A Petition for the NAS to Study the Decline of Worldwide Oil Production

A Call to President Barack Obama and to the Congress of the United States of America to Commission a Comprehensive Study of Oil Production Decline (termed "Peak Oil"): Facts, Impacts and Mitigation and Preparedness Options to be undertaken by the National Academy of Sciences (**NAS**), the National Academy of Engineering (**NAE**), the Institute of Medicine (**IOM**) and the National Research Council (**NRC**).

Whereas noted governmental, industrial and scientific authorities indicate the Nation and the World face unprecedented challenge and hardships due to the decline of worldwide oil production.[1]

Whereas, many of these authorities indicate that time is of the utmost importance.[2]

Whereas, many studies also conclude that leaving the problem unaddressed will result in major economic dislocations and the possibility of global economic collapse.[3]

Therefore, we, the undersigned, petition the Congress and the President to commission the NAS, NAE, IOM and NRC to undertake a comprehensive, nonpartisan analysis of the facts, impacts and implications of "Peak Oil" in order to advise the Nation on appropriate responses.[4]

Further, we request that this comprehensive study be undertaken with speed and with a formal mechanism whereby independent analyses regarding causes, impacts, and mitigation, risk management, and contingency options be considered by members of the study committees.

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[1] **US Army Corps of Engineers**, **Energy Trends and Their Implications for the US. Army Installations.** Construction Engineering. Sep 05. ERDC/CERL TR-05-21. analysis of "primary issues affecting energy options" and the Executive Summary, p IV, states "Domestic production of both oil and natural gas are past their peak and world petroleum production is nearing its peak." http://stinet.dtic.mil/cgi%2Dbin/GetTRDoc?AD=A440265

International Energy Agency (IEA) World Energy Outlook 2008. English Executive Summary, p. 3 "Current global trends in energy supply are patently unsustainable", and on page 7 "Some 64 mb/d of additional gross capacity - the equivalent of almost six times that of Saudi Arabia today - needs to be brought on stream between 2007 and 2030." http://www.worldenergyoutlook.org/docs/weo2008/WEO2008_es_english.pdf

[2] **US Department of Energy: Peaking of World Oil Production: Feb 5, 07.** DOE/NETL-2007/1263. p6 "The mitigation of the post peaking oil shortage will require extremely large-scale action, starting roughly 20 years before the onset of peaking" http://www.netl.doe.gov/energy%2Danalyses/pubs/Peaking%20of%20World%20Oil%20Production%20%2D%20Recent%20Forecasts%20%2D%20NETL%20Re.pdf

[3] **DOE NETL**. **Peaking of World Oil Production: Impacts, Mitigation, & Risk Management.** February 2005 Hirsch, R.L., Bezdek, R., Wendling, R "… the failure to act on a timely basis could have debilitating impacts on the world economy." p.60 http://www.netl.doe.gov/publications/others/pdf/Oil_Peaking_NETL.pdf **;** also see (1) above.

[4] **US Government Accountability Office, Report to Congressional Requesters**. **Crude Oil. Uncertainty about Future Oil Supplies Makes It Important to Develop a Strategy Addressing a Peak and Decline in Oil Production. February 7, 2007**. GAO-07-283. In the Highlights section , "no coordinated federal strategy for reducing uncertainty about the peak's timing or mitigating its consequences." http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d07283.pdf