

Discussion 13: The Future for American Energy Policy

An Energy Policy for America

- Domestic
- International

Domestic Ways to Deal with Oil Dependence

- Reduce consumption (Hydrocarbons)
 - Impose taxes on oil
 - Gas tax
 - Public Transportation
- Invest in alternative fuels
 - Ethanol
 - Solar
 - Wind
 - Biomass
 - Electric
 - Could be effective transportation fuel
 - Coal
 - Domestically available
 - "cleaner" now
 - Nuclear
 - Terrorism
 - Facilities protection
 - Dealing with waste
 - Yucca Mountain issue
 - Meltdowns
 - Many of these only affect energy generation for household use, etc and don't have a large effect on transportation, etc.
- R & D and Innovation
 - Ways for the government to encourage innovation
 - MIT Biodiesel competition
 - National government agency
- Government Regulation
- State versus Federal Involvement
 - States have been getting involved at varying levels
 - Not necessarily a good thing because companies might just move to a state where regulation is less strict
 - Delaware effect
 - Race to the bottom
 - California Effect
 - The area is so desirable that it is worth it to conform to the standards
 - The most innovative companies want higher standards because they know they can surmount them

International problems in oil dependence

- Diversification of Supply
 - Expand number of suppliers
- Cooperate with China
 - Energy/climate
 - Climate

- Issues with the Middle Eastern Oil Supply
 - Stabilization
 - Get out of the region or stay
 - Trade relationships as incentives
 - Military deterrents
 - Israel Support