



DUCHESNE COUNTY COMMISSION

Greg Todd, Chairman, Irene Hansen, Member, Gregory Miles, Member

P.O. Box 270

Duchesne, Utah 84021-0270

Phone (435) 738-1100

Fax (435) 738-5522

April 19, 2021

The Honorable Joe Biden
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20501

Dear President Biden,

As local elected leaders, joining others throughout the country, we have grave concerns for our residents, our economies and our nation when we hear about threats to ban hydraulic fracturing on Federal lands or private lands.

Duchesne County is located in northeastern Utah and is larger in acreage than the states of Rhode Island and Delaware combined. The pillars of our economy are agriculture and the oil and natural gas industry, with our county being the #1 producer of crude oil and the #3 producer of natural gas in Utah. Studies have shown that our county ranks dead last among the 29 Utah counties in its level of economic diversification and tourism employment.

As you remember, during your first year in the U.S. Senate in 1973, the OPEC oil embargo was a major factor in igniting the 1970's recession and was largely responsible for economic ruin, runaway inflation, high interest rates, and high unemployment throughout the nation. Consumers witnessed long lines at gas stations and higher fuel costs hammered family budgets. In response to this crisis, a new Cabinet level department, the Department of Energy, was created.

Since then, the United States set its direction to become energy independent. Thanks to American ingenuity and the advancements in horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing, we achieved what seemed impossible in the early 1970's. We are no longer subject to the whims of overseas nations set to do us harm. We have access to incredible energy reserves that power our homes, our economy and our lives.

Recent requests to implement a fracking ban are reckless, unrealistic, and foolhardy. The demand for oil and natural gas will not simply vanish. Oil and natural gas will continue to power our homes (63% of electricity currently comes from fossil fuels and 76% of our homes and businesses are heated by natural gas), our vehicles (230 million vehicles, 200,000 airplanes, 17 million boats), our lifesaving medical supplies, our outdoor recreation, our agriculture and everything in between for decades to come. Oil and natural gas are not just about transportation fuels and heating. Our petroleum industry fuels American manufacturing in the production of millions of products every day. The enclosed fact sheet: "*Life Without Oil*," shows that only 46% of crude oil is used to create fuels. The other 54% is used in the manufacture of over 6,000 products including medicines, cosmetics, plastics, synthetic rubber products,

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masks, cleaning products and asphalt. Another web site full of facts about the importance of petroleum products to maintain our lifestyles is: <https://www.oilfieldlyfe.com/pages/truth>. We encourage you to read the enclosure.

A fracking ban will rob our country of more than \$7 trillion in cumulative GDP and millions of jobs and will again relinquish our energy needs to other countries that do not share our respect for the environment, worker safeguards and climate goals.

Many of the constituents we represent recognize that we can leverage our technology, innovation and American spirit to preserve our oil and natural gas industry, while at the same time doing our part to address climate change. Even within the past few years, the men and women of the oil and natural gas industry have made great strides improving their processes and shrinking their emission footprints and there is more innovation working toward our climate goals every day. Trust in these constituents to continue to explore, develop, and produce vital petroleum products in the cleanest manner in the world to overcome our climate challenges.

Fracking bans may make for good bumper stickers, but they also discourage millions of working men and women who produce the products and affordable energy we rely on every day. Let's get American moving again and let's let our energy workers lead the way.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

