



Jimmy Carter Library & Museum News Release

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Carter Library Hosts Energy Forum

Public Forum on Choices for an Uncertain Future Oct. 2nd

Atlanta, GA.- In collaboration with the National Issues Forums Institute (NIFI), the Carter Presidential Library will host a public discussion on energy policy, Thursday, Oct. 2nd from 3 - 5 pm. The forum is free and open to the public. It will be held in the theater of the Carter Presidential Museum.

The forum topic is **The Energy Problem: Choices for an Uncertain Future**. It will enable participants to address the difficult choices that must be made to ensure a sustainable future. As the National Issues Forums Institute points out, "America's way of life seems threatened by unstable sources of energy, while many see growing evidence of environmental damage. As demands for energy escalate, both in this country and in rapidly developing nations, we may soon reach a point of no return." A discussion of the issue is available at http://www.nifi.org/stream_document.aspx?rID=12149&catID=11&itemID=12147&typeID=8.

This issue discussion guide invites people to consider the following three approaches:

Approach #1: Unreliable Sources - Reduce Our Dependence on Foreign Energy

Much of the oil Americans use comes from the Middle East and other politically volatile countries that cannot be relied upon to continue supplying our needs. This poses an ongoing threat to our security. The United States has many untapped reserves of oil and natural gas. Our best course of action is to make all possible use of these domestic energy sources.

Approach #2: Get Out of the Fossil-Fuel Predicament

The escalating use of fossil fuels is wreaking havoc on our environment. Most scientists agree that global warming has begun in earnest and unless we slow down the burning of fossil fuels, we face catastrophic climate changes. We must get serious about developing alternative energy sources such as wind farms and solar power, and rethink the use of another clean energy source--nuclear power.

Approach #3: Curb Our Appetite - Reduce Our Demand for Energy

We are missing the point when we go looking for new sources of energy. What we need to do is find ways to use less energy in the first place or to use it more efficiently. The United States is home to less than 5 percent of the world's population but uses more than 20 percent of its energy. Cutting back on consumption is the cleanest and most workable way to deal with impending shortages.

Form more information, call 404-865-7109 or visit www.jimmycarterlibrary.gov