MARCH 2001

FOREIGN POLICY:

19
THREATEN SERBS
TOTAL ANNIHILLATION
NUCLEAR POWER

ABANDON AFRICA:
"TOTAFLY"

20

GIVE ARABS TO IRAQ FOR OIL:
SEIZE SAUDI OIL

21
PEG OIL AT $40 PB:
SLOW CONSUMPTION
tO 3M BARRELS A DAY

22
MAKE OPERATING A
PERSONAL AUTO SO
EXPENSIVE IT CAN'T
BE DONE...

23
RUSSIAN COMMUNISM
WORKS BETTER THAN
DEMOCRACY. LET
THEM RETURN

24

SIGNED:

LORD LESLIE SHAFFER
LORD DONALD SHAFFER
DS/DP/POPE

25

DONALD SHAFFER
Weekly Planner  

MARCH 2001

ENERGY POLICY

19  SENIORS ARE STARVING
    Monday

20  SENIORS ARE COLD
    Tuesday

21  AUTOS ARE TOO EXPENSIVE
    TO OPERATE IN FUTURE.
    Wednesday

22  NATURAL GAS IS TOO
    EXPENSIVE NOW:
    Thursday

23  LIVES ARE BEING
    LOST BECAUSE OF
    ELECTRICITY RATES
    Friday

24  THIS IS DEATH IN THE
    NATION: MURDER 3.
    Saturday

SIGNED

LORD LESLIE SHAFFER
LORD DONALD SHAFFER.

25  POPE OF THE USA
    Sunday
March 23, 2001

Secretary, Spencer Abraham
United States Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585-0121

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I would be most grateful if you would please supply me with the following information:

1. The national energy policy plans (NEPP) for the years of 1993, 95, 97 and 99.

2. The amount of money that our federal government has invested in the form of energy subsidies: the names of the recipients, and the amounts of their subsidies by the year starting with 1970 through the year 2000 as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Oil</th>
<th>Coal</th>
<th>Natural Gas</th>
<th>Nuclear</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

3. Please furnish the names and locations of the nuclear plants that our federal government has decommissioned to date.

4. Please furnish the federal government's costs of decommissioning these plants by name. Also, the time it takes for decommissioning: the method of storage; the location of storage sites, and the costs of storing the spent fuels (LLW, mixed LLW and HLW).

5. Please furnish the names and the locations of the nuclear plants that are scheduled to be decommissioned in the future, and the projected dates of decommissioning.

I am most grateful for your efforts in fulfilling my request. Thank You.

Respectfully and Sincerely,

John Castle

John Castle
Questions?...
Department of Energy  
Washington, DC 20585  

May 15, 2001  

Mr. John Castle  

Dear Mr. Castle:  

I am responding to your fax of March 27 to Secretary Abraham that requested information on national energy policy plans, energy subsidies and nuclear power plants.  

I am enclosing a copy of the most recent national energy policy plan, the Comprehensive National Energy Strategy (1998). I am also enclosing a copy of "Powering the New Economy," issued by the Department in September, 2000. Copies of the other energy policy plans that you requested are no longer available.  

A 1999 report by the Department’s Energy Information Administration provides an assessment of government interventions and subsidies related to energy. A copy is accessible at the following webpage: http://www.eia.doe.gov/bookshelf/finance.html  

For the information on U.S. nuclear power plants, please contact the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Their webpage is: http://www.nrc.gov/  

I hope this information is helpful. Thank you for writing.  

