

To: energymasterplan
Subject: DRAFT EMP Comments

As a person who is dedicated to the environment and has planted 400 trees in my adult community this springtime with more to follow I would like to comment on the energy issue facing New Jersey.

Last year, when gas prices were still manageable, my cousin and I drove out West to visit friends. Indiana or Illinois has their entire turnpike powered with energy provided by wind turbines. They grace a field overlooking the roadway without noise or interference. New Jersey is the 3rd or 4th most indebted state in the union. One way to climb out of this debt, provide for pensions, roads and schools is to increase our energy output.

All of our elected officials are against offshore drilling. No doubt a popular choice to reassure elections. However, offshore drilling is not like it was in the 1950's or 1960's. Many numerous safeguards have been instituted since then. To drill 40-50 miles offshore is not going to cause any "unsightly" rigs for tourist or vacationers. Nor would it bother fish or migrating birds as claimed. Too often our politicians have listened to the "lobbyists" who claim to have "our" interests in New Jersey but really just seek political favor from our elected officials.

Are people fed up with Trenton? You bet! Need I remind you all of Corzine's reception to increased tolls as he toured our state? Increasing tolls may become another issue deemed unnecessary with offshore drilling. IF the prediction that states permitting offshore drilling would receive monetary benefits large enough to offset the burdening debt of this state as reported why are the politicians hesitant? This is the one way to get NJ out of debt, provide for our future and put our fiscal house in order.

Wind turbines, and offshore drilling are much less fearful concepts than nuclear energy in my opinion. Yet, politicians are afraid of an outdated oil spill far more than a Chernobyl disaster in the most populated state in the union.

I'm tired of hearing about wasteful spending; cutbacks etc, when staring us directly in the face are two energy models that work elsewhere in the world while we bicker with environmentalists. The time has arrived for BOLD leadership and I don't see ANY at all in the state of New Jersey.

Respectfully,

Ron Vanadia
Barnegat, New Jersey