



Senate Democrats on Energy Independence

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Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Chair, Energy Independence 2020

As a companion to the post about the [House Democrats plan on transportation and energy](#), there is the [Senate Democrats plan on Energy Independence by 2020](#). With the Senate now definitely being run by Democrats, we might as well get a head start on what the Senate Democrats think about energy policy.

I have to say that as a statement of principles, I like this better than the biofuel heavy [House Democratic Plan](#). It's certainly a broader approach that looks at many more pieces of the energy picture.

Reduce Burdens on Consumers and the Environment

- *Prevent oil company price gouging, market manipulation, and disaster profiteering
- *Increase energy market transparency and consumer choice at the pump
- *Expand the Earned Income Tax Credit to cover increased household energy costs
- *Provide car buyers with accurate fuel economy information
- *Protect pristine public lands from short-sighted oil and gas exploitation
- *Enhance funding for weatherization and low-income energy assistance in all climates

Launch an Apollo Project for Energy

- *Free the US from foreign oil by 2020 by supporting research, development, and production of alternative energy sources..

Diversify and Expand Our Energy Supplies

- *Establish a national electricity standard that requires greater use of renewable energy
- *Enhance incentives for energy production from solar, wind, and geothermal
- *Increase dramatically the production of domestically grown biofuels
- *Increase environmentally friendly extraction of oil and gas from existing domestic sources
- *Encourage construction of the Alaskan natural gas pipeline
- *Support the development of a hydrogen economy
- *Promote deployment of advanced clean coal technology with carbon capture and storage

Improve Energy Security and Reduce Price Volatility

- *Create geographically diverse strategic gasoline and jet fuel reserves
- *Streamline fuel specifications while maintaining state clean air protections
- *Encourage the development of a smarter and more distributed electricity system

Reduce Demand for Oil and Natural Gas

- * Lower petroleum use in the federal fleet and improve government conservation efforts
- * Provide consumers with more fuel efficient vehicle choices
- * Develop renewable substitutes to replace natural gas use in the petrochemical industry
- * Improve infrastructure and electricity options for hybrids and plug-in hybrids
- * Increase mass transit use and incentivize transit-oriented development
- * Improve air traffic management to shorten flight times
- * Reduce tractor trailer fuel needs by improving aerodynamics, logistics, and idling

Invest in Energy Efficiency and American Jobs

- * Update efficiency standards for appliances and small engines
- * Invest in math and science education for the next generation of energy engineers
- * Ensure access to worker training and retraining in advanced energy technologies
- * Leverage trade relationships to maintain competitiveness of energy-intensive U.S. manufacturers

One big missing piece here is any mention of nuclear, which I think should be at least a piece of the puzzle.



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