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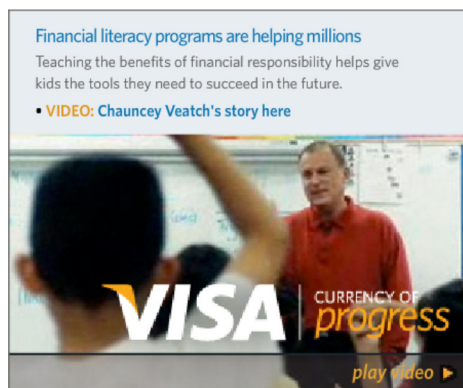
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Oil, natural gas industries can provide jobs boost

By Larry Nichols - 12/07/09 08:09 PM ET

With each passing day, many Americans continue to find themselves without jobs, and many are discouraged about finding one any time soon. While unemployment affects individuals primarily, it also hurts state and local governments. It harms our nation, its ability to meet citizens' needs and its ability to confront challenges abroad.

It was proper, then, that our nation's leaders recently held a jobs summit, turning their attention to the question of how best to put America back to work as quickly as possible. The nation is suffering and in desperate need of answers as to how to put paychecks into Americans' pocketbooks.



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The American oil and natural gas industry has some of those answers and can be a vital part of the solution. We bring with us an unparalleled record for creating and supporting millions of good-paying jobs in every region of this country and every segment of the economy.

Our industry supports 9.2 million jobs in all segments of the economy, from manufacturing to retail, and it adds more than \$1 trillion to the nation's economy. So it's not just the oilfield or refinery workers who benefit from a healthy oil and natural gas industry, but also your local car dealer and restaurant owner, and the nearby Wal-Mart — and all those who work for them.

If you were to take all those who work for the oil and gas industry, 2.1 million, their number would be greater than the population of 15 states. Their hard work, whether it's in sub-zero temperatures on the Arctic tundra, in stark desolation 50 miles off the Gulf coast or in a state-of-the-art refinery, brings Americans the energy they demand and need.

Once the economy begins to recover, these 2.1 million people will be there to provide the additional fuels needed to re-energize our nation. America will need all kinds of jobs in all sectors, but without the energy to power the factories, without the natural gas to generate electricity, and without the fuel to get the goods to markets and people to work, few of those new jobs can become a reality.

And speaking of new jobs: We can provide those, too, plenty of them. Between 2004 and 2007, the oil and gas industry created 2 million new jobs. But we can

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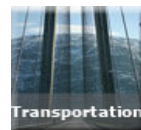
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have even more new jobs, with the right government policies. For instance, if we were to get the go-ahead to tap oil and natural gas resources in non-park, multi-use federal lands (again, to provide the energy America needs and will need), it would create 160,000 new jobs while generating more than \$1.7 trillion in government revenue.

The development of Canadian oil sands could add another 342,000 U.S. jobs between 2010 and 2015. The development of Pennsylvania's Marcellus Shale alone could create about 50,000 new jobs. Other states with significant potential to develop shale gas could also benefit.



On any given day, thousands of American construction employees are working to operate, maintain and upgrade the vast network of refineries, pipelines and storage tanks. While refineries have felt the impact of the economic downturn in recent years, as soon as the economy turns upward, they will once again be called upon to produce the additional

gasoline, diesel and fuel oil needed to sustain a thriving economy, and that could lead to additional good-paying jobs.

Then there are those "green" jobs that everybody is talking about. America's oil and gas industry is already creating them. Between 2000 and 2008, the industry invested \$58.4 billion in greenhouse gas-mitigating technologies. That is more than was invested by either the federal government or by all other U.S.-based private industries combined. Those investments lead to jobs across the country.

It is imperative that we, the leaders of the oil and natural gas industry, are part of the solution to the challenge of creating jobs so that we can once again become a proud nation of workers.

Nichols is chairman and CEO of Devon Energy Corp., based in Oklahoma City, and chairman of the American Petroleum Institute.

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The public doesn't want more of the same dirty, polluting fossil fuel industry jobs that help create environmental sacrifice zones (tar sands, shale gas, mountaintop removal, etc.) Besides being problematic in so many ways, they are also shortsighted and limited in duration, given the GHG situation, water resource issues, and general environmental pollution concerns for the future. Real, lasting jobs in renewable energy, as well as complementary positions in weatherizing, efficiency, and conservation are the actual, non-quote green jobs that Americans deserve and demand. Leave it to the fossil fuel industry to be mentally stuck in the 1950s.

BY **JANE Q. PUBLIC** on 12/08/2009 at 11:17

What is the transition plan to go from dependence on fossil fuels to dependence on renewables? Show me the plan, please. I agree on reducing crude consumption while increasing natural gas consumption. Develop a plan to reduce the crude imports (foreign) and then phase out the crude from Canada and US. We have plenty of natural gas supplies in North America to offset the reduction in oil. Of course, this assumes all industries that depend on crude can make the transition (or go out of business).

BY **IRONBOOTS** on 12/08/2009 at 11:58

I think the need for clean drinking water far outweighs the need for jobs and natural gas. Visit Dimock, PA for a firsthand look at the true cost of Marcellus Shale drilling.

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BY **DON WILLIAMS** on 12/08/2009 at 12:25

It's with unfortunate and misleading comments like these that the debate over energy for America becomes polarized and progress grinds to a halt. We will need oil and natural gas for decades to come; to deny that is worse than misguided and uninformed, it borders on irresponsible.

BY **DDANNYWMS** on 12/08/2009 at 13:07

Think of the U.S. economy as a living being. If you cut off a finger it will hurt and bleed a bit, but it should not kill it. If we start chopping of entire limbs it's not going to be good. The U.S. oil, gas and coal companies are limbs of our economy. It doesn

BY **TAYLOR COLLIER** on 12/08/2009 at 21:07

At present, we are the ONLY nation in the world stupid enough to prohibit energy development on 80% of our country. For now, the lunatic fringe is shouting the loudest but it will soon confront the economic realities. We must continue to develop ALL of our energy resources simultaneously and to shatter this AGW fairy tale being peddled by rent seeking governments globally. That day is fast approaching, fortunately.

BY **ROBERT** on 12/09/2009 at 08:43

There are so many things that this industry provides other than fuels. Plastic is integral to our society and is used in Medical devices, food storage, Auto parts, clothing and many more items. Plastic is only one of the by-products of the oil industry. Alternative energy is great. But despite the campaign promises it won't happen overnight. It has taken the oil industry over 100 years to achieve what we have today. The alternatives have a long way to go for efficiency and affordability. Think of the corn used for ethanol; diesel for the farm implements, fuel to transport and refine. Were there any actual energy savings? If you look at the history of refining there is a definite improvement in the safety and enviromental areas. 1950's it is not.

BY **KIMBERLY COMEAUX** on 12/09/2009 at 22:02

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