Sincerely,  

Margot Anderson  
Acting Director  
Office of Policy  

Enclosures
From: (b)(6) on 01/31/2001 05:45 AM GMT

To: "George W. Bush" <president@Whitehouse.GOV>

Subject: A Real Energy Policy

Dan R. Lafoon

Mr. Bush,
First I would like to congratulate your and Mr. Cheney's ascension to office. I have never done this before, but I think this topic merits attention, especially since you announced that you were about to embark on this task. As you have obliquely mentioned in the past, the USA is in trouble energy supply wise, as the world itself may be one day as far as fossil fuels are concerned. As you also said, the government should not necessarily try to run everything, but we also know that when the government and the people wish, much can be done more quickly. To the point, we need to develop more green power in the form of wind power, the more constant type of natural renewable resource, compared to solar, and especially in more windy states like Texas (charted to be #2), but in full utility scale wind projects with current improved technology to help ensure our future standard of living. There are two newer projects in West Texas currently running, and more online in other states, but we need much more of this clean power developed, along with the job base it brings, and the internal cash flow to our economies, as well as the energy, and the bottom line is, no, it's still not perfect when the wind is not blowing, but it works and I believe we need more tax credits and other legislative encouragement to get more of these large projects built, the scenario of a wind turbine in everyone's backyard will not be efficient enough to do it. And they can be built quickly, it surely cannot be any worse than the current power scenario in California. I am simply asking that this area be very well scrutinized for I believe it can become a lasting lynchpin of our national energy policy, but look at the newer projects like near Big Springs and Mcamey to truly get an idea of the potential efficiency, the older wind farms are not as so. I also agree with incrementally opening up other previously off limits areas to drilling, and I applaud your grasp and attention of the energy situation we are in, we cannot ignore
these facts.

In closing, I wish the best for your administration, you will all be in our prayers as you lead this nation, and we like the faith charity help plan, fresh ideas are what this country needs.

May God Bless

Sincerely,

Karen Lafoon

Dan &
March 19, 2001

President George W. Bush
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Agriculture and energy policies

Mr. President:

I would like to take this opportunity to pass on some thoughts and ideas about our agricultural and energy policies. To help add some credibly to these thoughts and ideas, I think that you should know that I am a retired petroleum engineer and manager with Chevron Corporation. I also grew up on the farm in South Dakota and currently own and operate a tree farm/nursery in eastern South Dakota. All of my life I have been involved in either farming or the petroleum business or both.

As I look at my expenses for my home and business and talk with my farming friends and relatives one thing continues to be clear to me. We are at or are heading towards a crisis in both the agricultural and energy sectors of our country and the two are tied together.

Let's start with the energy sector. Hydrocarbons are not a renewable resource, yet we utilize them like we will never run out. The U.S. continues to import a larger and larger share of its petroleum needs year after year. Maintaining a steady supply of this product in turn increases our military expenses higher and higher with less and less of a guarantee that our foreign supply will be available. Many talk about the vast supplies of untapped oil and gas at ANWR yet we currently ship crude oil from Alaska overseas because we are not geared up to refine that product in the western U.S. Our limitations on supplies of oil and gasoline are limited as much by refinery capacity as they are by crude oil supplies. Will developing the reserves in places like ANWR really help our domestic situation? Refinery capacity is a major capital and environmental investment for the oil industry. The oil companies are not going to make those types of capital investments without a significant long-term crude oil supply such as those developed overseas or projected from an ANWR. Do we really want to take the environmental risks of opening up ANWR to oil and gas exploration? I've worked in the industry for 20 years and I don't believe it is a worthwhile risk when there may be other alternatives. So what are the other alternatives?

I believe that one alternative is ethanol and bio-diesel fuels. I believe that the U.S. needs to make a major energy policy shift away from foreign oil and put significant pressure and emphasis on utilizing renewable resources such as corn and soybeans. U.S. farmers are the most efficient in the world and year after year supply exceeds demand and prices stay pathetically low. The agriculture sector comes to the government year after year

THE LARSENS

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complaining about low prices that they have created by over-producing. There are two ways to improve prices for farm products — cut supply or increase demand. We have historically tried to find ways to entice farmers to cut. We pay them to set aside land in CRP programs. We spend billions of dollars on price supports and guarantees. Our government buys grain at elevated prices to further continue to support prices in a market that is glutted with product. While we have spent some time and effort to create “value added” markets for our products, we have just scratched the surface. We need a major policy shift in the agriculture department to focus those billions of dollars paid for “not growing” and “price supporting” to developing major markets for the products that we grow. It is time for the energy department and the agriculture department to join together and solve two crisis with one solution.

Here is that solution:

The energy department needs to establish a new policy that sets a target for significantly reducing our dependence on foreign oil in the next five years to say 50%. By the end of ten years that dependence needs to drop to 40% and so on. There needs to be significant pressure put on the oil industry to shift their emphasis to providing production and refining capacity to renewable resources. Mom and pop corporations and coops are building small ethanol and bio-diesel plants in the corn-belt. These facilities make only a small dent in the needs of our country. It is time that our government stepped forward with a challenge to the oil industry to essentially burn up all of the surplus corn and soybeans that our country produces. Building large ethanol and bio-diesel plants across the crop-belt will stimulate the economy, provide jobs in an area that is losing farms and farm jobs and provide a market at home for our own products. If we make this a significant part of our energy and farm policies, we can shift most of the billions of dollars that we spend on farm programs for corn and soybeans to providing incentives for ethanol and bio-diesel investment. We firmly believe that if the oil companies put their vast resources into this effort, they can build and operate ethanol and bio-diesel plants more efficiently and effectively than any other sector of our country. Their vast refining knowledge and expertise could be brought to bear on an industry that needs that help.

