



The Real Cost of Gas

America pays too high a price for oil: Political corruption. Environmental havoc. Foreign policy quagmires.

Big oil companies are making out like bandits as most citizens struggle to make ends meet. A recent study found that the oil industry is raising prices faster than its costs go up. And when costs go down, prices at the pump don't follow.

What happens to all of those profits? Some of them buy special favors in Washington. In the last decade, the oil industry donated \$131 million to federal campaigns. And the government is stuffed with former oil industry executives, including President Bush and Vice President Cheney. That's why the energy legislation before Congress is a boon to Big Oil but a bomb to taxpayers.

Let's never forget the toll on our national security. In peace time, we spend over \$50 billion dollars every year to defend the Persian Gulf. Today, our brave troops are in harm's way with no clear exit plan.

And the environmental costs? Smog, bad air days, and climate change. Childhood asthma rates are skyrocketing. How can we knowingly pass these perils off to the next generation?

There's a better way. Americans are the world's greatest industrial innovators. It's time to invest in a new generation of technology, put millions of efficient cars on the road, and begin the shift to renewable fuels. It's time to free ourselves from foreign oil, and create millions of good new jobs in the process.

This is no pipe dream. The research and technology exist. We have the national wealth. Do we have the will?

**It's time for an oil change.
You can make it happen.**

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