

# THE DEWEESE REPORT

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## MOVING THE ROCK OF FREEDOM UPHILL

ADDRESS BY TOM DEWEESE

FREEDOM 21 NATIONAL CONFERENCE - DALLAS, TEXAS

JULY 26, 2008

There is no question that the forces of freedom are facing serious challenges. There are active battlefields on every front.

Private property; personal privacy; national sovereignty; education; gun control; the sinking value of our money; the soaring national debt; rising health care costs; oil at \$4 + a gallon; National ID cards and the growing number of surveillance cameras on every street corner; the never ending invasion of illegal aliens; the assault on Christianity; and the very creation of the Department of Homeland Security – the most outrageous, dangerous, anti-American government force ever spawned.

We are certainly going through a great upheaval. And fear and despair are growing with it. So many of us are looking down at our feet, with a long face and tears in our eyes.

The Republic is dead. There is no

hope. The shining beacon of freedom that once was the United States is extinguished – or soon will be.

There was a moment of hope. Ron Paul was running for president. The great knight in shining armor; the last great hope. The cry went out – if Ron Paul isn't elected – the Republic is dead. This will be our last election. And he lost. Now we have nowhere to turn.

They control the media. They control the banks. They control foreign policy. They control domestic policy. They control the education of our children. The voting machines are rigged. We control nothing.

Go home. Prepare yourself for the long, cold, dark ages that are coming. Store your food. Hoard your gold. Hide from the forces of evil. No one will blame you. You have all the excuses you need to quit. To fade away. To lose. There is no hope. It's over.

And don't you think the other side hopes you believe all of that? Don't you think they are counting on you to give up? So go ahead and do it. Give them their total victory. All that's

needed is for you to do nothing.

But, if you quit now, you're going to wish you had given it just a little more time, I assure you. The fact is, too many from our side are so consumed by despair and tunnel vision that they are missing some very exciting developments. I get e-mails daily shouting doom and gloom no matter the issue – no matter the outcome of an event.

If Congress does something right – the doomsayers see a conspiracy in it. Said one letter I received – “aren't they just letting us win a few battles to try to lull us into believing we are winning?” What level of paranoia is that person operating from?

Let me enlighten you to some events that have taken place this year – while so many from our side were preparing to wave the white flag and stick their heads in the sand.

First, it's a fact that since the hated Democrats gained control of Congress two years ago, we have lost very few battles – and won a bunch.

That's because now, the Republicans are actually acting

### IN THIS ISSUE:

#### 8. SPOTLIGHT ON TYRANNY:

Drill Here. Drill Now.  
Drill ANWR.

like Republicans again, blocking big government programs and working to keep spending down. Apparently the Republican Party's real purpose in life is to oppose the Democrats – no matter what the issue. And, you know, it seems to work better for our side when Republicans are out of power.

The truth is, under the Republicans we had the largest spending and deficits of all time. We got the Department of Big Brother – err Homeland Security. We got the beginnings of a national ID card. We almost got illegal alien amnesty and we are experiencing the merging of our nation into a North American Union. Bill Clinton could never have dreamed of accomplishing so much.

But now, as the Democrats try to carry on many of the same big government policies, the Republicans suddenly see them as a threat to the Republic. I guarantee, if Bill Clinton had created the Security and Prosperity Partnership, Monica Lewinsky wouldn't have been the reason he was impeached. But under George Bush... well, it's just good business.

Ain't representative democracy grand? Gridlock is good for the Republic. I recommend it. The truth is we won a bunch of major victories this year –and we haven't lost some other very important battles.

## ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

We have fought and won the battle to stop the illegal immigration amnesty – three times. Nancy Pelosi tried it again just last month and failed. We are driving them nuts. It is a fact that they cannot implement the SPP unless they have that amnesty and open the borders.

You know, they are used to waging a battle with us, then regrouping and waiting until they can quietly shove the hated policy into place in the dead of night, after we've gone home. And they have tried that with the amnesty issue. Time after time. And it hasn't worked.

They've tried all of the usual games.

They appealed to our guilt – telling us the illegals are just poor folks who want a better life here in America.

