



The Obama-Abercrombie Comprehensive Energy Plan

May 11, 2009

CLAIM: “Rep. Neil Abercrombie has given “thumbs down” to President Obama’s clean energy jobs plan.”

FACT: Neil Abercrombie and Barack Obama agree on America’s need for energy independence from imported oil, and on an energy future based on full development of alternative energy and renewable technologies.

President Obama has said since August 2008 that he would support offshore drilling as part of a comprehensive energy plan.

Congressman Abercrombie and a nonpartisan group of House members have introduced legislation to move the country away from dependence on foreign oil and toward a green energy future by:

- 1.) Re-establishing restrictions on offshore drilling within 20 miles of the shoreline. The federal ban expired last September.
- 2.) Making limited offshore drilling pay to fully develop alternative fuels and renewable technologies to carry most of the nation’s energy load.
- 3.) Dedicating revenues from limited offshore drilling as follows:
 - 20 percent for the *Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Reserve* to pay for alternative energy and conservation tax incentives;
 - 10 percent for *Clean Coal Technology Deployment Carbon Capture and Sequestration Reserve* for the research and development of the most advanced pollution controls to prevent the release of carbon and other greenhouse gasses from coal fired power plants;

- 10 percent for the *Environmental Restoration Reserve*, funding to protect the overall health of the national ecosystem, primarily wildlife refuges, national parks, lakes, bays, rivers and streams;
- 30 percent to *producing states* that work with the federal government to regulate exploration and production off their shores;
- 8 percent for the *Conservation Reserve* to fund conservation efforts for America's natural resources and to increase energy efficiency in buildings and transportation;
- 5 percent for the *Carbon Free Technology Deployment and Nuclear Energy Reserve* dedicated to developing carbon free technology and safe waste storage;
- 5 percent for the *Clean Water Reserve* to modernize and rebuild America's water and wastewater infrastructure to ensure clean water;
- 2 percent for the *Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)* to provide funding for energy assistance to help the elderly and poor keep the heat on during the winter; and
- 10 percent for the U.S. *Treasury's general fund*.

CLAIM: *“Abercrombie is actively promoting a giveaway to oil companies.”*

FACT: Making oil companies pay billions of dollars to the U.S. government in lease fees and royalties for the right to produce oil off our shores is hardly a giveaway. And, these are billions of dollars the U.S. government is not receiving now.

CLAIM: *“Neil Abercrombie needs to know it’s not okay for him to actively campaign against clean energy jobs for Hawaii.”*

FACT: Neil has been working hard to create clean energy jobs in Hawaii for years. He's brought millions of federal dollars to the State for alternative and renewable energy research — everything from biofuels, photo-voltaic and hydrogen fuels cells to ocean thermal wave energy projects.

CLAIM: *“Rep. Abercrombie opposes President Obama’s clean energy plan.”*

FACT: Neil Abercrombie continues to work closely with the White House and Congressional leaders on a national energy plan that moves America toward energy independence. No one wins if our march toward a green energy future is tied up in a partisan fight. We have to find common ground quickly and keep moving forward.

CLAIM: *“Rep. Abercrombie has been trash-talking the clean energy bill.”*

FACT: Waxman-Markey isn't President Obama's clean energy plan. It's a proposal that currently contains no language on cap and trade.

At the same time, the legislation from Neil's bipartisan House Energy Working Group has already been introduced and is supported by Democrats and Republicans. Last year, the Abercrombie-Peterson energy bill had nearly 140 legislative co-sponsors.

CLAIM: *“Most of the key provisions of the Waxman-Markey proposal are already law in Hawaii.”*

FACT: Very true. And Rep. Abercrombie wants to be sure that federal legislation doesn't weaken, supersede or nullify Hawaii law. He does not oppose the cap and trade concept. He just wants to be sure it makes sense for Hawaii.

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