

Energy and Climate Principles

Energy and Commerce Committee Republicans
Energy Security and Climate Change Task Force

May 21, 2008

Statement of Principles

- **Lower Gasoline Prices**
- **Unlock Domestic Energy Resources Immediately**
- **The American Economy and American Jobs Come First**
- **More Clean Energy**
- **Get Smart about Energy Efficiency**
- **Share Technology with Developing World**

Principle 1 — Lower Gasoline Prices

We can't pretend that fuel economy and conservation alone will solve high gas prices. America has trillions of barrels of untapped oil. Congress must make it possible to tap into much more American-made energy.

- Speaker Pelosi has finally admitted that increasing supply can help reduce prices. Now we're going to stop filling our Strategic Petroleum Reserve because the Democrats won't open domestic lands to production. Sadly, since the Democrats took control of Congress, gas prices have risen from \$2.27 a gallon to \$3.79 (5/19/08) and climbing.
- Encourage oil and gas production in our own nation. China's oil companies are drilling 50 miles off the Florida coast, while the majority of U.S. offshore production remains off-limits.
- Alternative fuels can play a role, but don't shut down traditional energy production until engineers have figured out how to provide clean alternatives at affordable prices.
- Streamline refinery permitting.

Principle 2 — Unlock Domestic Energy Resources Immediately

A policy developed by the Congress should be based on creating a new energy balance that is affordable, abundant and diverse. Our mission should be to find more energy in America, lose no jobs, make fuel affordable and research alternatives thoroughly until we know which work and which don't.

- We need to make use of our conventional, unconventional and renewable resources. We must try everything from cellulosic ethanol to shale oil.
- Encourage oil and gas production in our own nation. If we don't increase production in the United States, OPEC will continue to increase its market power in the United States.
- Responsible environmental stewardship is important to our nation for all our citizens, their children and grandchildren. The environmentally sensitive development of our resources is a part of our strategy for the nation's energy future.
- We must prevent rolling brownouts. Our expected electricity needs will continue to increase, and we must be able to build power plants to meet that demand.
- People need heating in the winter and air conditioning in the summer. Don't make natural gas and electricity so expensive that families can't pay their bills.

Principle 3 – The American Economy And American Jobs Come First

Support the reduction of CO₂ emissions through incentives and technology. We will oppose regulations that hurt working people and damage our economy. A revitalization of the nuclear industry with modern safety features is essential to an expanding economy.

- Reducing greenhouse gas concentrations enough to have any effect on global temperatures requires deep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions by the developing world. This requires verifiable, concrete action. Meanwhile, the opposite is occurring – China is adding coal plants nearly every week.
- Keep jobs in America. Our economy needs to continue to grow in order to provide those jobs. Not everybody can be a bureaucrat or a Hollywood celebrity, so you'll need some real-world working people to pay for these programs.
- Stop outsourcing America's 1.9 million energy jobs by encouraging more research, exploration and refining jobs in America.

Principle 4 – More Clean Energy

Renewables, nuclear energy and clean-coal technologies will allow us to continue to power America's economy while making the air cleaner.

- Promote domestic fuel diversity. We need to produce fuels that will improve our energy security, including coal-to-liquids, hydrogen, cellulosic ethanol, compressed natural gas and shale oil.
- Technology exists that turns CO₂ emissions into solid, stable carbonates like baking soda. This technology also removes mercury and heavy metals and produces clean hydrogen and low-energy chlorine. Though not currently deployed on a commercial scale, a plant of this type could be operated at a profit, because the hydrogen, chlorine and bicarbonates have commercial value.
- Eliminating coal would create more demand on natural gas, driving prices up. Because significant amounts of domestic natural gas are off-limits, we will rely more heavily on the Middle East sources for natural gas, which will hinder our attempts to move toward energy security.
- Double the amount of power generated from zero-emission nuclear power by 2030.
- Begin nuclear fuel recycling. This process reduces the overall volume of waste by 90 percent, while reducing its toxicity by more than 500 percent.
- Continue research on solar, wind, clean coal, clean diesel, geothermal and hydrogen energy.

Principle 5 – Get Smart about Energy Efficiency

Smart metering, combined with a “distributed generation system,” has the potential to improve the efficiency of America’s electricity grid and reduce the need for large numbers of new power plants.

- Encourage use of smart meters.
 - ✓ Peak-load pricing of electricity allows consumers to use electricity more efficiently and reduce the number of power plants necessary.
 - ✓ Allows consumer co-generation so that electricity can flow to-and-from the home and power company.
 - ✓ Accelerate depreciation of smart meters so that businesses will have the incentive to put smart meters into broader deployment.
- “Point-of-use” generation would reduce the load on power plants and could reduce demand for future power plants.
 - ✓ Distributed generation capabilities would also recapture wasted heat from furnace and use it for electricity production, and with smart metering, electricity can start to flow in two directions—both to and from the American home.
 - ✓ Furthermore, the electricity grid in this country is old, centralized, and potentially incapable of handling future U.S. electricity needs. The model on which it is based is an antiquated concept in many ways.

Principle 6 – Share Technology With Developing World

Bring clean water and electricity to undeveloped world to lower pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

- Build on Major Economies Process on Energy Security and Climate Change
 - ✓ Technology development is essential to meeting the challenge of energy security and addressing climate change, and the United States is leading the way. Since 2001, the United States has spent \$37 billion on programs to advance science and technology related to climate change.
 - ✓ In 2006, absolute CO₂ emissions declined 1.3 percent in the U.S., even as the economy grew nearly 3 percent. From 2000 to 2005, we reduced our economy's greenhouse gas intensity by 8.5 percent, while our population grew by 5.3 percent, and our economy grew by 12 percent.
 - ✓ China and India can follow the United States' lead by starting now to reduce their energy intensity.
- Providing new technologies to developing nations can help to pull people out of poverty, and at the same time, decrease global greenhouse gas emissions.
 - ✓ 90 percent of households in small villages in India rely on burning emissions-heavy dung and firewood. 50 to 60 percent of Indians don't have electricity.
 - ✓ Dung, firewood and kerosene come with their own costs – 2 million deaths per year in India because people are burning these fuels in poorly vented homes. Burning kerosene for light is also extremely inefficient.