



**Rep. Bobby Scott
TOWN HALL MEETING
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Too little out there, no impact for decades, too much risk

POTENTIAL OFFSHORE OIL RESERVES



4 Billion Barrels predicted off the Atlantic coast – equates to a mere 200 day (6 months) supply, based on current consumer consumption of 2 million barrels per day.

Estimates by even the Bush administration indicate that it is decades yet to come before this supply comes online and 2030 before this supply will have any affect on gas prices.

Risk to Virginia's Tourism Industry:



Value of Tourism to Coastal States

	Dollars in Billions	Related Jobs
California	93.8	928,700
Florida	62	948,700
Georgia	15.4	211,800
Maine	13.6	176,633
Massachusetts	12.5	125,300
New Jersey	37.6	480,800
North Carolina	15.4	187,200
Oregon	7.9	88,900
South Carolina	16	208,083
Virginia	16.5	206,900
TOTAL	290.7	3,563,016

One large spill that hits beaches during the tourism season can have major economic repercussions. The number of oil and gas industry jobs in states with new drilling would pale by comparison.

Risk to Virginia's Fishing Industry:

Economic Impact of Saltwater Fishing by State in 2006

	Total Multiplier - Ripple Effect (in Millions of Dollars)	Jobs
California	2,283	19,903
Florida	5,124	51,588
Georgia	230	2,010
Maine	102	1,192
Massachusetts	823	9,279
New Jersey	1,083	9,912
New York	646	6,396
North Carolina	913	9,735
Oregon	250	2,488
South Carolina	1,052	11,896
Virginia	494	5,541
Washington	550	4,649
TOTAL	13,550	134,589

2006 Commercial Fishing Landings (Dollars)

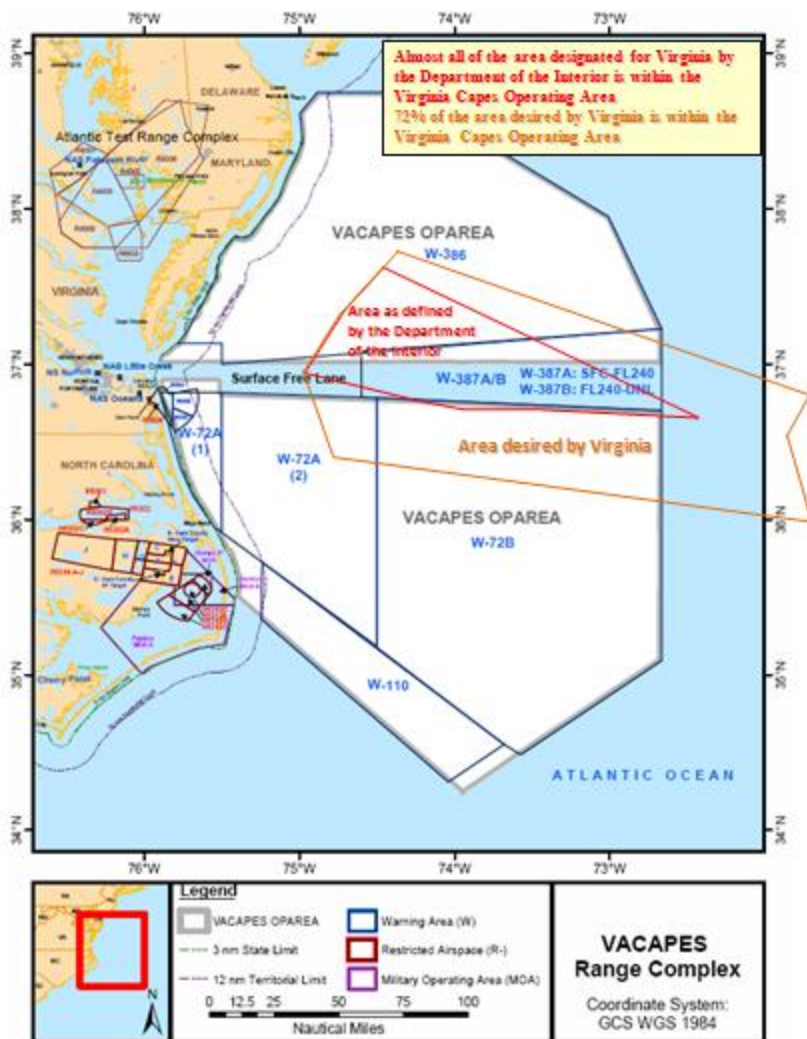
California	129,906,634
Florida	192,292,338
Georgia	11,532,790
Maine	361,848,851
Massachusetts	437,047,425
New Jersey	136,052,949
New York	57,727,563
North Carolina	70,120,841
Oregon	107,523,496
South Carolina	17,025,384
Virginia	109,070,528
Washington	215,648,958
TOTAL	1,845,797,757



If commercial fishing is damaged by chronic or catastrophic offshore spills and pollution, economic damage is also large. The Exxon Valdez spill paid hundreds of millions of dollars to fishermen for damages. Some fisheries never recovered.

