of Algeria and use this as a case study to explicate the general issues of the international ramifications:

Algeria is currently being targeted for efforts to "open up ... energy sectors to foreign investment" and expand trade in energy-related goods and services. Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika met Bush in Washington and the two discussed increasing military cooperation and U.S. investment in Algeria's oil sector. Algerian paramilitary operations in and around the Kabylia region were increased in April and continue to target the restive Berber population. The conflict and strife within the country will grow and alter the people's livelihood and way of living. The affects of this aggressive international policy will not only be felt at home, but also in the countries where we try to scour the land for petroleum. Additionally, American intervention on behalf of oil interests is directly linked to the increased divide between rich and poor and a plummeting standard of living. While it may not be the role of a member of Congress to speak for populations of other countries, as the world superpower, we have a responsibility to wisely and judiciously act upon what is best for all people.

International Measure: Kyoto Accords

The international community has taken several steps towards promoting the growth of alternative energy, yet the United States has vehemently rejected any progress on this issue. The Kyoto Accords agreed on by more than 170 countries in Bonn, Germany, signals that Europe, Japan and the rest of the world will move forward to ratify and implement the Kyoto Treaty, rejecting the Bush administration's efforts to kill it. President Bush's posture on global warming is at odds with public opinion at home, as well as abroad. He is facing mounting pressure in Congress to cut global warming pollution from power plants and vehicles, and to enact a clean, efficient energy plan. According to Dr. Daniel Lashof, the science director of National Resources Defense Council Climate Center, "The president's unwillingness to act will cost American jobs and business, as we lose access to new markets for clean energy technologies. It will rob American farmers and foresters of credit for enhancing the carbon soaked up by soils, crops and trees. And it will saddle American consumers with both higher energy bills and more pollution." Furthermore, the United States produces about 25 percent of the world's greenhouse gases with only four percent of the world's population. The world did not take the United States' refusal lightly; in the words of European Union Environment

Commissioner, Margot Wallstrom, “We don’t see that it’s such a good idea to let the Americans off the hook, those that are among the biggest emitters of greenhouse gases.”

The economic, psychological and human casualties will only augment as our desperation for petroleum increases and we continue to neglect the search for a true, long-term solution. As the problem continues to compound and worsen, solutions will not come easier. In the words of Thomas Jefferson, we must plan now for “posterity and the millions of Americans unborn”.

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International Conflict: Iraq

Those who question the stated motives of the US administration for starting war against Iraq have good reason for skepticism. I assume that readers hardly need be reminded of the US’s past support for Hussein, including when he used poison gas against Iranians and Kurds, support that vanished instantly when he invaded an oil-producing regime friendly to the US. I also am sure that reader’s need not be recapped on the US’s support for current dictatorships throughout the region, its sabotaging of the UN inspection program (by using it as a cover for spying and by a renewal of bombing that forced inspectors from the country, and current efforts to obstruct their return), or its disinterest in multilateral treaties for controlling the production and spread of chemical and biological weapons.

So what are the real motives? One may say that petropolitics has taken over and the true reason for the Iraqi crisis is oil. Of course, this is a multi faceted issue not only amounting to simply maximizing oil companies’ benefits. The main issue is maximizing US’s control in the world. This has a variety of benefits for both oil and non-oil profits.

One benefit is the oil producers’ role in sending surplus revenues to the U.S. via bank deposits, purchases of U.S. securities, and other investments. In the period from 1970 to 1982, about 30 percent of the Gulf producers’ \$750 billion in oil revenues went toward foreign investment, mostly in notes of various Western banks, corporations, and governments. The huge surpluses earned by OPEC countries during the 1970s (\$173 billion between 1974 and 1977) were mostly placed in unregulated offshore branches of Chase Manhattan and other banks. Prior to the first Gulf War, Kuwait had vast Western

investments including U.S. Treasury bonds, portfolios managed by Citibank, gold reserves in the Federal Reserve and Bank of England, and a 10% stake in British Petroleum (BP) - which largely explains why it was okay for Iraq to invade Iran but not Kuwait.