They tried appealing to our **patriotism** – telling us that America was built on immigration. They tried to play on our **ignorance** – telling us they are actually **migrants**. They tried to play on our **greed** -- telling us that illegals provide work Americans simply won't do. And then they tried **name-calling** – calling us racists, acting out of hate.

None of it has worked. Every time they bring up the amnesty we kill it again. Still, 80% of the American people are united in opposition to amnesty. They even tried to attach the amnesty provision to the Iraq spending bill and we got it removed.

That's a victory. But so many of our people only see what the other side is doing and look on in despair – crying that these evil forces just won't quit.

Of course they won't quit. And they never will because they believe in their cause and they have a goal. The question is - do you? Eternal vigilance is required to maintain freedom.

## LAW OF THE SEA

Over a year ago I received a call from a good friend and influential writer. He had just come from a meeting in Washington, DC concerning the Law of the Sea Treaty. This was just after the Bush Administration announced it was going to push for ratification. Again, despair was setting in.

The basic message from the meeting, he told me, was that the treaty couldn't be stopped. My friend said to me “we only have 10 votes against it in the Senate. They are going to run right over us – it's on a fast track.”

I said, “wait a minute. If you have ten votes already then you have about a third of what you need to stop it. They need a 2/3rds majority to ratify a treaty.”

It seemed like a light went on at the other end of the phone. That then became

## THE DEWEESE REPORT

Vol. 14, No. 8 August 2008

Published by  
Freedom21 Communications, LLC

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ISSN 1086-7937  
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the strategy – find enough votes to block the 2/3rds. And today, more than a year and a half later they still haven't been able to ratify that treaty as our side gathers strength to stop it.

And they must have the Law of the Sea Treaty in order to impose global governance. But they can't get passed us. We have to start looking at the positive and see that we are winning some very important battles.

## NATIONAL ID

The Governor of Montana, Brian Schweitzer should be here at this conference to receive a freedom's heroes award. This one man stood up to the Homeland Security Department's juggernaut that is determined to enslave us all with a national ID card. And he has scored a huge victory.

Governor Schweitzer wrote a letter to Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff to inform him that the state of Montana has no intention of complying with the Real ID Act or to share his state's residents' data with the federal government, as it requires.

To the media, the Governor then asked questions you rarely hear from an elected official these days. He asked, *"Do you want our government to have the ability to track where you went, how you went, how you got there and when you got home?"*

He went on to say, *"it would be naïve for someone to think this information will not be abused in the future. Virtually every decade these kinds of files have been used to violate people's privacy."*

Schweitzer then issued a challenge to other governors to do the same thing. And many are joining him.

Chertoff countered by saying states which are resisting Real ID need to *"grow up."* He then threatened that any state not complying would find

their citizens barred from boarding airplanes and essentially shut out of society, unable to get access to government services.

But as the states' rebellion grew, Secretary Chertoff called Gov. Schweitzer and attempted to bully him into backing down. In that phone conversation, as Chertoff repeated his threats that Montana residents would be banned from airplanes – or at least made subjects of severe scrutiny and pat-downs at airports -- the Governor said to Chertoff, *"how about we both go on 60 Minutes a few days after the DHS starts patting down Montana driver's license-holders who are trying to get on the planes and both of us can tell our side of the story."*

Chertoff paused, then said, *"I see the problem. We need to get this fixed."* Whereupon the Department of Homeland Security issued a waiver to the State of Montana extending its time to comply to Real ID. The governor didn't want it, won't accept it and still won't comply. Instead, he said, *"I stared down DHS and they blinked."*

Now, seven states have enacted binding legislation prohibiting participation in the Real ID program. And DHS sent each state a waiver, postponing required compliance until the end of 2009 or maybe later. Waivers they didn't ask for or want. Eleven more states have received waivers after informing DHS they are still weighing their options, but refused to commit to implementing Real ID. Several more states are now working on legislation to prohibit compliance.

The fact is, the May 11th deadline came and went with literally no state in compliance – and no pat-downs or refusals to board airplanes have been enforced. It's a rebellion in the states unprecedented since the Civil War. And the government doesn't know what to do.

It's certainly not the end of the battle – but a huge victory for freedom, nonetheless. And they need the Real ID Act to enforce global governance.

