

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 689

To promote the oil independence of the United States, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 30, 2011

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Ms. SNOWE) introduced the following bill;  
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Nat-  
ural Resources

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## A BILL

To promote the oil independence of the United States, and  
for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Energy Security Act  
5 of 2011”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-  
9 trator” means the Administrator of the Environ-  
10 mental Protection Agency.

1           (2) COUNCIL.—The term “Council” means the  
2           National Energy Security Council established by sec-  
3           tion 4.

4           (3) NATIONAL ENERGY SECURITY PROGRAM.—  
5           The term “national energy security program” means  
6           the national energy security program established by  
7           section 3.

8           (4) NATIONAL OIL INDEPENDENCE GOAL.—The  
9           term “national oil independence goal” means the na-  
10          tional oil independence goal established under sec-  
11          tion 3(c).

12          (5) NATIONAL OIL INDEPENDENCE PLAN.—The  
13          term “national oil independence plan” means the na-  
14          tional oil independence plan established under sec-  
15          tion 3(d).

16 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL ENERGY SECURITY PROGRAM.**

17          (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the  
18          Executive Office of the President the national energy secu-  
19          rity program.

20          (b) MISSION.—The mission of the national energy se-  
21          curity program shall be to coordinate the activities and  
22          policies of the Federal Government to ensure, to the max-  
23          imum extent practicable, that the United States meets—

24                  (1) goals for reducing oil dependence, oil im-  
25                  ports, and oil consumption; and

1           (2) other energy policy goals, including goals  
2 for—

3           (A) enhancing the competitiveness of the  
4 United States in clean energy technology;

5           (B) strengthening clean energy technology  
6 manufacturing in the United States;

7           (C) reducing greenhouse gas emissions;  
8 and

9           (D) reducing hazardous pollutants.

10 (c) NATIONAL OIL INDEPENDENCE GOAL.—

11           (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), it  
12 is the goal of the United States to reduce oil con-  
13 sumption by the quantity that is equal to or greater  
14 than the quantity of oil imported by the United  
15 States from outside of North America by calendar  
16 year 2030 (as compared to the rate of oil consump-  
17 tion projected for calendar year 2030 as of the date  
18 of enactment of this Act).

19           (2) ADJUSTMENTS.—The President, in con-  
20 sultation with the Council—

21           (A) may adjust the numeric goal for cal-  
22 endar year 2030 established under paragraph  
23 (1);

24           (B) shall ensure that any new goal estab-  
25 lished under subparagraph (A) represents the

1 maximum practicable oil savings achievable,  
2 taking into account other benefits of reducing  
3 oil consumption (including economic, security,  
4 and environmental benefits) and costs or other  
5 economic effects; and

6 (C) if any new goal established under sub-  
7 paragraph (A) is lower than the goal estab-  
8 lished under paragraph (1), shall establish an  
9 additional goal for reducing oil consumption in  
10 the United States by a quantity that is equal to  
11 or greater than the quantity of oil imported by  
12 the United States from outside of North Amer-  
13 ica on the fastest timeline practicable, taking  
14 into account other benefits of reducing oil con-  
15 sumption (including economic, security, and en-  
16 vironmental benefits) and costs or other eco-  
17 nomic effects.

18 (d) NATIONAL OIL INDEPENDENCE PLAN.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—The President, in coordina-  
20 tion with the Council and the Director of the Office  
21 of Management and Budget, shall—

22 (A) develop a national oil independence  
23 plan that describes programs and activities that  
24 will be implemented to meet or exceed the na-

1           tional oil independence goal and other goals es-  
2           tablished pursuant to subsection (c);

3           (B) submit the national oil independence  
4           plan to Congress not later than 180 days after  
5           the date of enactment of this Act; and

6           (C) submit an updated national oil inde-  
7           pendence plan to Congress every 2 years there-  
8           after.

