

Offshore Drilling

Oil is a commodity on the world market and the price of oil in the United States will be established by the world market. There is nothing sinister about this. The increased supply coming from increased exploration and drilling in the United States will put downward pressure on prices.

Equally, if not more important, it will also reduce America's negative balance of payments. We will be paying ourselves rather than Venezuela for oil. (The U.S. doesn't get any of its oil from Iran, which is a misconception held by many.) Additionally, the State and Federal governments will receive taxes from the oil produced from government leases. The Democrat Congress slipped an amendment into legislation that prevents the Bureau of Land Management from leasing land for oil shale development. We have more oil in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming than all the oil in Saudi Arabia. The new freeze-wall technology will allow extracting oil from shale without serious effect on the environment, but the Democrat controlled Congress has prevented us from using it.

Here are a few other facts. Natural oil seepage from the Gulf floor has been many times greater than any spills from pipelines or platforms. The high price of gasoline and jet fuel will hurt the Florida tourist economy more than any fear of a possible oil spill in the Gulf. Environmental fears about drilling and global warming have been promoted by those who wish to control our life styles. Depriving Americans the ability to use their own oil is what big brother has done to control our lives. Take the recent attempt by Big Brother in California to require electric meters on homes to allow utilities to reset thermostats.

Preventing us from drilling in ANWR or on the Outer Continental Shelf or to extract oil from shale is strictly an attempt by a few to control Americans.

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