

I believe the United States, as the world's leader in science and technology, has a responsibility to develop solutions that protect our planet's resources without adversely affecting economic and social progress.

For too long, our country's dependence on foreign petroleum products and other non-renewable sources of energy has undermined our national security, polluted the air and delayed development of alternative forms of energy.

Alternative energy sources and energy efficient technologies will define the world's economy for the next generation and more. Despite the enormous advantage our research universities give us we are falling woefully behind. Current proposed budget cuts will also put us at a competitive disadvantage to other nations that are prioritizing investment in renewable energy. I will work to protect the research and the federal investments that promise to make us energy independent.

An important non-foreign source of energy is the oil, coal and natural gas that we have here in the United States. I believe we must remain skeptical and cautious about much of the proposed offshore drilling and that we must carefully balance the ecological, economical, and environmental impacts of all forms of energy extraction.

In this Congress efforts are already underway to roll back current environmental regulations. While we should be willing to take a look at regulations that are overly burdensome, and understand that regulations have an economic impact, we cannot simply do away all environmental protection. We have seen clusters of rare cancers and birth defects that we know are the result of an environmental exposure to something. It is important that we continue to move forward with identifying what pollutants are endangering our health and prevent them from entering our environment.

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