9           (2) REVIEW OF FEDERAL POLICIES, PROGRAMS,  
10          AND AUTHORITIES.—Not later than 120 days after  
11          the date of enactment of this Act, the President, in  
12          coordination with the Council and the Director of  
13          the Office of Management and Budget, shall review  
14          existing programs and authorities of the Federal  
15          Government and other applicable policies (including  
16          tax policies) to determine—

17                 (A)(i) which programs, authorities, or poli-  
18                 cies could be used to accelerate reductions in oil  
19                 dependence; and

20                 (ii) any means by which the programs, au-  
21                 thorities, or policies—

22                         (I) could be used to maximize reduc-  
23                         tions in oil dependence; or

1 (II) would require modification in  
2 order to be used to maximize reductions in  
3 oil dependence; and

4 (B)(i) which programs, authorities, or poli-  
5 cies have the effect of increasing oil consump-  
6 tion and oil dependence or otherwise create bar-  
7 riers to reducing oil consumption and oil de-  
8 pendence; and

9 (ii) the manner by which the programs, au-  
10 thorities, or policies—

11 (I) have the effect of encouraging oil  
12 consumption or oil dependence or otherwise  
13 create barriers to reducing oil consumption  
14 and oil dependence; and

15 (II) could be modified or eliminated to  
16 help meet the goal of reducing oil con-  
17 sumption and oil dependence.

18 (3) CONTENTS.—At a minimum, the national  
19 oil independence plan shall—

20 (A) describe the results and conclusions of  
21 the review conducted under paragraph (2);

22 (B) as appropriate, include—

23 (i) the use of programs, authorities,  
24 or policies described in paragraph (2)(A);  
25 and

1 (ii) if existing authority allows, pro-  
2 posals to modify or eliminate programs,  
3 authorities, or policies described in para-  
4 graph (2)(B);

5 (C) include recommendations to Congress  
6 for legislation that would further—

7 (i) promote reductions in oil consump-  
8 tion and oil dependence;

9 (ii) reduce barriers to reducing oil  
10 consumption and oil dependence; and

11 (iii) help meet the energy policy goals  
12 of the United States;

13 (D) include a timetable for achieving the  
14 national oil independence goal, including in-  
15 terim targets on not less than a biennial basis;

16 (E) a plan for coordinating actions across  
17 the Federal Government to ensure, to the max-  
18 imum extent practicable, that the national oil  
19 independence goal is met; and

20 (F) a timeline for issuing rules, Executive  
21 orders, or other policy instruments that will im-  
22 plement the recommendations contained the na-  
23 tional oil independence plan.

1           (e) ANNUAL REQUESTS TO CONGRESS.—When sub-  
2     mitting annual budget requests to Congress, the President  
3     shall include—

4           (1)(A) requests for sufficient funding for such  
5     programs the President considers appropriate to im-  
6     plement the national oil independence plan; and

7           (B) if the amount of funding is not sufficient  
8     to meet the national oil independence goal, a de-  
9     scription of the amount of funding that would be  
10    necessary to meet the goal;

11          (2)(A) requests for such additional authorities  
12    or changes to existing laws or authorities as the  
13    President considers appropriate in order to imple-  
14    ment the national oil independence plan; and

15          (B) if the amount of funding is not sufficient  
16    to meet the national oil independence goal, a de-  
17    scription of such additional authority or changes to  
18    existing laws or authorities as would be necessary to  
19    meet the goal; and

20          (3) a report on the oil consumption and imports  
21    of the United States relative to the national oil inde-  
22    pendence goal and the interim targets and timelines  
23    established in the national oil independence plan.



1 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL ENERGY SECURITY COUNCIL.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the  
3 Executive Office of the President a National Energy Secu-  
4 rity Council.

5 (b) MISSION.—The mission of the Council shall be  
6 to assist and advise the President in—

7 (1) establishing the national oil independence  
8 goal in numeric terms of barrels per day of oil con-  
9 sumption, based on the most recent consumption es-  
10 timates by the Energy Information Administration;

11 (2) meeting the national oil independence goal;

12 (3) developing the national oil independence  
13 plan and the requests described in section 3(e);

14 (4) coordinating the policies, programs, and ac-  
15 tivities of the national energy security program in  
16 order to implement the national oil independence  
17 plan and meet the national oil independence goal;  
18 and

19 (5) ensuring that policy decisions and programs  
20 are consistent with the energy policy goals of the  
21 United States.

22 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—The membership of the Council  
23 shall consist of—

24 (1) the Secretary of Energy;

25 (2) the Assistant to the President for National  
26 Security Affairs;

1 (3) the Secretary of Transportation;

2 (4) the Administrator;

3 (5) the Secretary of the Treasury;

4 (6) the Director of the National Economic  
5 Council;

6 (7) the Secretary of Agriculture;

7 (8) the Chair of the Council on Environmental  
8 Quality;

9 (9) the Secretary of State; and

10 (10) the Director of the Office of Science and  
11 Technology Policy.

12 (d) CHAIR.—The President shall act as Chair of the  
13 Council.

14 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
15 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
16 such sums as are necessary.

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