



MINORITY STAFF  
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM  
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## Fact Sheet

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# U.S. Dependence on Foreign Oil

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In public statements, President Bush has repeatedly emphasized the need to reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil. The policies pursued by the Administration have had the opposite effect, however. Estimates from the Department of Energy show that U.S. dependence on foreign oil is projected to increase by nearly 85% under the policies proposed by President Bush.

## The President's Public Statements

President Bush has spoken repeatedly about the need to address the problem of dependence on foreign oil. In his first address to Congress, he stated, "America must become more energy-independent, and we will."<sup>1</sup> In the 2002 State of the Union Address, he stated, "This Congress must act . . . so America is less dependent on foreign oil."<sup>2</sup> In the 2003 State of the Union Address, he stated that his "goal is to promote energy independence for our country."<sup>3</sup> In the 2004 State of the Union address, he stated, "I urge [Congress] to pass legislation to . . . make America less dependent on foreign sources of energy."<sup>4</sup>

## The Bush Administration's Energy Policy

Shortly after the Bush Administration assumed office, Vice President Dick Cheney convened an energy task force to develop the Administration's energy policy. The proposed policy, which was revealed in May 2001, included 105 recommendations.<sup>5</sup> By May 2002, Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham reported that the Administration had either completed or was near completing over 60 of the 105 recommendations.<sup>6</sup>

An analysis by the Energy Information Administration (EIA), an independent agency of the U.S. Department of Energy, shows that the energy policy changes implemented by the Bush Administration have not reduced the nation's projected need for foreign oil. In December 2000, EIA projected, under policies in effect at that time, that the nation would need to import approximately 16.5 million barrels of petroleum per day in 2020.<sup>7</sup> In January 2004, EIA projected that the nation would need to import approximately 17.5 million barrels per day in 2020 — an increase of 6%.<sup>8</sup>

## The Republican Energy Bill

The energy policy recommendations in the Bush Administration's plan that require congressional approval are contained in H.R. 6, which has passed the Republican-controlled House but has stalled in the U.S. Senate. According to EIA, if H.R. 6 is enacted the nation will need to import approximately 19.45 million barrels of petroleum per day by 2025. This represents nearly an 85% increase over 2002 levels.<sup>9</sup>

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### ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> White House, *Address of the President to the Joint Session of Congress* (Feb. 27, 2001) (online at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2001/02/20010228.html>).

<sup>2</sup> White House, *State of the Union Address* (Jan. 20, 2002) (online at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/01/20020129-11.html>).

<sup>3</sup> White House, *State of the Union Address* (Jan. 28, 2003) (online at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/01/20030128-19.html>).

<sup>4</sup> White House, *State of the Union Address* (Jan. 20, 2004) (online at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2004/01/20040120-7.html>).

<sup>5</sup> CRS, *Bush Energy Policy: Overview of Major Proposals and Legislative Action*, 2 (Aug. 22, 2001) (online at <http://www.fas.org/spp/civil/crs/RL31096.pdf>).

<sup>6</sup> Department of Energy, *Secretary Abraham Outlines National Energy Policy Accomplishments One Year after Release, Remarks by Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham to the Detroit Economic Club* (May 17, 2002) (online at <http://www.ogc.doc.gov/ogc/czma/FC1B4.pdf>).

<sup>7</sup> EIA, *Annual Energy Outlook 2001*, Table A11 (Dec. 2000) (online at [http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/archive/aeo01/pdf/0383\(2001\).pdf](http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/archive/aeo01/pdf/0383(2001).pdf)).

<sup>8</sup> EIA, *Annual Energy Outlook 2004, Issues in Focus* (Jan. 2004) (online at [http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/aeo/issues\\_2.html](http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/aeo/issues_2.html)).

<sup>9</sup> EIA, *Summary Impacts of Modeled Provisions of the 2003 Conference Energy Bill* (Feb. 2004) (online at [http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/servicerpt/pceb/pdf/sroiaf\(2004\)02.pdf](http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/servicerpt/pceb/pdf/sroiaf(2004)02.pdf)); House Government Reform Committee, Minority Staff, *The Energy Policy Act of 2003 Will Cost Americans over \$140 Billion* (Nov. 2003) (online at <http://www.democrats.reform.house.gov/Documents/20040628114019-82228.pdf>).