Arms sales are another means by which petrodollars are recycled back to the U.S., which boosts the domestic arms industry while engendering strategic cooperation and building military capability for enforcement of U.S. hegemony. The Shah of Iran was an especially voracious customer; by the late 1970s Iran had become the largest foreign purchaser of U.S. arms, spending \$17 billion over the decade. With this assistance, the Shah performed many useful tasks, such as confronting Iraq and the Soviet Union, helping put down an insurgency in Oman, and maintaining a secret police (SAVAK, created by the CIA) for quelling internal dissent. Saudi Arabia is an important patron, as in 1981 when it purchased AWACS surveillance planes. These were part of an integrated region-wide air defense system built to US specifications for hosting the US Rapid Deployment force (later the Central Command headed by Norman Schwarzkopf). Military analyst Anthony Cordesman noted that the \$8.5 billion sale agreement would "help strengthen U.S. ability to deploy forces from the eastern Mediterranean and project them as far east as Pakistan...No conceivable buildup of US strategic mobility...could act as a substitute for such facilities in Saudi Arabia." In other words, Saudi oil money funded US strategic objectives. The first Gulf War furthered these objectives considerably: not only did the US move closer to long-desired Saudi land bases, but by five months after the war the US had sold massive quantities of arms throughout the region, including Turkey, Morocco, Egypt, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates.

As for the oil companies, a 1947 planning document entitled "United States Petroleum Policy" put it as follows: the U.S. should seek the "removal or modification of existent barriers to the expansion of American foreign oil operations" and to "...promote...the entry of additional American firms into all phases of foreign oil operations." Until the mid-1950s, the main "barrier" was Britain, for whom oil was a prime reward of its colonization of much of the region. However, with the postwar decline of the British Empire and ascendance of U.S. military and economic power, the U.S. gained control of the lion's share of Middle East oil. In 1948 the all-U.S. consortium Aramco (Mobil, Texaco, and what became Exxon and Chevron) with exclusive oil rights in Saudi Arabia was formed, after the U.S. government helped Mobil and Exxon back out of an earlier agreement with BP and Shell. In 1950, the companies were allowed to meet King Ibn Saud's demands for a fifty percent share by paying it in lieu of U.S. taxes. This arrangement undercut Britain in Iran, where the government of Mohammed Mossadegh demanded the same fifty percent. Mossadegh was later overthrown in a CIA-backed coup, after which the U.S. negotiated a 40% stake in Iranian oil for U.S. companies, breaking what had been a monopoly for BP. Meanwhile, the US and Britain continued to share concessions in Iraq, Kuwait, and elsewhere.

Iraq became an enemy in 1958, when nationalist military officers overthrew a feudal regime, also British-installed. Partly in response to this, the U.S. sent the Marines to Lebanon, though Eisenhower administration policy as reported by the *New York Times*

was that the "intervention will not be extended to Iraq as long as the revolutionary government in Iraq respects Western oil interests," i.e. the U.S., British, and French ownership of Iraqi oil. The oil was not nationalized, and the Marines withdrew. However, the Iraqis had long been bitter over a 1928 arrangement whereby Iraq had no participation in its oil except royalties. They also resented what they considered deliberate underproduction by the oil companies for many years (an assessment backed up by a 1947 Federal Trade Commission report). After BP and Exxon reduced prices in 1960, angering the producing countries, the Iraqis convened the founding meeting of OPEC. Iraq's oil was finally nationalized in 1972, with no buyback deals for U.S. or British companies (though there was for France). The move was immensely popular: vice president Saddam Hussein summarized it as "our wealth returned to us."

So U.S. policy toward Iraq during this period was hostile. In 1972, the CIA at the behest of the Shah sent arms to the Iraqi Kurds, who were fighting the government for autonomy. But after the outbreak of the Iran-Iraq war in September 1980, Washington saw an opportunity to pull Iraq into the U.S. orbit while containing revolutionary Iran. Favorable trading and diplomatic relations were resumed, and continued after the war ended; in 1989, President Bush signed a national security directive for continuing détente with Iraq. But in a speech before the Arab Cooperation Council in February 1990, Saddam Hussein criticized the U.S. presence in the Gulf, and urged withdrawing oil money from the West to reinvest in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. This flash of the old Iraqi independence worried U.S. policymakers, and led to the cancellation of a subsidized grain sale. The State Department under the Reagan administration had already debated a high-level recommendation to switch to an adversarial strategy against Iraq; meanwhile, the Pentagon had been planning for what it called "mid-intensity conflict," with Iraq as a paradigm foe. So while U.S.-Iraq détente formally continued up to the eve of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, it was precarious.

