

JUNE 2, 2004

**SCHAKOWSKY: BUSH ADMINISTRATION MISSTATEMENT OF THE DAY -
ENERGY POLICY**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) issued "The Bush Administration Misstatement of the Day" on energy policy.

Yesterday, President Bush was asked [*"what more can you do"*](#) to deal with the rising price of gasoline. President Bush answered that Congress should pass his energy bill and allow for drilling in the Alaska wilderness, adding that *"we'd be producing an additional million barrels a day, which would be taking enormous pressure off the American consumer."*

However, according to the Center for American Progress:

LEGISLATION WOULD MAKE THINGS WORSE: The president dissembled on Tuesday about the effect his legislation could have had, implying the passage of his energy bill would have lowered gas prices and helped the country "become [less dependent](#) on foreign sources of energy." But Bush's energy bill, written by Vice President Dick Cheney's [secret energy task force](#) with the help of oil industry executives - including former Enron executive Ken Lay - was a [subsidy-laden](#) giveaway which would have done little to promote conservation or alternative fuels. The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) estimates the plan would "increase pollution, despoil the environment, threaten public health and accelerate global warming. Moreover, it would have [no impact on energy prices, and no practical effect on U.S. dependence on foreign sources of oil.](#)"

DRILLING IN THE ARCTIC IS NO SOLUTION: The president also reiterated his assertion

that the answer to America's energy needs was drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. ["Had we drilled in ANWR back in the mid-'90s," he said, "we'd be producing an additional million barrels a day, which would be taking enormous pressure off the American consumer."](#) In fact, while drilling in the region could potentially despoil one of "the world's last truly pristine wild places," [the U.S. Geological Survey](#) estimates the amount that could be recovered economically from the refuge would total roughly 3.2 billion barrels, only about a six-month U.S. supply. Moreover, "it would take 10 years for that oil to reach the pump, and even when production peaks -- in the distant year of 2027 -- the refuge would produce [less than 2 percent](#) of the oil Americans are expected to use that year."

DRYING UP THE LAND: More proof that America needs to [reduce its reliance on fossil fuels](#) : According to federal documents, "nearly three-fourths of the 40 million acres of public land leased for oil and gas development in the continental United States [aren't producing any oil or gas.](#)" " Nevertheless, "the Bush administration pushes to open more environmentally sensitive public lands for oil and gas development." In the face of the nation's dwindling resources, Cheney's Energy task Force "asked the [Bureau of Land Management] three years ago to find ways to open new federal lands to oil and gas leasing and to speed up the approval of drilling permits."

BUSH POLICIES MAKE GAS PROBLEM WORSE: The Bush administration has made matters worse with policies that encourage consumption, such as providing ["massive tax breaks to purchasers of SUVs."](#) Although high gas-prices may be [tempering enthusiasm for the gas-guzzling vehicles](#) , the administration's tax policies have left a loophole allowing some buyers to ["write off the entire cost of a new Hummer, or more than 30 other monster trucks or SUVs."](#)

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