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A Way to Reestablish Our Nations Power

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A Way to Reestablish Our Nations Power

Instead of going back to our normal economic activities as usual, why don't we kick start a new revolution? I know coming out of a recession that lost American households around \$16.4 trillion might not be what many think to be the ideal time to change our economic way of thinking. But a major reason for the great recession is unsustainable growth. So I go back to my first sentence, why not start the next great era in human history? The revolution I speak of is really a sustainable economic growth plan that will not only provide new jobs and more money, but help show the rest of the world that we are still top dog. This is a new green revolution but not like the one in the nineteen-forties, although the effects will be just as great.

The United States is the world's largest importer of oil and is on track to spend \$400 billion just on oil imports this year. While this will greatly contribute to the more than \$15 trillion that we are expected to make this year, does it not make more sense to invest large portion that 400 billion on homemade sustainable energy rather than giving it to the most volatile spot in the world, being the Middle East. Let me remind you that this is the same area that produces the very terrorist organizations that we are trying to stop. Canada is currently our largest trading partner for fuel at thirty-four percent of our net imports but, they are not the country that we are trying to cut ourselves off from while helping them establish a democracy.

I am not talking about investing in offshore drilling. Increasing drilling off the shores of the United States would increase jobs and decrease our dependence on foreign oil. What happens when that retrievable oil is no longer feasible for us? We go right back to importing large amounts from other countries. Oil will be a fuel source for years to come but as Bjorn Lomborg said in his book *The Skeptical Environmentalist*, “The Stone Age did not end because we ran out of stones; we transitioned to better solutions.” We need to start a movement that spurs new technologies that are cleaner and more efficient. Plus do we really want to continue to carry out these activities that have the ability to go wrong and cost millions to clean up? Let’s look back at what history has shown us. The British Petroleum oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico a few years back showed how disastrous offshore drilling can be costing the federal government \$123 million to clean up. BP was fined \$18 billion to clean up the spill. That is just a bit more than the estimated \$121 million to clean up the Exxon tanker spill previous to that. The other option in the quest for oil in the United States would be constructing massive pipelines across Alaska and through other incredible landscapes such as the sand hills of Nebraska for shale oil that has the potential to be just as bad for the environment as current drilling techniques.

The current emissions rate for a standard coal fired power plant is three point five million tons of carbon dioxide per year, according to the union of concerned scientists. Compare that to the almost zero emission rate of alternative energy sources such as: solar, wind, geothermal, nuclear, and it becomes fairly obvious at what should be done from an environmental standpoint.

Cutting down on a large amount of our oil imports and investing that into clean energies will provide millions of jobs for Americans, and cut down on carbon emissions. This would also give us the positive image for caring about the world that we as a nation deserve to be viewed as. As the White House has claimed on their website, “Leading the world in clean energy is critical

to strengthening the American economy and winning the future. We can get there by creating markets for innovative clean technologies that are ready to deploy, and by funding cutting-edge research to produce the next generation of technologies.” Well, if this is true then why have we not been seeing this? I realize that a changing the way we use energy will take time. However, five years into the administration that claims this, wouldn’t you expect more results? We as a nation need to quit bickering about laws that have already been passed or what other countries are doing, and realize the enormous opportunity that is in front of us. The reason this is not happening now is due to a slow political process, and currently the costs outweigh the benefits in the private sector. This is why we need a change, maybe a carbon tax, or subsidies. We need a change and soon.

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