## GLOBAL WARMING

How about the issue of Global Warming? Yep, it's everywhere. In every magazine you read; on every newscast; in every classroom; and, of course, in every government policy. "Going green" is the mantra of the day.

The full-court-press is on to force the panic of Global Warming down our throats. The other side has even suggested that global warming skeptics – scientists who question the idea – should be tried in Nuremberg-style trials.

Global Warming is globally acceptable truth. It is the religion of our day. And it's blasphemy to even question if the science is true. Skeptics should be hung in the public square.

But here are some interesting statistics:

In October, 2007, a British High Court ruled that Al Gore's film, "An Inconvenient Truth," could not be shown in public schools without an explicit disclaimer warning students of the partisan, political and misleading nature of the film.

Also in October, 2007, a New York Times headline said, *"More left-wing activists leave Warming cause, call it 'politics of fear.'"*

In December 2007, new Democrat Chairman of the Senate Environment Committee, Barbara Boxer, announced *"Any kind of weakness of environmental laws or secrecy or changes in the dead of night – it's over! We're going to make this committee an environment committee, not an anti-environment committee... this is a sea change that is coming to this committee."*

She was upset that former

Republican Chairman Jim Inhofe held hearings on Global Warming to let skeptics speak.

But, in June 2008, the Boxer Climate Change Tax Bill was soundly defeated, not only by a majority of Republicans, but also with the help of 30% of Democrat Senators as well.

As Senator Inhofe wrote, *“The Boxer Climate Tax Bill was so thoroughly disowned by Democratic Leadership that proponents of climate taxes will now be forced to start from scratch next year.”*

The Wall Street Journal reported that the environmentalists are *“stunned that their global warming agenda is in collapse.”* The paper added, *“The green groups now look as politically intimidating as the skinny kid on the beach who gets sand kicked in his face.”* And the paper quoted a political analyst who said, *“this issue is starting to feel like the Hillary health care plan.”*

Also in June, the Lieberman-Warner Climate Security Act, which would have essentially strapped America with the draconian energy controls of the UN’s Kyoto Accord, went down in defeat. One message I received from Capitol Hill after the defeat said, *“amazing, the lawmakers actually read the bill!”*

A poll conducted by the National Center for Public Policy Research found that an overwhelming majority of Americans oppose the higher energy costs that Lieberman-Warner would impose.

Do you understand the significance of these events? Global Warming is the centerpiece for the drive to global governance. It is the excuse. It is the issue designed to scare us into compliance. They must have control of our energy and its usage in order to

implement Sustainable Development and global governance. Yet, they are rapidly losing ground.

Worse for them, a recent Gallop Poll shows weak public support for Global Warming polices. Gallop reported that in the late 1990’s through 2000, as much as 70% of the public said the environment should take priority over the economy. That number has dropped to just 49% this year.

Of course, I wouldn’t word it that way. Only a free economy is able to protect the environment. The worst environmental disasters are in totalitarian nations where people are so poor they only think about survival.

And that is exactly the point. Isn’t it amazing that these things are happening in spite of the fact the news media reports next to nothing from our side? How is it possible that people aren’t staying brain-washed?

I’ve been saying for decades that once people begin to experience the effects of such damaging polices in their personal lives they will come to our side. The opposition’s success is its own downfall.

\$4 + for a gallon of gas is the tip of the iceberg of what is to come. People are beginning to understand that and they are willing to listen to solutions to ease their pain.

We have never had a better opportunity to get Congress to allow the drilling of American oil for Americans. Daily the demand is growing for Congress take action. ANWR is a term heard more and more. Now is the time for us to unite and strike. We can make it happen.

## THE SUPREME COURT

### GUN CONTROL

And there’s more good news. June was a very good month for us. The

Supreme Court ruled that individual Americans have a right to own guns. They struck down the age-old DC gun ban. We won the most important Second Amendment Constitutional case in American history.

And the other side is beside themselves. The Washington, DC news media reported the Courts ruling like a disaster was about to come down on the poor folks of DC. Every single local news broadcast in D.C., that night, actually combined the report of the Court’s ruling with a memorial service that was being held for a young kid who had been gunned down in the streets – a common occurrence in DC. The obvious message was that DC residents could now expect more of these killings now that guns were legal!

