

## Energy

*“Our nation’s energy problem is not new. It has taken years of failed policies to get us to the present crisis.” – Rep. Harry Reid, May 17, 2006.<sup>1</sup>*

### The Promise

The Democrats’ first 100 hours plan aims to reduce American dependence on foreign oil. The opening move is to roll back the multi-billion dollar subsidies to Big Oil and reinvest them into homegrown energy alternatives, such as biofuels and ethanol.

### The Problem

America’s dependence on oil has become a threat to our nation’s economic and national security, and a burden on working families.

- Half of low-income households could not afford last year’s heating bills, 1/3 reported that they sacrificed on medicine to pay for heat, 1/5 gave up food for a day or more.
- Gas prices have sky rocketed; the cost of regular unleaded gasoline grew by 58 percent from 2000 to 2005<sup>2</sup> and families are squeezed at the pump.<sup>3</sup>
- 65% of oil we consume is imported from abroad, a percentage that rises each year.

### The People

The American people are hungry for change. Public opinion research by Yale University found that 92% of Americans are worried about dependence on foreign oil and 93% want the government to develop new energy alternatives and require the auto industry to make more efficient cars and trucks.

### The Down Payment

Democrats will introduce legislation to roll back multi-billion dollar subsidies for established oil interests. That won’t take us to energy independence immediately. Full independence would require a concerted drive like that called for by the Apollo Alliance ([www.apolloalliance.org](http://www.apolloalliance.org)), the 100 plan is a change in direction and a marker of things to come.

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<sup>1</sup> Reid, Harry. “Democrats Announce Sweeping New Energy Legislation.” May 17 2006. <http://democrats.senate.gov/energy/cleanedge/>

<sup>2</sup> Miller, George. “Democrats’ New Direction for America: A Growing Economy that Benefits Every American Family.” September 2006. <http://edworkforce.house.gov/democrats/pdf/EconomyReportSept06.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> “History Repeats Itself: As the Price of Gas Goes Up, The Nation’s Odometer Slows Down.” Pew Research Center. August 8, 2006. <http://pewresearch.org/social/pack.php?PackID=17>