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OPINION

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Effects of Obama Moratorium coming to a pump near your

By: BARBARA HOLLINGSWORTH Local Opinion Editor 03/17/10 12:46 PM EDT

The National Resources Defense Council is warning consumers about a major oil price shock will send gas prices over \$3 gallon this spring.

"The impacts of gasoline prices in the midst of a struggling economy make it clear that our country needs to reduce its dependence on oil," said report author Elizabeth Hogan, an analyst at David Gardiner and Associates.

No argument here. But Hogan doesn't mention the real reason gas prices are heading skyward: Under the guise of environmentalism, the Obama administration is busy making thousands of acres in the West - and the entire continental shelf - off-limits to drilling.

Instead, she uses the predicted gas price spike to shill for "clean energy and climate solutions" such as "more efficient vehicles, clean fuels, smart growth, and public transportation" - all proven sinkholes for public funds.

How is spending billions more on inefficient and expensive alternative energy sources going to help the average driver at the gas pump? It's not. As Robert Bradley, Jr., an adjunct scholar at the CATO Institute, points out, alternative energy is not cheaper. "Renewable energy," he notes, "remains stubbornly uneconomic." And it's not even "green."

The only thing that will keep gas prices low and help the battered economy recover is lifting the Obama Moratorium and giving Americans access to their own domestic supplies of oil and gas.

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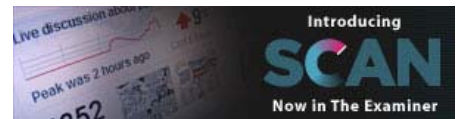
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