

The 21st Century Energy Initiative

How to solve our energy problems, once and for all.

By Mark Paul

Book Excerpt: *The Presidential Speech I'd like to Hear*

To solve our energy problems, once and for all and to make a significant dent in the price of gas at the pump, we must take bold actions in a concerted manner.

We cannot drill our way out of this grand challenge, nor can we tax our way out. We can only innovate our way out: Moving beyond business and

government as usual, we must come together to overcome this grand challenge.

I would like to hear the President of the United States address this grand challenge with the following speech, backed up with actions.

“Today marks a new beginning.

“For too long, this nation has absolved itself of responsibility for energy independence. For too long, we have been divisive in our words and actions. For too long, we have waited for the “other” side to come to our way of thinking.

“This must stop. Today.

“We can continue down our present course of “business as usual” or we can take *bold* action to free ourselves from fossil fuel addiction.

“I choose to take bold action.

“Today we begin a new journey. A journey toward energy independence. A journey toward lower carbon emissions.

“Our *response* to the current energy crisis must be *no less severe* than the crisis we face.

“Our charge is to leave the world better than we found it. Our charge is to work collaboratively, with common purpose – to become *energy-independent* by the year 2025 and become a *net-exporter of renewable energy* by the year 2045.

“The grand challenge in front of us requires more time than just one administration, one election cycle or one quarterly reporting period. It will take at least a generation to solve.

“To become energy *independent* we must invest in advanced and *disruptive* energy technologies that will completely displace petroleum-based energy.

“To accomplish this, we are creating the *21st Century Energy Initiative* with the goal of developing and commercializing new, sustainable energy technologies that will lead to energy independence by 2025.

“The actions we take include:

- Creating a Renewable Energy Technology Accelerator.
- This Accelerator will be financed by \$15 *billion* per year by the Federal Government: with an eleven cent per gallon “*energy independence investment fee*”.
- The investment goal is \$50 billion per year, supported by energy companies.
- New technologies will not remain in the laboratories, as they mainly have over the past 35

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years. These funds will accelerate research through *commercialization*.

- Energy companies who invest 10% of their net profits into renewable energy technologies – through this Accelerator – will be exempt from windfall profits taxes.
- We view energy companies as our partners, not as adversaries.
- Renewable Energy Production Tax Credits will be implemented for the next 20 years so that private capital formation can occur.
- Energy efficiency Investment Tax Credits will be implemented for this same time period.
- We are opening several oil fields for production. Although this is not a long-term solution, it is part of a collaborative, holistic solution to allow oil-dollars to stay at home.
- We are also implementing a Carbon Tax for the next 20 years, to speed the deployment of low-carbon solutions.
- Through tax credits, we are incentivizing automakers to significantly raise fuel economy.

“Not everyone will agree with these initiatives. However, if we focus on our oppositions, instead of taking collaborative steps, we will get the same results that we have over the past 35 years. Only worse.

“Do you choose to be part of the problem? Or part of the solution?”

“We cannot fail. To do so would jeopardize our way of life. And it would jeopardize the freedom and liberty upon which our democratic society was built.

“Today marks a new beginning.

“Today, we choose to take bold actions.

“Please join us.

“Thank you.”

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He is the author of two business books. His third book (“*The 21st Energy Initiative*”), from which this text is excerpted, is available at his blog: www.energy2025.com.