I have talked with managers with my former company of Chevron and at this time they do not see ethanol and bio-diesel as a significant part of their portfolio. I have talked with employees of Royal Dutch Shell Oil Company and they are slowly embarking on a “renewable resources” strategy for their company. It is time to give these major players some incentive to get into this ballgame now! The oil and gas industry needs to continue to be a significant part of our energy policy. It just needs to become a smaller and smaller part that doesn’t put all of our eggs in a shaky Middle East basket. There are numerous advantages to the type of policy shift that I have outlined above and some of them are listed below:

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Advantages:

Utilizes more environmentally friendly fuels
Utilizes renewable resources
Increases refining capacity and improves distribution of refined products
Reduces dependence on foreign oil
Reduces the need for a significant military presence to protect foreign oil fields
Creates jobs in the U.S.
Improves our balance of trade
Provides more independence for the U.S.
Delays or prevents oil and gas exploration in environmentally sensitive areas
Saves the taxpayer billions of dollars a year in farm program payments/supports
Unites the country around common goals (conservation should be another goal)
Provides for some bipartisan support
Diversifies our U.S. portfolio
It’s the right and patriotic thing to do

I realize that there are some obstacles to overcome to make this happen and I would love to help in any way that I can. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Wayne K. Larsen

cc: Vice-President Cheney
Secretary Veneman
Senator Daschle
Secretary Abraham
Senator Johnson
Representative Thune

Obtained and made public by the Natural Resources Defense Council, May 2002
Dear Secretary Abraham,

Our country can not be held hostage by the Energy Mafia. Please do something NOW, before it is too late. We need a national energy policy that protects old people and poor people from freezing to death and insures a reasonable return on investment to suppliers.

Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,

Tom Quinn
I agree that a balanced energy policy is needed. Why then was your speech 99% weighted toward increasing domestic production of fossil fuels?

Dependence upon fossil fuels (and also nuclear energy) is dependence upon energy sources that 1) harm the public health through production of poisonous by-products, 2) threaten agriculture and economic stability through alteration of global climate and 3) jerk consumers around due to extreme sensitivity to supply manipulation at every stage of production and delivery.

Regardless of whether these fuels come from foreign or domestic sources, dependence upon them still constitutes harm to us all, even those who temporarily profit from this dependence.

So long as public policy favors increasing fossil fuel production over the sustainable alternatives of: A) conservation and energy efficiency; B) public transit infrastructure instead of 2 SUV's in every garage; C) solar, geothermal and off-the-grid alternatives for general heat/air/light;

so long will we remain DEPENDENT upon harmful and wasteful energy practices, and the MYTHS that perpetuate them.

THIS is what people mean when they talk about conspiracies to gouge consumers. The FTC was barking up the wrong tree when it investigated gasoline suppliers. Believe me, the American people know it. Just like we know that the timing of the California blackouts is too coincidental to be true. When the blind man eats wontons, in his stomach he knows how many.

Although the Energy Secretary is not an elected official, he is no less obligated to recommend and execute, to the very best of his ability, policies that will benefit all Americans in this and future generations.

To this end, I call upon you to lead the way in

1) Promoting energy efficiency and conservation across the board, but especially in the field of transportation;
2) Giving strongest support to real development of a diversified suite of clean, alternative energy sources, with the goal being to transfer our dependence AWAY FROM FOSSIL FUELS and over to these as soon as possible;
3) Ensuring that those areas of fuel production which are still tied to fossil fuels will be conducted with minimum environmental impact;
4) Respect the American people's rightful refusal to have nuclear waste stockpiles and potential Chernobyls — no nuclear power.

Obtained and made public by the Natural Resources Defense Council, May 2002
March 29, 2001

George W. Bush
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Re: Your Proposed Energy Policy

Dear President Bush:

Each day, I read with reservation, the proposals coming from your administration relating to our nation’s energy policy. Each day I assume that it cannot get more alarming, yet it does. Each passing day I have nearly vowed to stop reading the papers because I grow weary of being upset at what I read. Today, I have decided to communicate my thoughts to you as a means to take a more active part in shaping the energy policy emerging from the Oval Office, and that of Vice-President Dick Cheney. I am also sharing these thoughts with your Energy and Interior Secretaries, Spencer Abraham and Gale Norton.

