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We are addicted to foreign oil.

It's an addiction that threatens our economy, our environment and our national security. It touches every part of our daily lives and ties our hands as a nation and a people. The addiction has worsened for decades and now it's reached a point of crisis.

**In 1970, we imported 24% of our oil.
Today it's nearly 70% and growing.**

As imports grow and world prices rise, the amount of money we send to foreign nations every year is soaring. At current oil prices, we will send \$700 billion dollars out of the country this year alone. Projected over the next 10 years the cost will be \$10 trillion — it will be the greatest transfer of wealth in the history of mankind.

New York and America uses a lot of oil. Every day 85 million barrels of oil are produced around the world, and 21 million of those are used here in the United States. That's 25% of the world's oil demand. Used by just 4% of the world's population.

Can't we just produce more oil? World oil production peaked in 2005. Despite growing demand and an unprecedented increase in prices, oil production has fallen over the last three years. Oil is getting more expensive to produce, harder to find and there just isn't enough of it to keep up with demand. The simple truth is that cheap and easy oil is gone.

What's the good news?

The United States is the Saudi Arabia of wind power.

The Department of Energy reports that 20% of America's electricity can come from wind. Today's wind turbines stand up to 410 feet tall, with blades that stretch 148 feet in length. The blades collect the wind's kinetic energy. In one year, a 3-megawatt wind turbine produces as much energy as 12,000 barrels of imported oil.

Wind power currently accounts for 48 billion KWh of electricity a year in the United States — enough to serve more than 4.5 million households. That is still only about 1% of current demand, but the potential of wind is much greater.

An economic revival for rural America.

Developing wind power is an investment in rural America. To witness the economic promise of wind energy, look no further than Sweetwater, Texas. Sweetwater was typical of many small towns in middle-America. With a shortage of good jobs, the youth of Sweetwater were leaving in search of greater opportunities. The town's population dropped from 12,000 to under 10,000. When a large wind power facility was built outside of town, Sweetwater experienced a revival. New economic opportunity brought the town back to life and the population has grown back up to 12,000. In addition to creating new construction and maintenance jobs, thousands of Americans will be employed to manufacture the turbines and blades. These are high skill jobs that pay on a scale comparable to aerospace jobs. Plus, wind turbines don't interfere with farming and grazing, so they don't threaten food production or existing local economies.

Are you ready to lead??

We need a blueprint to reduce foreign oil dependence by harnessing domestic energy alternatives, and buy us time to develop even greater new technologies. Building new wind generation facilities can replace more than one-third of our foreign oil imports in 10 years. But it will take leadership.

You can start changing New York's and America's future today by breaking the hammerlock of foreign oil and building a new domestic energy future with a focus on sustainability.

Thank you for listening!

Karen Andersson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karen Andersson', written in a cursive style.