U.S. oil dependence is almost wholly a function of our transportation sector.

Petroleum products power 95 percent of American transportation. We use 13 million barrels of oil every day moving people in automobiles, goods on freight trucks, air travel, rail and transit. **Cars and light trucks** account for 60 percent of energy use in the sector, while more efficient trains and buses only account for three percent.

There are 249 million cars, trucks, and buses on our roads – more than three vehicles for every four people, or nearly 2.5 cars per household.

In 2008, American use of public transportation grew by four percent, saving over four billion gallons of gasoline (roughly the equivalent of taking all of Florida’s cars off the road). If we doubled current usage of public transit, we could decrease our oil consumption by an amount nearly equivalent to our annual imports from Saudi Arabia.

The security, economic and climate consequences are grave, yet can be avoided.

Fifty-seven percent of our petroleum is imported. **Sixty-eight percent of imported oil** comes from countries at high risk of instability, several of which work actively against U.S. interests worldwide. Our dependence complicates our foreign policy and embroils the United States in conflicts abroad, while we fund many of our own adversaries.
Our economic vulnerabilities as they concern the Persian Gulf have been especially exploited during the last couple of decades. War in 1991 in the Persian Gulf was waged to prevent Saddam Hussein from controlling Kuwait’s oil reserves. Nearly two decades and another war in the region later, we are still fighting to bring stability to Iraq and spending billions to do so. Today, over 21 percent of our imports arrive from this region.

We send $1 billion overseas every day to pay for oil. Americans spent more than $700 billion on oil in 2008 – more than half of which was spent importing petroleum.

Oil consumption is a major contributor to global warming. Today burning gasoline accounts for 28 percent of total U.S. carbon emissions, up from 20 percent only three years ago.

Investing in renewable sources of energy, electric vehicles and public transportation is vital to our national security.

A result of the new U.S. standards for the automobile industry, over the lives of the vehicles sold from 2012-2016 we will save nearly 2 billion barrels of oil - more oil than we imported from Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, Libya and Nigeria combined in 2008.

More efficient vehicles can have significant consumer benefits. Trading in a 14 mile per gallon (mpg) SUV for a 28 mpg vehicle can save a consumer more than $1,700 a year if gas prices reach levels seen in the summer of 2008.

Moving to hybrid electric and all electric vehicles would cut GHG emissions by 50 percent. This number increases as we transition to renewable power generation.

We must promote transportation policies that reduce our dependence on oil, and we must further develop low-carbon transportation options. By biking, walking and increasing public transit ridership, we can create jobs and make cities more livable and convenient. Further, a world-class rail system can move freight more efficiently, reduce travel time between cities and cut oil use.