With the consummation of the Gulf War, the U.S. gained a measure of control over the Iraqi oil industry. As much as thirty percent of Iraq's oil revenues under the "food-for-oil" regime has gone to Kuwait, hence indirectly to Western corporations. From its position on the UN Security Council's sanctions committee, the U.S. has had considerable power to determine which reconstruction contracts are approved, a power it has used in part to favor U.S. companies: for example Halliburton, formerly headed by Vice President Cheney, and its subsidiary Dresser-Rand. Because they do not want to be seen doing business with Iraq, these companies generally hide behind European subsidiaries and joint ventures. But as the *Financial Times* of London reports, "by temporarily dropping their guise as European companies, they have managed to reverse [U.S. decisions to block a contract] by going directly to US officials...Few non-U.S. companies have been able to exercise similar influence."

However, the overall effect of sanctions, along with continued bombing, is punitive. U.S. policy on sanctions is apparently calculated to prevent Iraq from rebuilding full oil production capacity. By February of 2000, Iraq had received less than \$300 million in oilfield equipment out of a theoretical \$1.5 billion possible under a UN memorandum of understanding with Iraq. Of the 377 contracts then on hold under the sanctions

committee, 343 were so by request of the US only. A UN diplomat has commented that "Washington doesn't want to enable the Iraqi economy to recover, therefore it keeps the infrastructure very weak."

Why the continued hostility, now coming to a head? Because the problem of control is still there. For example early in 2000 U.S. energy secretary Bill Richardson toured OPEC capitals, lobbying intensively for increased output to abate oil prices that were hitting a ten-year high. Saudi Arabia, the OPEC "swing producer," cooperated by offering in July to boost output by half a million barrels a day, angering other producing countries such as Venezuela, Iran, and Iraq. Saddam Hussein later warned the producing countries not to bow to U.S. pressure, sending prices soaring again.

One should not fall into the common misconception that the overriding U.S. concern is to keep oil prices low. Sometimes we want them high. In the early 1970s, the Nixon administration favored higher prices and effectively cooperated with OPEC in bringing about the price explosion of that period. The reason was the perception that Japan and Europe, more dependent on imported energy than the US, would suffer more from higher prices. "OPEC was a tool of U.S. mercantilism," concluded James Akins, a key administration oil diplomat at the time. Higher crude prices were also supported by the Reagan administration in 1986. In spring of that year, Vice President Bush successfully pressured the Saudis to cut production. Bush was acting on an agreement with Iran to help increase Iranian oil revenues, part of the opening to Iran (partly revealed during the Iran-Contra scandal) aimed at restoring U.S.-Iran relations to what they were under the Shah.

The issue isn't price but control. The Saudi dictatorship does what we want, but the Iraqi dictatorship does not. That's the problem.

What's in it for the oil companies if the new Bush administration gets rid of the problem? The U.S. still follows the 1947 policy document, seeking the "removal or modification of existent barriers to the expansion of American foreign oil operations."

Blood for oil? Decide for yourself.

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Conclusion

Brandon Adams, Vice- Chair

Alternative Energy is an outstanding factor that should rank highly on priority lists all over the world. Establishing a clean system will resolve many of the current problems in today's society and determine the lifestyle of generations to come. The energy policy in place right now cannot possibly continue. It is extremely harmful to the environment and to the lifestyle of people all over the world, it is overwhelmingly expensive and worth the cost of the research needed, there is a perfect alternative that is totally clean, and the world will simply not let the current practice go on forever. This is why we here stand in front of you today. To let you know that we are in absolute support of alternative energy and urge you to be the same. Thank you very much for giving your time to us and listening to what we have to say.

2004 Student Advisory Board Members

Nick Huber, Chair
Brandon Adams, Vice Chair
Lindsey O’Leary, Secretary
Jaclyn D’Arcy
Ben Rooks
Andy Gaerlan

Scotts Valley High School
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Scotts Valley High School
Merit Academy
San Lorenzo Valley High School
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