



An interesting exercise...

Posted by [Prof. Goose](#) on September 16, 2005 - 3:29pm

Topic: [Policy/Politics](#)

I received this email from a reader, William, yesterday. I was working up my reply to him, and then I realized that I should put this out there, as it may be an interesting exercise for us all to participate in.

I am about to participate in a mock government exercise for my home state, and, oil independence being a subject of great interest to me, I want to draft a piece of legislation that would drastically reduce our consumption. I know it would be best to make such efforts on a federal level, but that's not the opportunity afforded, and I picture it as somewhat of a statement. I would like your advice on what elements to put in a bill to eliminate all but essential oil consumption in the course of fifty years?

Now, you must keep in mind some political realities: In a mock gov't exercise, even at the state level, we must adhere to the realities to our current system...and because it is a catch-all two-party system (search good ol' Duverger's law), it is tough to be anything but slow, pragmatic and deliberative in our legislative process (e.g., the energy bill that we just got out of Congress.) So, ergo, if the simulation will be realistic in that regard, and you wish to actually have an impact on the legislative outcome instead of being laughed out of the chamber, I would suggest starting from the status quo energy bill that was just passed as a starting point (since it was a result of the current political process) and improve on it from there. In other words, this isn't a pie in the sky wish list, this is a question of "what is politically feasible in the political climate that will actually help the situation?"

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