I understand that both you and Mr. Cheney have strong connections to the oil and gas industry. I also understand that there is an energy crisis in California resulting in widespread “rolling” blackouts and that this is likely to continue into the near future. Yet, these two facts should not unduly influence your decisions regarding the future status of this country’s National Monuments and other lands held in public trust. Please do not cite the California energy problem as an excuse to drill for oil and gas on public lands. I know you understand that the problem in California has little to do with current oil and gas supply, and much more to do with the problematic legislation created in that State whereby energy suppliers cannot pass enough of their costs on to consumers to stay solvent. There are other problems in California such as power plants having been shut down for various regulatory and safety reasons that are unrelated to oil and gas supply.

Simply proceeding with new drilling today would, at best, result in increased domestic oil and gas supplies some 10-20 years later, not by the summer of 2001, when Californians and others will engage in peak energy usage. This is because drilling, if followed by oil and gas discoveries, is only the first in many steps needed to actually supply the petroleum resource. Oil and gas field development, production facilities, gathering systems, and transmission pipelines must then be constructed and implemented. Power plants may need to be built or retrofitted to handle the new supply. These steps will surely not be finalized for many years.

A typical oil or gas well takes about one month to drill, complete and test and there are currently about 1200 drilling rigs nationally. This means that the rate of oil and gas drilling would not exceed approximately 14,400 new wells per year. The fact that many of these rigs are not available to drill new wells because they are in use reworking existing wells or drilling other
types of wells such as saltwater disposal or enhanced recovery injection wells only serves to reduce this number. In addition, an average new oil well may produce 30 to 50 barrels of oil per day. Each year then, the maximum daily incremental increase in oil production would not exceed 500,000 barrels (considering 300 to 330 operational days per year). This same number of extra daily barrels of oil could be saved if the nation’s automobiles simply increased their gasoline efficiency by 3 miles per gallon (5 mpg is equivalent to 1 million barrels per day). Further, compare this number to the 25 million barrels of oil produced each day by the OPEC nations.

Right now other measures and incentives could be implemented and offered to reduce our current national energy consumption. If every person in this country were to implement some sort of energy conservation measure such as turning down thermostats, exchanging high-wattage light bulbs for lower wattage bulbs, eliminating the number of automobile trips taken, using more public transportation and reusing and recycling more, significant energy savings would result. This alone may be sufficient to stabilize our dependence on foreign oil, a goal you have set out. We must not go on using energy at outlandish rates, justifying our need to rape and pillage the few remaining unspoiled parts of this country in the name of ever increasing energy needs! There is no other nation on this planet that uses as much energy on a per capita basis as the United States.

There will come a day when history books will contain a chapter called the “Age of Petroleum” and will refer back to a period when humans first discovered petroleum in Pennsylvania, built a world-wide infrastructure to exploit petroleum, and finally exhausted the resources around the world. I wonder what words will also be contained on the final page in that chapter. Perhaps there will be additional wars such as the 1991 Persian Gulf War, or collapse of nations. How ever the last days of the “Age of Petroleum” will be described in history books, there will almost certainly be a discussion of how the world transitioned from petroleum to the next energy source. Please consider how your name and current role might display on that page.

Government has an important role with energy companies. Government can encourage energy companies such as Exxon-Mobil, BP Amoco, Royal Dutch Shell, Chevron-Texaco, Conoco, and others to begin moving to corner the market on the next sources of cleaner energy, such as hydrogen, geothermal, wind- and solar-based platforms. Government can offer economic incentives to these companies to accomplish this. Economics after all is the strongest motivating force that exists. Incentives can include cost or regulatory barriers to continued oil and gas development as well as economic or regulatory stimulus to develop alternative energy sources. Would it not be a sad day if Exxon-Mobil, the world’s largest petroleum company, finds itself laying off the majority of its personnel because it failed to anticipate the future, and can no longer out-compete what was formerly a small company developing an alternative energy such as wind power and which has now grown to be the giant energy company Exxon-Mobil once was?

Japan is spending more than twice the amount of money the U.S. spends on research for the use of hydrogen as an energy source. Do we want to play catch up with Japan on such a vital technology?