DUCHESNE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Greg Todd, Chairman



Irene Hansen, Commissioner

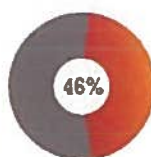


Greg Miles, Commissioner

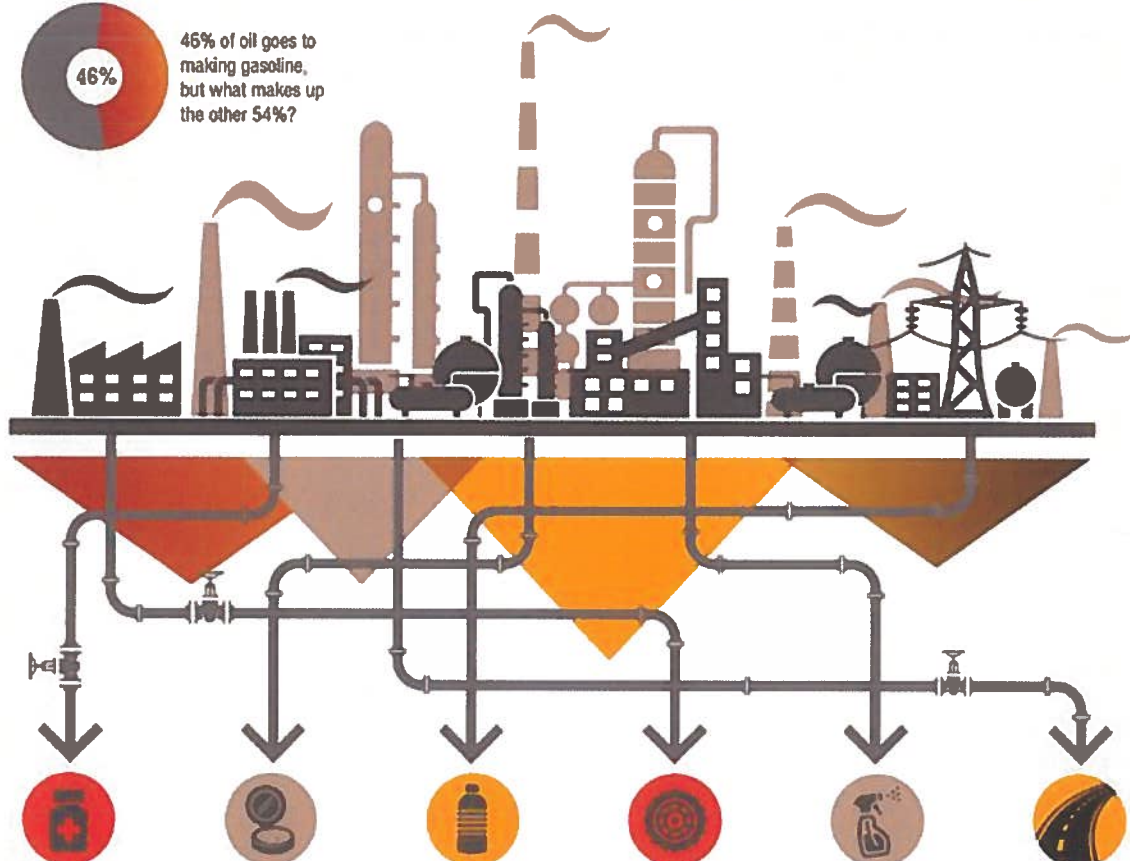
THE BIGGER PICTURE

Life Without Oil

NOT AS SIMPLE AS YOU MAY THINK



46% of oil goes to making gasoline, but what makes up the other 54%?



Medicine

Most over the counter medications, homeopathic products and vitamins are derived from benzene, a product of petroleum.

Cosmetics

Makeup and shampoo that has oils, perfumes, waxes and color are all produced with the help of petrochemicals.

Plastics

Almost all plastics are made from petrochemicals, from your iPhone to that bottle of water. It is 4-5% of the total petroleum consumption.

Synthetic Rubber

Thousands of products rely on rubber such as shoes, tires, wet suits, breast implants, gloves.

Cleaning Products

All those ingredients you can't pronounce in the ingredients list, all of which are very poisonous.

Asphalt

There are over 11 million miles of paved road in the world. Asphalt aka bitumen is the glue that binds the minerals together.

A few other products made with Oil

Insecticides, Ink, Floor Wax, Pens, Upholstery, Clothing, Boats, Sports Car Bodies, Nail Polish, Fishing Lures, Bags, Perfumes, Cassettes, Dishwasher Parts, Tool Boxes, Shoe Polish, Helmets, Caulking, Petroleum Jelly, Tape, Washers, Antiseptics, Curtains, Food Preservatives, Basketballs, Soap, Antihistamines, Purses, Dashboards, Cortisone, Deodorant, Footballs, Putty, Dyes, Panty Hose, Refrigerant, Percolators, Life Jackets, Rubbing Alcohol, Linings, Skis, TV Cabinets, Shag Rugs, Electrician's Tape, Tool Racks, Car Battery Cases, Epoxy, Paint, Mops, Slacks, Insect Repellent, Oil Filters, Umbrellas, Yarn, Fertilizers, Hair Coloring, Roofing, Toilet Seats, Fishing Rods, Lipstick, Denture Adhesive, Linoleum, Speakers, Plastic Wood, Electric Blankets, Glycerin, Tennis Rackets, Rubber Cement, Dice, Nylon Rope, Candles, Trash Bags, Paint, Water Pipes, Hand Lotion, Roller Skates, Surf Boards, Shampoo, Wheels, Paint Rollers, Shower Curtains, Guitar Strings, Luggage, Safety Glasses, Antifreeze, Awnings, Eyeglasses, Toothbrushes, Ice Chests, Combs, CD's & DVD's, Brushes, Detergents, Vaporizers, Balloons, Sun Glasses, Tents, Heart Valves, Crayons, Parachutes, Telephones, Enamel, Pillows, Dishes, Cameras, Anesthetics, Artificial Turf, Artificial Limbs, Bandages, Dentures, Model Cars, Folding Doors, Hair Curlers, Cold Cream, Movie Film, Soft Contact Lenses, Drinking Cups, Fan Belts, Car Enamel, Shaving Cream, Ammonia, Refrigerators, Golf Balls, Toothpaste, and of course Solvents, Diesel Fuel, Motor Oil, Bearing Grease etc. etc. etc.

Maybe it isn't as simple as we thought?