



Jay Buckey will use his background in science, engineering, and research to provide a clean energy future for America – and new jobs for Americans.

Policy Perspective: Energy

The U.S. needs to move away from petroleum and toward renewable alternatives – and we must develop the technologies for alternative energy right here in the U.S. Less than ten years after John Kennedy announced the Apollo program’s goal of sending humans to the Moon, Neil Armstrong stepped onto the moon’s surface. Our country now needs a new Apollo-style program for energy so we can:

End our dependence on foreign oil: Today, the United States has less than 3% of the world's oil reserves, but accounts for more than 25% of global demand.¹ Our use of renewable energy sources has been essentially flat over the past 20 years, thereby increasing the demand for petroleum.² About 20 percent of the oil used in the U.S. comes from the Persian Gulf region. Before the current Iraq conflict, an estimated \$49.1 billion was spent annually to secure our access to Persian Gulf oil. Now the estimate is \$137.8 billion annually.³ In addition to the tremendous human costs of the Iraq War, this “hidden cost” amounts to anywhere from an extra \$55 to \$170/barrel for oil imported into the U.S. from the Persian Gulf.

Protect our climate: Because burning petroleum produces carbon dioxide that can change the world’s climate, the faster we can move away from fossil fuels, the better we can protect the Earth against global warming. From the shrinking polar ice caps to the shorter ski seasons here in New Hampshire, there is overwhelming evidence that global warming is a threat to our planet.

Remain leaders in the changing global economy: Failure to move aggressively to alternative energy sources here in the U.S. means that new energy technology is being developed outside the U.S. This helps other nation’s economies – and harms ours. For example:

- Bell Labs invented the solar cell in New Jersey in 1954, but now 90 percent of solar panels are manufactured overseas.
- General Motors produced the first electric car, but now Toyota and Honda lead in hybrid technology.
- Many of our major competitors – including China - have established fuel economy standards that leave us behind.⁴ These reduce their dependence on petroleum, while ours increases.

The U.S. must commit to investing in and supporting innovation in clean energy technology. We have all the talents and resources necessary; the only thing that is lacking is leadership in Washington. We must create a supportive climate to develop new ideas and bring them to market.

As your Senator, I will be a strong advocate for building a “New Energy Economy” in America. Investing in renewable energy creates jobs, supports our economy, and uses America's innovative spirit and technological excellence to reduce our impact on the planet.

Paid for by Buckey For Senate

¹ Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries. (2007) World Oil Outlook 2007. p22

² Energy Perspectives 1949-2006. Energy Information Administration. Washington, DC, 2006. <http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/aer/contents.html>

³ Copulos, Milt. The Hidden Cost of Oil: An Update. National Defense Council Foundation, Jan 2007.

⁴ An, Feng et al. (2004) Comparison of passenger fuel economy standards and GHG emission standards around the world. Pew Center on Climate Change: Washington D.C.