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Less rhetoric, more action



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By Stuart Jolly

"Seek and ye shall find" should be [America's](#) motto as Congress reconvenes next month. Consumers and business people recognize that while we have all been suffering with sky-high prices at the pump, our leaders in Washington have continued to debate increased drilling but haven't passed any legislation to increase supply and lower prices.

[America](#) needs less rhetoric and more action.

Surveys show that the vast majority of all Americans support increased development of resources in areas like the Outer Continental Shelf. We are tired of having Congress enforce high gas prices by restricting access to areas with known reserves. By now most Americans recognize that we never will achieve complete energy independence. But we needn't rely so heavily on unsteady regimes if we could tap into more of our own energy. We could then stop sending our investment capital overseas and put it to use here at home, where it belongs.

[America](#) is the only country that discourages development of its own domestic energy resources, artificially and unnecessarily inflating reliance on supplies from abroad. No other country does this because no other country could survive doing this, and we can't either. Americans will continue to pay higher and higher energy costs until our citizens and Congress understand that common sense and logic must prevail over die-hard environmentalists on this issue.

Fortunately, we now have the technology to explore and develop our natural resources in ways that are environmentally safe and efficient. The use of advanced methods to drill and extract oil and natural gas means we can now cultivate our resources in a responsible fashion, and without any of the nightmarish scenarios that proponents would have you believe. In this way, Congress can stop harvesting resources from consumer pocketbooks and start harvesting resources from our oceans and elsewhere. The mere fact that the [United States](#) finally has gotten serious about combating our reliance on imported energy supplies will speak volumes to the world.

Of course, this all sounds great. But unless our senators and representatives bring this issue to a vote, the status quo will remain in effect, and that means all talk and no action. Most Senate and House members have voiced their support for some form of pro-drilling legislation. However, as we all know, there is a big difference between paying lip service to an issue and actually voting for it.

It's imperative that our leaders unite in an earnest effort to craft energy policy that can be implemented at once. [America's](#) current energy needs are too all-encompassing and important to be made into an election-year issue. While it's clear that both sides will likely need to find room for compromise, there is no reason to put the matter of offshore drilling aside or tie it to other equally contentious issues that will keep Congress from bringing this to a vote in September. Americans deserve resolution on this singular issue upon which most of us seemingly agree: Seek and ye shall find.

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