

For Immediate Release:



T. Boone Pickens Praises Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid For Comments On Advancement Of Natural Gas Heavy Duty Fleet Vehicles

Dallas, TX— February 3, 2009 – Legendary Texas energy executive T. Boone Pickens, the architect of “The Pickens Plan” to reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil, today praised U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid for comments advancing the use of natural gas as a transportation fuel for the nation’s heavy duty fleet vehicle market.

Pickens praised the comments in a special email to the nearly 1.5 million members of “The New Energy Army” who have enlisted to help win support for the plan.

Pickens joined Reid and John Podesta, who heads up the Center for American Progress, in a special telephone conference call with reporters on Monday to call attention to an upcoming energy summit to highlight the nation’s energy problems and to focus on near- and long-term solutions. That summit is scheduled in Washington, D.C., for February 23.

In the call, Reid highlighted natural gas as a domestic alternative to foreign oil/diesel in heavy duty fleet applications, a key element of “The Pickens Plan.” His remarks called for government leadership and support in making that happen.

"If we're going to convert these big trucks into natural gas, there needs to be some big kick in the rear to get it done; it can't be done in the private sector alone, and this is something that we need to take a look at," Reid said.

"We need to see incentives, grants, planning dollars and some serious effort put into public-private partnerships to accelerate the deployment of heavy-duty natural gas vehicles and other clean-fuel vehicles and infrastructure," he later told Dow Jones in an email.

"Hopefully, the economic recovery package, the next energy bill and maybe even the climate bill will expedite this shift away from greater dependence on oil," he said.

Pickens, in an email to The New Energy Army, said he’s more optimistic than ever that leadership is developing within Washington, and in President Barack Obama’s administration, to get serious about America’s escalating dependence on foreign oil. Pickens said that dependency, nearing the 70 percent mark, threatens America’s national security and its economy.

“I think it’s important to commend Senator Reid for his remarks and urge his leadership and involvement going forward to make sure our abundant, domestic supply of clean burning natural

gas becomes a cornerstone transportation fuel in heavy duty vehicles as Congress continues to advance energy legislation,” Pickens said.

Pickens noted that there are about six million heavy duty vehicles in the U.S., and that the U.S. can achieve a nearly 5 percent reduction in foreign oil/diesel use if just 350,000 begin using natural gas as a domestic alternative.

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Unveiled on July 8, 2008 by T. Boone Pickens, the Pickens Plan is a detailed solution for ending the United States’ growing dependence on foreign oil. Earlier this year, when oil prices reached \$140/barrel, America was spending about \$700 billion for foreign oil, equaling the greatest transfer of wealth in human history. That figure has decreased some while oil prices have retreated, but the U.S. is still dependent on foreign nations for nearly 70 percent of its oil, representing a continuing national economic and national security threat. The plan calls for investing in power generation from domestic renewable resources such as wind and using our abundant supplies of natural gas as a transportation fuel, replacing more than one-third of our imported oil.

More than 1,350,000 people have joined the Pickens Army through the website www.pickensplan.com , which has had over 14,000,000 hits. For more information on the Pickens Plan please visit our website.

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