Despite the fact that your proposed energy policy contains some minor support of alternative energy, it relies far too heavily on more and more oil and gas. I have seen many oil and gas fields, and frankly I don’t care to see one in any National Monument, National Park, or

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designated wilderness area. The scars left are far too ugly, and the ground water and surface water pollution potential due to benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylenes is too high, and the greenhouse gases emitted into the air contribute too much to global warming.

If oil and gas production in this country must increase, then direct additional effort to extract the already-proven reserves, amounting to several hundred billion barrels, where existing infrastructure can readily produce the resource. Increased secondary and tertiary recovery of oil would become economically viable if tax incentives of $2-3 per barrel were made available to the oil producers. This alone could result in production of over 1,000,000 additional barrels per day to domestic oil production. Further, an increase in your spending budget to federal agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Interior would help to provide the staff needed to process permits needed by the oil producers to implement this simpler solution. These are actions you could take which would result in a more rapid oil and gas production increase, since much less additional oil and gas production infrastructure would be needed.

Please reconsider your position. If you insist on cramming your energy policy down this country’s collective windpipe, we may choke. Don’t forget that you won the 2000 presidential election by the narrowest of margins under highly questionable circumstances, and there are many people waiting for a chance to reverse the control of the U.S. Congress in 2002 and future elections.

Sincerely yours,

Nathan M. Wiser, a regular voter

cc: Spencer Abraham, Secretary
    U.S. Department of Energy
    1000 Independence Ave., SW
    Washington, DC 20585

    Gale Norton, Secretary
    U.S. Department of Interior
    1849 C. Street NW.
    Washington, DC 20240

29270
Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Secretary of Energy: Spencer Abraham
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Abraham:

I have reviewed several news reports and summaries regarding the Senate Democrats’ recently introduced “Comprehensive and Balanced Energy Policy Act of 2001” and “Energy Security Tax and Policy Act of 2001,” and I am impressed with what appear to be the core tenets of this bill:

1) Elevate our national energy policy to a more responsible level by giving greater precedence to mainstream environmental thinking and policy.

2) Expand lower-impact, more environmentally-benign, renewable energy alternatives and the level of R&D critical to their advancement.

3) More evenly balance short-term, power-generation solutions that require nonrenewable energy as their primary input with efficiency increases and reductions in per-person demand.

4) Institute better regional energy infrastructure coordination and planning.

5) Offer the right mix of incentives and mandates that make tenets 1-4 work.

The only things pertinent to this bill that I question, is the meaning of the proposed dam certification streamlined, the area through which the construction of a natural gas pipeline would traverse, and the lack of stronger clean air standards applicable to the power generation industry. I am, after all, not in favor of seeing more dams built. And I do not support building a pipeline that would pass through frontier wilderness tracts.

Outside of those three issues, I believe this legislation would positively impact our economy through its increased emphasis on efficiency and alternative energy generation. Such an emphasis has already proven to spawn creative problem solving at the research level, as well as a host of technical, service, and other related jobs and industries.

That is why I endorse the Senate Democrats’ bill. Its progressive nature is more in tune with energy policy recommended by respectable, forward-thinking scientists, business leaders and mainstream environmental groups worldwide.

Sincerely,

Stephen Koerner

address:
April 3, 2001

President George W Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Recent statements by you and members of your administration have confirmed some of the misgivings we had about you during the campaign. We urge you to reconsider your position on two related issues.

Energy policy
We are more than casually interested in this issue. I worked for one of the major oil companies for over 5 years, with many of their most senior executives. I continue to consult with two of the global majors. More than 15% of our personal portfolio is in oil company stocks, and I suspect will be for some time to come. That said, here are our concerns:

Please stop taking the American public for fools. The electricity shortage in California is primarily the result of misguided regulatory policy and poor planning, NOT a shortage of domestic oil and gas. Exploring and drilling in ANWR, then building a gas pipeline to the lower 48 likely has a 7-10 year lead time before the first new shows up at a gas turbine that can deliver electricity to anyone in California. So stop intimating that if we could just get drilling more on the North Slope, then Silicon Valley wouldn’t be left in the dark this summer. Or maybe there is a way... if you know of one, we’d like to know it, and you owe such an explanation to the American public.

Currently proven US oil and gas reserves, and even those likely to be proved over the next 5 years will never make the US less dependent on foreign oil in any way that would allow us to really move the world price of oil. So please stop holding out domestic exploration as a panacea.

However, increased domestic exploration could forestall rises in prices for a few more years. Such a forestallment would have two harmful effects on the long-run success of the United States.

