

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 17, 2006

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to reiterate our belief that America's dependence on oil is one of the greatest economic and national security challenges faced by our generation. The status quo is simply not an option. The cost of our dependence on oil is being borne by families, farmers and businesses across America. In the words of Energy Secretary Bodman, it has become a "crisis" for our nation's consumers. Recent events must serve as a long-overdue wake-up call, to spur real action that sets our nation on the path toward energy independence.

It is crucial that the United States sets a national goal and embarks on a serious strategy to reduce our dependence on petroleum, equivalent to 40 percent of our projected imports by 2020. We are united around a set of core principles that can help America achieve this goal, and believe we must act expeditiously to put this nation on the right track. We stand ready to work with your Administration and Congressional Republicans to pass legislation reflecting these principles before the summer recess. Specifically:

- The United States must launch an aggressive effort designed to ensure that an increasing number of new vehicles sold in America can run on alternative fuels, starting with 25 percent in 2010. In order for this to make a real difference in reducing our dependence on oil, this effort must be paired with a bold initiative to make smart investments in American infrastructure and promote real competition at the gas pump.
- The United States government—our nation's single largest energy consumer—must help lead this transition, by adopting the best available fuel efficiency and alternative vehicle technologies. The federal fleet should reduce its petroleum consumption by 20 percent over the next five years, and save at least 40 percent by 2020.
- The United States must level the playing field for new renewable and energy efficiency technologies. We can provide incentives for consumers and manufacturers to accelerate the market for these technologies and the next generation of fuel efficient vehicles, by ensuring major oil companies pay their fair share in taxes and royalties owed to the American public.
- The United States must ensure that our consumers are protected from gasoline price gouging and energy market manipulation.

- The United States must lessen its reliance on fossil fuels in general and take steps to curb greenhouse gas emissions, by diversifying sources of electric generation to include a greater percentage of renewable resources.

We are willing to work with you to consider additional constructive approaches to breaking America's oil addiction. However, we believe these five principles reflect significant steps that we can take in coming weeks to put our nation on the path toward greater energy security. By relying on American ingenuity and investing in our nation's workforce and infrastructure, we can curb the tremendous volatility in energy prices that is draining family budgets today, and looms as a growing threat to our national security and international competitiveness.

We look forward to working with you on these consensus principles, which will spur the kind of innovation and investment America needs to secure its energy future for the 21st Century.

Sincerely,

Maria Cantwell

Tom F. Kelly

Dick Durbin

Chris Dodd

Ken Salazar

Barack

Jack Reed

Robert Menendez

John P. Murtha

Maryland

Mark Warner

Joe Lieberman

Russell B. Brown

Paul Sarbanes

Frank Lautenberg

Walter S. Mondale

MARIE DOYER

Daniel X. Flake

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Paul Ryan

Benson L. Eyring

Ken Calvert

Jim Jeffords

Ch. S. Schumer

Patsy Murray

Carl Levin

Frank Lautenberg

Tom Harkin

Max Baucus

Jimmy Christin

Herb Kohl

John Johnson

Robert A. Mikulski

Joe Biden

Allyson

W. H. Hahn

E. Benjamin Johnson

Blaugh R. Lincoln

Erin Bayh

Scott Kennedy

Mark Dayton

Mary Landrau

Bill Nelson