

For God and Country, America Needs a Better Energy Policy

By Roberta Combs

What do the head of the Christian Coalition and a retired four-star general have in common? We both believe that a stronger America requires a better energy policy.

That's what General Ronald Keys, retired four-star Air Force general, will be talking about at a breakfast at the Bellevue Veterans Club just across the Ohio River from Cincinnati this weekend. And it's what we at the Christian Coalition—who are co-sponsoring the event-- have been talking about for months now.

At the Christian Coalition, we believe that America needs to develop its own energy resources, for the sake of national security and economic health. Right now, the United States sends about a billion dollars a day to other countries to pay for what former President George W. Bush called our “addiction to oil.” Much of that money goes to countries that do not share our values. Some of the money goes to regimes that we would consider our enemies. There is evidence some of it ends up in the pockets of terrorists, and even funding our troops' opponents on the battlefield.

Our over-dependence on foreign oil affects what we can and cannot do in the world. It also siphons money from America's struggling economy and sends it elsewhere. And it drives up the trade deficit, forcing us to borrow yet more money from China.

Now is the time to break our dependence on foreign oil. But more domestic supply alone cannot solve the problem. The United States uses about a quarter of the world's oil, but only controls 2 to 3 percent of the Earth's known petroleum reserves, and we cannot drill enough at home to bridge that gap.

If we want to build a stronger economy and a stronger nation, we need a comprehensive, “made in America” approach. That means everything from domestic oil and natural gas, to nuclear power, bio-fuels, wind, solar and geothermal — home grown energy that will not run out, and that puts Americans to work while returning dollars to our own economy.

The United States has tremendous potential in all of these areas, but to be the worldwide leader and ensure American national security and increase jobs, we must do everything we can to tap that potential. If we don't, other countries will — and we don't want to go from being dependent on foreign oil to being dependent on foreign-made energy technologies.

Through an initiative called “America's Path to Progress,” the Christian Coalition is calling for greater energy independence. Our nation's economic growth, national security, and clean air are all dependent on our nation's energy policies — and for the sake of American families, we need to do a better job powering our country.

As conservatives, we stand up for our country's national security and the health of our economy. And, as Christians, we recognize the biblical mandate to care for God's creation and protect our children's future.

We join a multitude of American voices raised in support of efficiency and next-generation energy sources. Veterans and national security groups, business organizations, public health groups—all understand the importance of what is at stake.

We applaud politicians who take leadership on these issues. My good friend Governor John Kasich is calling for comprehensive action on energy. He recently talked about climate change, saying “I.. know the good Lord wants us to be good stewards of his creation.”

This election year, we call on all candidates to take energy independence seriously. A more secure energy supply, more jobs, and cleaner air—all these dovetail with family values. It’s time for politicians to put aside labels, and endorse a “made in America” approach to energy independence.

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