1) If energy prices do not rise there will continue to be little effect on consumer behavior that makes us per capita users of energy at twice the rate of Europeans (who appear to enjoy a similar, if not better, average quality of life). More SUV’s, more suburban sprawl and resulting traffic gridlock that have the US commuting times at a world high. And a delay of the necessary free market incentives for alternative energy sources to attract investment and demand that they need to become significant players.

2) Government investment in alternative fuels should be compared with the potential significant give-away of two resources that would appear to be “free” and should not be cheap access to Federal lands, and the continued profligate “use” of an atmosphere that cannot take much more CO2 without generating potentially devastating economic dislocation for farmers, communities that will have to spend to alter their water supply as weather patterns shift, and eventually water inundating our most populated parts of our country (East and West coasts). These outcomes will be very expensive to tax payers and the economy, albeit probably not during your administration or before your re-election campaign.
Use this opportunity to provide real vision, one in which hydrocarbons play a significantly lesser role within ten years, and American technology and markets enable the unprecedented growth of alternative, non-CO2 producing energy sources. Oil companies will adapt, don't worry about them. We'll still need plastics, and we'll likely not be driving hydrocarbon-free cars for a long time to come (hybrid engines, maybe). Visit the Shell or BP web-sites. They are preparing for this transition, shouldn't we?

Kyoto
Obviously, we see the first issue related to this second one. We think your position on this treaty is an embarrassment to us as Americans who do business in Europe and elsewhere.

The logic of backing out of this agreement suggests that our economy can only remain competitive if we are allowed to compete on the same environmentally destructive basis as third world countries such as China, India, and Brazil. Our first world competitors are willing to take the economic risks you see in the treaty, possibly because they have confidence that they can compete on the basis of their ingenuity and drive. I'd rather take my chances on that approach than watch fertile Midwest farmland turn into desert before my grandchildren marry and have children.

The US produces 25% of the greenhouse gases. China is distant second to us, producing half as much. We are in a position to make the biggest impact on this problem. We can take a leadership position, or we can stick our isolationist heads in the sand and pretend that we don't share one atmosphere. I hope you will see this as an opportunity for a legacy of world leadership, and not the insular, short-sighted protectionism your current view appears to be.

We look forward to hearing your views on these issues. More importantly, we hope you will reconsider the views you and your administration have recently articulated. We have copied our senators and our congressperson on this letter so that they are also aware of our concerns and will hopefully represent our views to your administration. We are also providing copies to your appointed leaders at the Department of Energy and the EPA. Because of the impending visits from our European allies on Monday, we are sending this message via e-mail to you to ensure its speedy delivery. A hard copy will follow.

Our best wishes to you in leading this great country.

Sincerely,

Bruce & Julie McBratney

cc: Senator Richard Durbin
    Senator Peter Fitzgerald
    Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky
    Secretary Spencer Abraham
    Administrator Christine Todd Whitman
February 1, 2001

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing to express my concerns about what I think is the most pressing economic issue facing this country, and that is the affordability and stability of our energy supply. The only practical long-term solution to our base load electrical energy needs is the revitalization and advancement of nuclear technology for the generation of electricity. The advantages of nuclear generated electricity and nuclear power in general include the following.

1. Inexpensive and abundant uranium, thorium and plutonium fuel supply domestically available
2. No pollution released into the atmosphere
3. Proven safe technology
4. The only non-fossil fuel alternative capable of supplying the large amount of base load electricity necessary for future energy needs
5. Waste is extremely minimal if we utilize a closed fuel cycle and fast neutron breeder technology (as in France and other countries)
6. Nuclear power is the only practical way to produce the amount of hydrogen that will be needed in addition to electricity to replace fossil fuel for transportation and industry
7. New technology reactors and separation techniques are more weapons proliferation resistant.

I propose that the government take the following steps as part of a new energy policy that recognizes the central role of nuclear generated electricity and nuclear generated hydrogen.

1. Restart the breeder reactor research program (which was cancelled by President Clinton in 1993) with the goal of creating a standardized reactor design that can be placed safely and cost effectively in commercial operation with a closed fuel cycle (i.e. the French Phenix).
2. Change to a “closed fuel cycle” policy in the United States whereby spent nuclear fuel presently in temporary storage is purified and recycled to be used as fuel again (MOX). This will minimize waste and maximize fuel efficiency (already done in many other countries).

3. Open the Yucca Mountain waste repository.

4. Promote the design and construction of Generation 3 and Generation 4 advanced technology nuclear power plant facilities in the United States to meet our present and future electricity needs.

