

You may have heard that New York does not have a budget. That is only partly correct. New York has an energy budget. New York is planning to export \$30 Billion from the state for energy. That 30 billion represents more than 40% of the entire state budget once it is passed. Is that a reasonable energy policy for New York?

Saudi Arabia with 65% of the world's oil reserves has an energy policy. Their policy is to make as much money from oil as possible. In business is 25% a good profit margin? 50%? 100%? Saudi Arabia's profit margin is more than 200%, more than 500%, their profit margin is about 1000%. Another part of Saudi Arabia's energy policy is to stop energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies.

Does the United States have an energy policy? Yes, it is to support Saudi Arabia's energy policy and Saudi's House of Saud undemocratic government. The US supports them with 1000% profit margins and military wars in the Mideast to protect Saudi oil.

Is this intelligent US energy policy? Yes! emphatically yes, say the large energy companies. These large energy companies make large profits on expensive energy and they want our government to protect those profits and therefore the Saudi oil and the Saudi government. Good energy policy for the rich. Good for how long? Cheap oil is gone as soon as Saudi Arabia says it is gone. Cheap oil is also gone as soon as demand surpasses the oil mining rate. Oil companies call it "production" but they are not producing oil they are mining it.

Oil mining peaked in the US in 1970. It is now peaking or past peak essentially everywhere except the mid east and possibly the former Soviet Union. When oil mining cannot keep up with demand, oil will no longer be cheap. China and India each have over a billion people who want to live more like we do. Demand for energy will certainly increase. Oil mining is finite, as finite as the laws of physics.

Are we happy that New York's energy budget and energy policy follows US policy which is dictated by Saudi Arabia? No. Does it have to be that way? No, a resounding No!

I am 100% powered by solar energy, so are you, every thought and motion. Our food is solar energy. Wind is solar energy and wind from 9 states could power our whole country. Direct solar energy from less than a quarter of Arizona could power our whole country. These technologies were developed in the 1980s in this country. Because Saudi Arabia and big energy companies don't want us to use them, we don't.

Twenty years ago my family moved into a passive solar house in Troy. That saves about \$1000 for heating that we don't send out of the state for energy each year, \$20,000 so far and counting.

Okay the 500,000 solar houses in this country save about \$500 million, a drop in the bucket, \$500million. What about commercial quantities of energy? First of all let's admit that we in the US waste half our energy. We would save energy and money with energy efficiency, high tech energy efficiency, create more jobs too, and keep those dollars in the US instead of sending them to Saudi Arabia.

In India where over a billion people live on less than \$2 per day, solar energy concentrator systems are now cost competitive with oil. Using local materials, technology from the West and local labor, solar energy is good for the bottom line. Oh yes and it is good for the environment too.

I wasn't around for the depression and don't know about World War II. Some of you don't know about the gasoline lines in the '70s. Unlimited cheap energy is what we have grown up with. It won't last. Even though Saudi Arabia alone will have a later peak in about 2012, its supply won't be enough to keep the rest of the world from peaking before about 2009. Let's press our politicians and their big company friends toward an energy policy of efficiency and renewable energy and stop exporting so many dollars for foreign oil.