

Affirmative Case
Nuclear Energy
By Mary & Deborah York

In a time our relationship with the Middle East is critically delicate, and our nation uses up more energy than at any other point in history, it is essential that we free ourselves from the oil of other nations. Today my partner and I stand before you, resolved: that the United States federal government should substantially increase alternative energy incentives in the United States.

To clarify the round we present

OBSERVATION 1. Definitions

1. **Substantially**: Considerable in importance, value, degree, amount, or extent
2. **Policy**: A plan or course of action, as of a government, political party, or business, intended to influence and determine decisions, actions, and other matters
3. **Energy**: A source of usable power, such as petroleum or coal

All Definitions are from - *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*,
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OBSERVATION 2 is the CRITERION

...Or, weighing mechanism for the round. We as the affirmative would like to present the criterion of **National Security**. The team that best protects our national security should warrant your ballot.

Now let's look at the reason for change in

OBSERVATION 3, the HARMS

1. Rising oil prices

Even though we have seen a decline in oil prices, the trend is not a permanent one. According to
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MSNBC, on *Nov. 7, 2008*,

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/12400801/>

“Oil prices were sedentary Friday after this week’s giant sell-off, despite a ~~government report showing the unemployment rate hit a 14-year high last month~~ and predictions from an international energy agency that put the price of crude at \$200 per barrel by 2030. As far as the IEA [International Energy Agency] number, “they are looking out to 2030 and oil traders are focused on the next couple of hours,” ~~Ritterbusch said~~.

Given that a barrel of crude cost \$147 over the summer, \$200 is not hard to fathom, he said. Declining crude prices are a rare bright spot for most consumers.”

The IMPACT or significance of this is simple: **American citizens pay more.** You pay more at the pump and have less to spend on paying off your mortgage, repairing your car, or covering your monthly bills. Higher prices hit Americans where it hurts the most – their pocket books.

2. Instability in the Middle East

The instability in the Middle East is a critical problem that cannot be ignored. As a nation, we are dependent on energy to fuel our cars and businesses. We get most of our oil from the Middle East. Whenever something happens in that region, our oil prices fluctuate.

BBC News, 2 January 2008,

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/7048600.stm>

“The assassination of the former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto increased oil prices because stability in Pakistan is important to US policy in the Middle East.”

Because of this instability we have to be very careful what we do in Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

IMPACT: Our national security is at risk.

The terrorist threat in the Middle East, coupled with the need for energy, creates a lose-lose situation. Our ability to fight terror is hindered by our need for oil from the fragile regions in which we are working. This endangers the lives of every American.

To fix these problems we present

OBSERVATION 4 – the PLAN

Mandates

1. Congress shall re-open all nuclear power reactors within the United States.

Agency: Congress and the President

Enforcement: The US Federal Government

Funding: No funding will be needed for this plan. All extraneous costs will come from normal means.

We reserve the right to clarify this plan

OBSERVATION 5

Solvency

To reassure you that our plan can fix the problem, let's look at the effectiveness of nuclear energy.

1. Nuclear reactors are good sources of energy

Peter W. Huber, City Journal, 2005,

http://www.city-journal.org/html/15_1_nuclear_power.html

“~~And~~ an ounce of enriched-uranium fuel equals about 4 tons of coal, or 15 barrels of oil. That's why minuscule quantities contained in relatively tiny reactors can power a metropolis.”

OBSERVATION 6

Advantages

1. Increased American Jobs

With offshore drilling and Nuclear Power Plants opened there will be more jobs available for American citizens.

This will boost our economy and benefit everyone

2. Lower cost

With the independence from energy from fragile nations around the globe, our cost of oil will stabilize and decrease. Coupled with our nuclear power, electricity will also be more affordable.

Americans will be able to reclaim their pocket books!

3. Greater safety

We will no longer be dependent on foreign oil from unstable nations and our fight on terror will continue unhindered.

This will ensure greater safety for every American

It is for all of these reasons that I would urge an affirmative ballot to improve our nation and secure our future.