No wonder they were so distraught. They need gun bans in order to impose global governance. But we won!

And that’s not all the good news on the Supreme Court front.

## UN CRIMINAL COURT

You may remember that in 2005 the UN Criminal Court ruled that the state of Texas must reopen the case of a Mexican death-row inmate. The reason was that the death penalty awarded in the case violated the 1963 Vienna Convention which said he should have had council from his home country. Nevermind that he confessed to the crime.

Incredibly, the Bush Administration stepped in, basically acting as an agent for the UN Court. President Bush actually issued a memorandum to Attorney General Alberto Gonzales ordering the Texas court to reopen the case.

But in a 6-3 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court said President Bush lacked the legal authority to tell the

Texas Court how to act.

However, that ruling has much more impact than just this case. It limits presidential power and the reach of international treaties, saying neither President Bush nor the World Court has the authority to order a Texas court to reopen a case. It says the UN World Court does not govern over U.S. Courts. States Rights, said the court, are preeminent.

The doom and gloom crowd have written volumes about how the Court has abandoned the Constitution in favor of international agreements and foreign laws. And that has certainly happened.

The Globalists need the Supreme Court to be a lackey to their agenda in order to impose global governance. But here are two cases where the Constitution was upheld.

## UPHOLDING THE 10TH AMENDMENT

In that same spirit, in June 2008, the legislature of Oklahoma passed a joint resolution claiming its state sovereignty under the 10th Amendment to the Constitution, outlining its powers and serving notice to the federal government to back off from overreaching its Constitutionally delegated powers.

In Oklahoma, the revolutionary slogan of “Don’t tread on me” is alive and well.

This is great news. It is a huge start for a nationwide trend. It paves the way for us to pressure other states to follow. It is the worst news for the global governance crowd – a huge step backwards.

But the message that was attached to the e-mail I received with this news said, “yeah, this will last until the feds start taking away their highway funds.” How do people live in such a

black hole? Nothing is good enough for them. We are all doomed.

## MARTIAL LAW

For years the Internet has been full of fear mongering about how Martial Law will be declared for some unstated reason; and that we freedom fighters will be transported by train to concentration camps and elections will be suspended.

There have been claims that George Bush is planning to do all of this in order to abolish this year’s election and stay in office as a dictator.

You know, I watched a recent interview with President Bush and got the distinct feeling that no one is looking forward to the election and his last day in office more than George W. Bush.

But there was much ado about a revision Congress made in 2006 to the Posse Comitatus Act and the Insurrection Act to make it easier for the president to declare martial law. Yep, that did happen. And hence the fear.

But what you may not have heard was that the Congress repealed those changes at the end of January 2008 as part of Public Law 110-181 (HR4986). It was done very quietly and was hardly reported in the media.

And while we rightly attack the media for not telling both sides of the story, those who daily feed the Internet jungle drums with doom and gloom, didn’t bother to report that one – perhaps because it didn’t supply the accepted premise that nothing good is happening.

## ENGLISH FIRST

Here’s a small, but important victory. In March of this year the Senate voted 54-44 to pass the

Alexander Amendment.

That Amendment recommends removing \$670,000 from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission budget – money the agency planned to spend filing law suits against employers that have English-only rules for all employees.

Instead the Senate recommended that the money be used to teach English. As I said, it’s a small item, but significant.

## SAVE ACT

We are still holding off passage of The Secure America through Verification and Enforcement Act (the SAVE Act). This bill is being sold to our people as a “get tough” policy on illegal immigration.

In truth, it would give the federal government powerful control over private business and would establish more massive data banks for Big Brother.

The SAVE Act would create databases on birth certificates and death certificates. Both of these government databases are necessary for compliance to REAL ID.

The SAVE Act would force private businesses to run all applications for employment through a federal data bank – one that is not equipped to handle the massive traffic of every business in the nation accessing it 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

And when a name is tossed out as illegal, no matter the reason, the private, law abiding citizen would then have to take personal time to go the government agency and prove who they are – meanwhile losing the job. Yet, it would catch very few illegals in its net.

This is not how the United States of American is supposed to operate.