Risk to our Nation's National Security:

Figure 1. Virginia OCS Area vs. Virginia Capes Operating Area



The U.S. Navy maintains its opposition to offshore drilling. They must have unfettered access to the Virginia CAPES Operating Area. This is an area where they are daily dropping 1,000 lb. missiles, there are submarines, ships firing guns, live ordnance.

Bottomline: Bombs and pipelines do not mix. This is otherwise a perfect storm situation for an environmental nightmare.



Distracts from our fight against global warming:



Drilling prolongs and expands dependence on fossil fuels, increasing global warming pollution and sea level rise.

•Virginia Beach ranks #10 in the world in terms of assets exposed to coastal flooding and vulnerability to climate change.

•According to an Ernst & Young survey, the top insurance risk in 2008 is climate change. 55% of insurance companies in the mid-Atlantic area has stopped writing new policies in Virginia's coastal communities.

Cedar Island, Eastern Shore, VA (Photo credit: Stephen Katz, Virginian-Pilot)



Where There is Drilling, There is Spilling:



**Last month's spill in New Orleans:
400,000 of tar-like #6 crude oil
\$100,000/day stalled commercial
vessels**

**Late 2007 in the North Sea:
750,000 gallons spilled transporting
oil from the oil platform to a ship**

**As a direct result of Hurricane Katrina, more than 9 million gallons of crude oil,
From 6 major spills and 5 medium spills, and not counting the oil released
from over 5,000 minor spills.**



Chesapeake Bay Too Precious to Risk



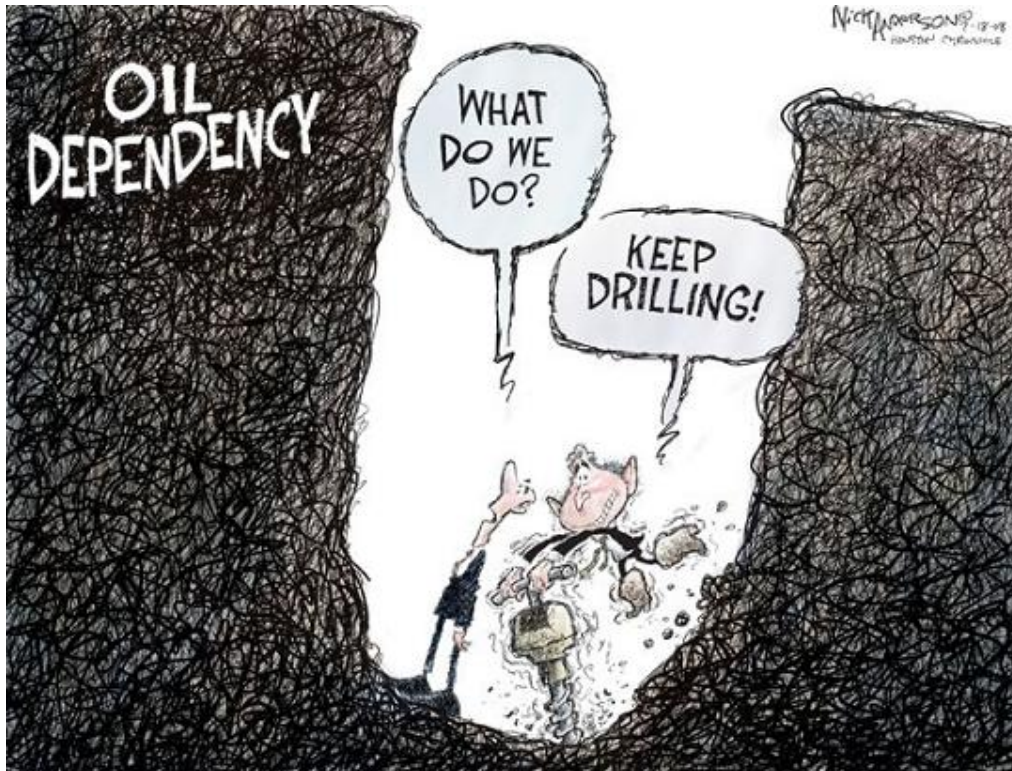
Offshore drilling, even just exploration for natural gas, means an average of 180,000 gallons per well of waste mud containing toxic metals such as mercury, arsenic and lead *each day* being dumped into surrounding waters.