5. Work with other countries with advanced nuclear programs to develop a standardized proliferation resistant reactor to help provide electrical power to the third world. This would be a major step forward in solving the problems of hunger, poverty, disease, overpopulation and air pollution.

6. Massively fund research into the design and development of efficient battery driven and hydrogen fueled vehicles and fuel cells (an Apollo Space Program type of effort) so that we will eventually phase out our need for oil (and be rid of its pollution as well).

7. Provide incentives for producing and purchasing fuel efficient and gas/electric hybrid vehicles and conversely disincentives for manufacturing and purchasing fuel inefficient vehicles.

8. Incentivize renewable energy resources such as wind, solar and geothermal which may contribute “peaking” electricity generating potential.

Presently nuclear energy may not seem to be politically popular but that will change as people become aware of the many negative environmental and economic impacts that ultimately go along with energy produced from fossil fuel. Please consider the above suggestions as you formulate a national energy strategy affecting not only us but also many generations of Americans to come.

Sincerely,

Philip K. Carlston
Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Secretary of Energy Advisory Board
U.S. Department of Energy, AB-1
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Room 8E-044
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary of Energy Advisory Board:

I have reviewed several news reports and summaries regarding the Senate Democrats’ recently introduced “Comprehensive and Balanced Energy Policy Act of 2001” and “Energy Security Tax and Policy Act of 2001,” and I am impressed with what appear to be the core tenets of this bill:

1) Elevate our national energy policy to a more responsible level by giving greater precedence to mainstream environmental thinking and policy.

2) Expand lower-impact, more environmentally-benign, renewable energy alternatives and the level of R&D critical to their advancement.

3) More evenly balance short-term, power-generation solutions that require non-renewable energy as their primary input with efficiency increases and reductions in per-person demand.

4) Institute better regional energy infrastructure coordination and planning.

5) Offer the right mix of incentives and mandates that make tenets 1-4 work.

The only things pertinent to this bill that I question, is the meaning of the proposed dam certification streamlining, the area through which the construction of a natural gas pipeline would traverse, and the lack of stronger clean air standards applicable to the power generation industry. I am, after all, not in favor of seeing more dams built. And I do not support building a pipeline that would pass through frontier wilderness tracts.

Outside of those three issues, I believe this legislation would positively impact our economy through its increased emphasis on efficiency and alternative energy generation. Such an emphasis has already proven to spawn creative problem solving at the research level, as well as a host of technical, service, and other related jobs and industries.

That is why I endorse the Senate Democrats’ bill. Its progressive nature is more in tune with energy policy recommended by respectable, forward-thinking scientists, business leaders and mainstream environmental groups worldwide.

Sincerely,

Stephen Koerner

Obtained and made public by the Natural Resources Defense Council, May 2002
Secretary, The

From: L_.
Sent: Friday, April 06, 2001 1:06 PM
To: Secretary, The
Subject: Policy

FROM:
NAME: Mark Frankis
SUBJECT: Policy
ZIP: 94305
CITY: r
PARM.1: TO: the.secretary@hq.doe.gov
STATE: ca
TOPIC: policy idea
SUBMIT: Send Comments
CONTACT: email
COUNTRY: usa
MESSAGE: Here's an idea I had concerning energy policy: Offer a large bonus to the first state that can produce 5,000+ megawats of power by either solar or wind etc. (i.e. new facilities etc.) The bonus would have to be large enough to be interesting: $10 or $20 billion? The funds would be paid after 90-180 days of operation at the target megawatts etc. The state that won would decide how to spend the money or rebate the money... Some of the effects that I can think of are: - It's a sold acti
Spencer Abraham, Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585
25 March 2001

Dear Secretary Abraham,

I have ten years of business experience in petroleum technology development. I also have some political experience in the conservative wing of the GOP. I am concerned that an energy policy that stresses the development of ANWR, as important as that is, will be incomplete at best, and detract from the only policy that can and should supply America with limitless petroleum supplies and freedom from the OPEC Cartel. If, indeed, that is the policy this government really wants.

The only answer can come from Alberta, Canada where reserves are estimated at 1 ½ to 2 ¼ TRILLION barrels. That’s 100 to 200 TIMES the ANWR reserves. It is 5 to 10 TIMES the reserves in Saudi Arabia. This petroleum reserve is coming on line slowly, and only due to advances in technology in recent years. Even so, with current technology, they can only recover about 20% of reserves. My company has developed a sensing device that could increase that recovery rate substantially, which is why I am more familiar with the Alberta reserves than most people who claim to follow the industry closely.