Americans aren't to be considered guilty until proven innocent.

The SAVE Act is really just a companion bill to the REAL ID, again under the guise of "getting tough in enforcing laws" against illegal aliens and terrorists.

It was put on a fast track in both the House and the Senate, quickly gathering hoards of cosponsors from both Republicans and Democrats who hoped to use it to tell their constituents that they are tough on illegal immigration – that is until they learned the truth about the bill.

I'm proud to say that the American Policy Center has been the main opposition and we were able to recruit others to our side to bottle it up – where it is today. Fascism is fascism no matter what you call it or how pleasant you try to make it smell. This bill too will end up on the trash heap. And that's a victory.

## EUROPEAN UNION

Ireland just rejected the European Union's attempt to establish a new EU Constitution by voting against the Treaty. This is the third time there has been a public vote on acceptance of the EU and the third time it has been soundly defeated. The EU can't continue to ignore this opposition without facing a revolution.

## NORTH AMERICAN UNION, TTC, AND MEXICAN TRUCKS

Now, you just heard an incredible presentation by the Byfields on the amazing progress they and local leaders are having in stopping the Trans Texas Corridor.

We've heard from Senator Randy Brogdon who has led an incredible campaign to stop the TTC from

crossing Oklahoma's border.

In September of 2007, The Bush Administration began a major project needed to implement the NAU and the TTC. The project was a test to allow Mexican trucks to cross our borders and transport goods throughout the nation.

Immediately, both houses of Congress passed legislation to block the project and remove any funding for it. Senator Byron Dorgan, a Democrat from North Dakota got an amendment passed 74-24 to the Transportation Departments appropriations bill to de-fund the project. It passed and was signed into law by President Bush last December.

Yet, Transportation Secretary Mary Peters just decided to ignore the law and do it anyway. She just recently endured a hearing by a hopping mad Senator Dorgan. Now there are calls by many, including the Teamsters Union, that Mary Peters be fired. What a message that firing would send to the SPP perpetrators. It's something we should all help bring about.

These efforts and those by thousands around the nation are getting the message out about the North American Union. The perpetrators of this treason did not want the general public to know of their plans. They wanted to operate in secret.

But we have blown the whistle on them. We have alerted Americans. And we are throwing a massive monkey wrench into their well-laid plans. And it is having an effect.

They started with denials and escalated to calling us names – lunatic fringe; liars; scaremongers. They refuse to debate the issue. They hide behind a curtain of secrecy. But it's not working. And

that fact is having an effect on their plans. There is a feeling of despair growing in the ranks of the SPP.

Back in January, Jerome Corsi reported on an article written by a reporter for the Canadian newspaper, *TheGlobeandMail*. The reporter, John Ibbitson was actually participating in an SPP meeting, presenting a paper. So he was on the inside.

He was basically shocked by the attitudes of the participants. Here are the people who seem to have everything under control. The people you and I fear the most. Yet, he found them exhibiting an overwhelming feeling of despair that their well laid plans for a North American Union were in trouble.

Said Ibbitson, "*public exposure has stalled SPP efforts.*" He concluded that the Security and Prosperity Partnership is "DEAD." Other SPP leaders, while disagreeing with Ibbitson about that, admit that the "public awareness" of the SPP and some of its features will trigger changes.

Stuart Trew, a researcher and writer for the Council of Canadians wrote, "*The opposition in all three countries has exposed the SPP North American Integration agenda.*"

Several other attendees to an SPP meeting in Mexico confirmed that public exposure has been a hindrance to the progress of the SPP program.

Ibbitson hinted that Bush and Canadian Prime Minister Harper were reluctant to spend any more political capital in the SPP effort. And that was one reason why the SPP meeting in New Orleans in April was more about public relations than substance. They are trying to regain ground they've lost to us.

Now, I don't believe for a second that this fight is anywhere near over. But, I tell you this because I want you to understand that your fight is having an effect.

Notice how many times they used the word "exposure." The fact is we do not live in a vacuum. Things don't just happen. Actions have consequences.

For you to believe that all is doomed means that nothing we do counts. None of our articles, none of our speeches, none of our rallies or protests or even this conference mean a thing. We are helpless.