Offshore oil and gas operations have detrimental effects onshore. These operations require refineries and other processing facilities, miles of pipelines, roads, storage facilities, tankers all to be built on Virginia's beaches, wetlands, and coastal areas.

Current drilling projects in the Gulf of Mexico have destroyed more wetlands than exist between New Jersey and Maine.



We cannot drill our way out of this problem!

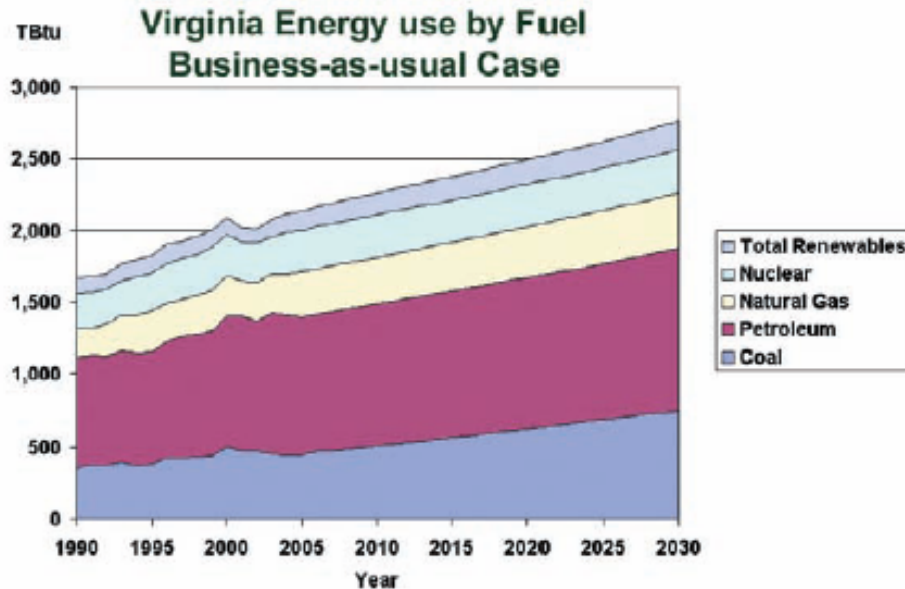


... as oil tycoon T. Boone Pickens is quoted saying.

We could drill everywhere in the U.S. and not meet our energy demand or reduce prices.

Bottom line: The U.S. has 3% of the world's oil reserves yet we consume 25% of the world's oil.

“All of the Above” means Status Quo +

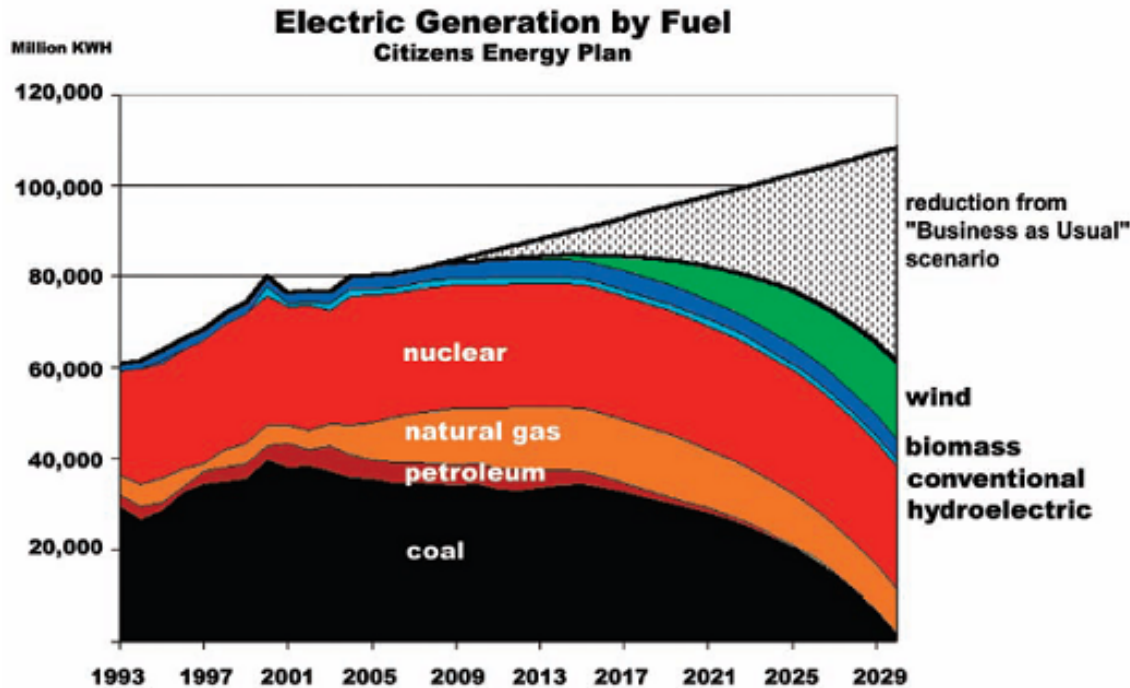


By 2030, total growth in energy consumption will be 31%. While consumption of renewable energy remains close to existing levels, that of fossil fuel grows strongly, particularly for coal and petroleum. Coal consumption in particular increases 68 percent, due to construction of new coal power plants in Virginia and elsewhere to meet electricity demand.