The real problem is that there is no lobbying effort in Washington to encourage more capital investment in Alberta’s vast petroleum reserves. There is only one, small, conservative national security think tank in Washington that has made any reference to Alberta as the solution to our dependency on OPEC and on other nations and regions that are either politically volatile or hostile to U.S. interests.

We need to have an energy summit with Canada to explore ways in which capital investment in Alberta can be increased dramatically, whilst cooperating with environmentalist groups and locals who do not want their province to become a suburb of Houston. It is a challenge, but it is the only answer to our dependency problems. By bringing Alberta’s reserves to their full potential, we also affect the world price dramatically, by preventing OPEC from using the Cartel to set the price. (Interestingly, OPEC makes no mention of Alberta’s vast reserves on their website, which otherwise gives an accurate count of global reserves by nation and region).
The bottom line is that there simply are not sufficient reserves in the U.S., including ANWR, to reduce our increasing dependence on foreign oil—no matter how the numbers are shuffled. What we essentially need is a North American Energy policy that follows the course that has already been charted by NAFTA and by Canadian deregulation of their domestic industry. This is in the best interest of American consumers and taxpayers, and, I dare say, to the GOP and to this administration.

I propose an innovative approach, not unlike that used by the Canadians themselves to promote more capital investment. They have essentially waved their high royalty payments that the companies must pay until they have made a return on their investment. This is not a subsidy. It is an incentive, which involves setting aside a major, government-created obstacle. We can wave or postpone royalty payments in the U.S., in exchange for an agreement to invest more, both in the U.S. and Canada.

The other major problem is the cost vs. price analysis conducted by the petroleum exploration and production companies. They prefer to invest many billions in nations that are politically corrupt and volatile because the cost per barrel for exploration there is less than in Alberta. The U.S. government should not be in the business of guaranteeing a price floor for commodities. In fact, we have been getting rid of those over the last decade. But perhaps the American consumer will be willing to guarantee a price at the pump that is considerably less than the current price, but more than the deflationary prices that afflicted the industry for most of the 80's and 90's. That will induce the petroleum exploration companies to have much more confidence in the North American market.

There is a need for innovative approaches on a scale commensurate with the Manhattan Project, but without any direct cost to the Treasury. A North American Energy Summit would bring all of the players to the table to offer their best thinking on the subject. This summit would, of course, include Mexico. It will also be a big hit for the DOE, which, unfortunately, has a reputation as a stodgy bureaucracy that has done little if anything since its founding to promote sound development strategies.

I realize that you receive much unsolicited advice. But I believe my suggestions are important enough to warrant your personal consideration. I will call to follow up and I hope to be able to speak to you or a member of your policy staff in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

Owen Jones

Obtained and made public by the Natural Resources Defense Council, May 2002
Gabriela Mangini Granados

Secretary of Energy Abraham
US Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Abraham,

This is a short letter stating my concern for our environment and the recent energy policies that are being drafted.

The United States is the country that uses the most energy in the world and the country that wastes the most energy in this world. Wouldn't it make more sense to establish policies of conservation instead of further consumption? Our environment is not getting any cleaner, is not getting any less polluted. We have more cancer, more infertility, numerous birth defects in areas where there are chemical dump sites, etc. I don't need to enumerate all the instances.

You have been appointed to a very powerful and important position in this cabinet. I urge you to stand by the laws that promote conservation and the protection of our environment so that we may have a place to live for our children and the generations to come. Many people would support a more pro-environment stand. If you helped enact laws of conservation—thermostats a little warmer in summer, a little cooler in winter, speed limits that are enforceable, mandatory recycling, more energy conserving automobiles (less SUV and enormous family trucks), emissions standards that promote cleaner air, the United States will actually have more energy in hand and less money will be spent in the long run.

Our welfare is directly linked to the environment that we live in. Drilling in the Arctic Circle won't solve our mentality of waste that we have in this country. Please use your position of power to help the citizens of the US be stewards of our environment, please help the leaders to teach us to have a healthy earth so that we might enjoy the benefits of fresh air, flora and fauna and water. Please listen to the smaller voices that are eager to follow the lead of the White House in conservation, recycling and example.

Sincerely,

Gabriela Mangini Granados

Obtained and made public by the Natural Resources Defense Council, May 2002