To believe that all is doomed is to say our ideas – the ideas of Jefferson, Washington, Franklin and Madison – aren't strong enough to stand up against the delusional ravings of Marx, Lenin, Hitler and Maurice Strong. If that is true, then we may as well go home. All really is lost. But that is just not true. Our actions do count – in a big way.

All of these things I mentioned indicate a trend that people are beginning to listen to our arguments and may well begin to accept our ideas. That is progress - leading to victory.

There is no need to get apocalyptic just because the general public hasn't accepted all of our ideas at once. We didn't get into this mess in a day, and we won't get out in a day.

Rather than facing our doom, I believe we are facing magnificent opportunity. Even in defeat there is opportunity.

## OPPORTUNITY FOR VICTORY

You know, during this election, both Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama attacked NAFTA. Does it matter why? Does it matter whether or not it was a sincere attack? Does it

matter if it was attacked for the wrong reasons? It gives us an opportunity to jump on and carry the attack for the right reasons and that is exactly what we should do.

As Winston Churchill put it in 1941, during the darkest hours for the British in World War II, "*Do not speak of darker days; let us speak of sterner days. These are not dark days; these are great days – the greatest days our country has ever lived; and we must all thank God that we have been allowed, each of us according to our station, to play a part in making these days memorable in the history of our race.*"

There is opportunity for us now as never before. The economy is about to eat itself alive as a result of the globalist polices. People are about to see their life savings endangered as the dollar continues to fall and they will demand that something be done. We have the answer.

They are already suffering at the gas pump, and drilling American oil – taboo just a year ago – is becoming a demand. We have the answer.

We have never had a better opportunity to take steps to get rid of the Federal Reserve and restore our money to the gold standard.

In fact, my friend Ed Viera, a monetary expert of the first order, offers a very simple plan to do that -- and it won't take a major upheaval to accomplish it.

Simply put, he suggests that we start using the gold and silver coins legally being minted by the government and begin to spend them. Stores already offer the option to use Federal Reserve notes, or credit or debit cards. He suggests that using the gold and silver coins as a fourth option would see a quick demise of the Federal Reserve notes, painlessly

and in a free market.

Of course, I've stated that very simply, without a lot of detail, but you get the point. We can make things happen, We are not helpless. And getting us back to a standard of monetary worth will take care of the soaring gas prices. We have the answer.

Second, we need a plan to get the feds out of the public schools. This is where most of our future problems are breeding right now. Desperate parents are ready to listen – they just don't know what to do – we have the answer.

Third, we must break the hold that the radical environmentalists have over all of our lives. Let those green Nazis freeze in the dark in their caves. The fact is, as I've pointed out, it's already happening. A movement cannot live on lies forever.

And fourth, get the United States out of the United Nations. It is the greatest source of evil in the world. It is the breeding ground for every policy we fight. Accomplish that and every other issue we spend our lives fighting will melt away – the Republic restored.

Relieve yourself of the despair. Our fight isn't over. It's just begun. It is a time of great upheaval. And that makes it a time of great opportunity

We are beginning to move the rock of freedom uphill. We are on the threshold of great change – our change – because we are right and we have the answers to the mess they have made.

As Winston Churchill also said on that day in 1941, "*Never give in. Never give in. Never. Never. Never.*"



# DRILL HERE. DRILL NOW. DRILL ANWR.

*By Paul Driessen*

“We can’t drill our way out of our energy problem.” This daily mantra underscores an abysmal grasp of economics by the politicians, activists, bureaucrats and judges who are dictating US policies. If only their hot air could be converted into usable energy.

Drilling is no silver bullet. But it is vital. It won’t generate overnight production. But just announcing that America is finally hunting oil again would send a powerful signal to energy markets ... and to speculators – many of whom are betting that continued US drilling restrictions will further exacerbate the global demand-supply imbalance, and send “futures” prices even higher.

Pro-drilling policies would likely bring lower prices, as did recent announcements that Brazil had found new offshore oil fields and Iraq would sign contracts to increase oil production. Conversely, news that supplies are tightening – because of sabotage in Nigeria’s delta region, or more congressional bans on leasing – will send prices upward.