The resulting overall growth in carbon emissions of 32% will further contribute to the damaging effects of climate change and ocean acidification.



No Clean Energy Source Left Behind



Renewable energy and energy efficiency can fuel our future.

Today, we have the technology and the know-how to move beyond our dependence on polluting power plants and oil/gas derived from risky offshore drilling, by using clean, safe, and affordable renewable energy.



There is a better way, Virginia!



It's time to embrace the win-win clean energy solutions that will put America back to work with good jobs, put our economy back on the path to prosperity, help end our dangerous dependence on fossil fuels, and fight global warming.



According to the Blue-Green Alliance, a robust investment in renewable energy can create 820,000 high-paying manufacturing jobs. Over 336,000 existing jobs in Virginia fit nicely into a new clean energy economy.



The answer, my friend, is blowing in the wind!



Delmarva Power and Bluewater Wind ink deal for first Atlantic Coast offshore wind project.

- 50,000 homes/capacity for great expansion
- Just a \$5/mo. Increase at today's prices

Mid-Atlantic is perfect for wind:

- Low frequency of calms
- High frequency of winds class 3 and above
- 160,000 turbines could power most of the East Coast.

Two-fer for Virginia: not only providing clean energy to Virginia but also provide a major new industry for Hampton Roads. Turbines are the size of Boeing 747s and we will be needing thousands of them. It's a perfect fit for Norfolk/Newport News shipbuilding sector.

What's it all about, Algae?!?



All the energy stored in the earth's reserves of coal, oil, and natural gas is equal to the energy from only 20 days of sunshine.

There's also geo-thermal, which today powers several York County schools.

Research and development in bio diesel from algae is being done at ODU.



We have the technology, but...

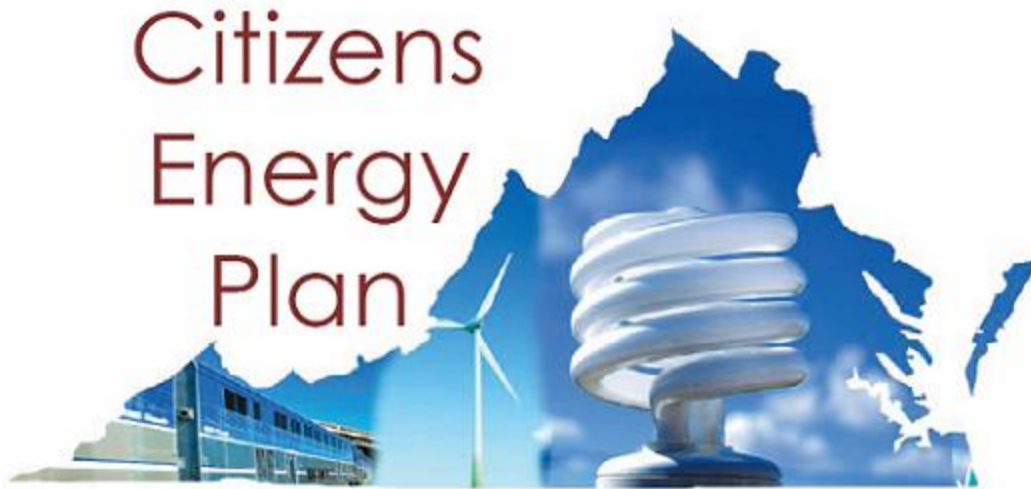


We already have the clean energy technology to tackle the pressing issue of global warming. But in order to safely and effectively mitigate the effects of climate change, we now need comprehensive global warming legislation.

We also need federal energy policy that will transition us away from our dirty, fossil-fuel past toward a clean energy future.



Join us!



The Sierra Club is America's oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization.

Our members and supporters are more than 1.3 million of your friends and neighbors. Inspired by nature, we work together to protect our communities and the planet.

With more than 17,000 members, the Virginia Chapter of Sierra Club places priority on promoting smart energy solutions to fight global warming, protecting the Commonwealth of Virginia's wild legacy, and making our communities safer and healthier places for all of us.