One of our best prospects is Alaska’s Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, which geologists say contains billions of barrels of recoverable oil. If President Clinton hadn’t bowed to Wilderness Society demands and vetoed 1995 legislation, we’d be producing a million barrels a day from ANWR right now. That’s equal to US imports from Saudi Arabia, at \$50 billion annually.

Drilling in ANWR would get new oil flowing in 5-10 years, depending on how many lawsuits environmentalists file. That’s far faster than benefits would flow from supposed alternatives: devoting millions more acres of cropland to corn or cellulose ethanol, converting our vehicle fleet to hybrid and flex-fuel cars, trying to build dozens of new nuclear power plants, and blanketing thousands of square miles with wind turbines and solar panels. These alternatives would take decades to implement, and all face political, legal, technological, economic and environmental hurdles.

ANWR is the size of South Carolina. Its narrow coastal plain is frozen and windswept most of the year. Wildlife flourish amid drilling and production in other Arctic regions, and would do so near ANWR facilities. Inuits who live there know this, and support drilling by an 8:1 margin. Gwich’in Indians who oppose drilling live hundreds of miles away – and have leased and drilled nearly all their own tribal lands, including caribou migratory routes.

Drilling and production operations would impact only 2,000 acres – to produce 15 billion gallons of oil annually. Saying this tiny footprint would spoil the refuge is like saying a major airport along South Carolina’s northern border would destroy the entire state’s scenery and wildlife.

It’s a far better bargain than producing 7 billion gallons of ethanol in 2007 from corn grown on an area the size of Indiana (23 million acres). It’s far better than using wind to generate enough electricity to power New York City, which would require blanketing Connecticut (3 million acres) with turbines.

Anti-drilling factions also assert: “US energy prices are high, because Americans consume 25% of the world’s oil, while possessing only 3% of its proven oil reserves.”

Possession has nothing to do with prices – any more than owning

a library, but never opening the books, improves intellectual abilities; or owning farmland that’s never tilled feeds hungry people.

It is production that matters – and the United States has locked up vast energy resources. Not just an estimated 169 billion barrels of oil in the Outer Continental Shelf, Rockies, Great Lakes, Southwest and ANWR – but also natural gas, coal, uranium and hydroelectric resources.

“Proven reserves” are resources that drilling has confirmed exist and can be produced with current technology and prices. By imposing bans on leasing, and encouraging environmentalists to challenge seismic and drilling permits on existing leases, politicians ensure that we will never increase our proven reserves. In fact, reserves will decrease, as we deplete existing deposits and don’t replace them. The rhetoric is clever – but disingenuous, fraudulent and harmful.

The Geological Survey and Congressional Research Service say it’s 95% likely that there are 15.6 billion barrels of oil beneath ANWR. With today’s prices and technology, 60% of that is recoverable. At \$135 a barrel, that represents \$1.3 trillion that we would not have to send to Iran, Russia, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela. It means lower prices and reduced risks of oil spills from tankers carrying foreign crude.

It represents another \$400 billion in state and federal royalties and corporate income taxes – plus billions in lease sale revenues, plus thousands of direct and indirect jobs, in addition to numerous jobs created when this \$1.7 trillion total is invested in the USA.

It means additional billions in income tax revenues that those jobs would generate, and new opportunities for minority, poor and blue collar families to improve their lives and living standards. It means lower prices for gasoline, heating, cooling, food and other products.

That’s just ANWR. Factor in America’s other locked-up energy, and we’re talking tens of trillions of dollars that we either keep in the United States, by producing that energy ... or ship overseas.

This energy belongs to all Americans. It’s not the private property of environmental pressure groups, or of politicians who cater to them in exchange for re-election support.

This energy is likewise the common heritage of mankind. Politicians and eco-activists have no right to keep it off limits – and tell the rest of the world: We have no intention of developing American energy. We don’t care if you need oil, soaring food and energy prices are pummeling your poor, or drilling in your countries harms your habitats to produce oil for US consumers.

Those attitudes are immoral and intolerable. It shows disdain for the world’s poor. And it’s bad for the global environment.

It’s time to drill again here in America – onshore and off, in Alaska and the Lower 48 – while conserving more and pursuing new energy technologies for the future.

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