



## T. Boone Pickens Media Coverage 5.1.09

### Total of 17 Placements

- \* Print: 4
- \* Blog/Online: 4
- \* Broadcast: 9

### Coverage Summary:

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch wrote a favorable piece on the Pickens Plan after his visit to University of Missouri highlighting his speech and alternative energy strides.

TIME Magazine's coveted list of The 100 Most Influential People in the World listed T. Boone Pickens as the former oil magnate, who has spent millions of his fortune to press for alternative energy projects in the US.

NPR.org previewed T. Boone Pickens's participation in a series running next week on Morning Edition and All Things Considered. This particular article highlights RES and the electrical grid.

T. Boone Pickens received coverage today in The Roanoke Times and on local broadcast stations in Roanoke/Lynchburg, Virginia after speaking at a town hall meeting at Washington and Lee University.

### Highlighted Placements (Full Articles Below)

- \* T. Boone Pickens Wants To Remake America's Energy Policy - The St. Louis Post-Dispatch - 5/1/09
- \* MIA, Efron, Obamas on Time's most-influential list -- TIME.com - 5/1/09 (press release)
- \* Could Energy Innovation Create A 'Green Bubble'? --- NPR.org - 5/1/09
- \* Oil Tycoon T. Boone Pickens Pushes Renewable Energy - The Roanoke Times - 5/1/09

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- \* T. Boone Pickens Wants To Remake America's Energy Policy - The St. Louis Post-Dispatch - 5/1/09
- \* Tulsa World
- \* Biofuel Production: a Drink-or-Drive Issue? - Environmental Science and Technology Journal - 5/1/09

Blog/Online Placements (Full Articles Below)

- \* What if the Oil Stops - CuttingEdgeNews.com
- \* Could Energy Innovation Create A 'Green Bubble'? --- NPR.org - 5/1/09
- \* Texas oil tycoon pitches wind power at Washington and Lee University - WBDK7.com - 5/1/09
- \* MIA, Efron, Obamas on Time's most-influential list -- TIME.com - 5/1/09 (press release)

HIGHLIGHTED COVERAGE

T. Boone Pickens Wants To Remake America's Energy Policy - The St. Louis Post-Dispatch - 5/1/09

By Jeffrey Tomich

At 80 years old, T. Boone Pickens is still the big man on campus.

Walking the crowded corridors of Jesse Hall at the University of

Missouri following a speech, a man in a cap and jeans greets the billionaire with a handshake.

"You're a hell of a man," the stranger says, slapping Pickens on the back.

A minute later, another man tells Pickens that he's converted his pickup to run on propane. Trailing behind his boss, a Pickens employee keeps a fistful of envelopes – fan mail – that people have handed him during a three-hour visit.

"We get these everywhere," the aide says.

A geologist by trade, Pickens is among the richest people in America with an estimated net worth of \$3.1 billion. He's been in the spotlight since the early 1980s when he led a series of takeover bids for companies Gulf Oil and Phillips Petroleum. In the mid-90s he founded private investment firm BP Capital Management.

But the rock star treatment Pickens gets these days is a product of his latest endeavor – a \$58 million self-funded crusade to reshape America's energy policy by helping wean the country off Middle Eastern oil.

"For 40 years we've had no energy plan in America. Zero. None," Pickens said. "If we go 10 years longer, we're going to fall in the stupid category."

Pickens launched his campaign on July 8, when crude oil was almost \$150 a barrel and gasoline was \$4 a gallon. Since then, energy prices have been choked by the recession, and "energy security" – a popular phrase during last fall's presidential race – has taken a back seat to reviving the economy.

But Pickens continues to sell his plan with the verve of someone half his age. Last month he spent 70 hours in his jet, making 54 stops, he said. And the pace isn't slowing. Before flying to Columbia on April 23,

Pickens met in Dallas with Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal. After his speech at Mizzou, it was on to Philadelphia to pick up an award. On Saturday, he hosted a town hall in

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urging them to hold politicians accountable for fixing America's energy woes. Then it was on to lunch with university President Gary Forsee, Missouri S&T Chancellor John Carney and Columbia Mayor Darwin Hindman.

As he picked at a salad and swigged Diet Dr Pepper, Pickens thanked Hindman for being one of 185 U.S. mayors to endorse his energy plan.

"I disagree with him on a couple of points, but I basically agree with him on the point of needing to reduce our foreign oil dependence," Hindman said afterward in an interview.

"We've got too many eggs in one basket."

On stage, Pickens is at home in front of the 2,000 people who filled Jesse Auditorium. Perched on a stool, he sermonizes on the economic and national security risks of America's foreign oil addiction. He starts with colorful anecdotes about Big 12 football and self-deprecating jokes to loosen up the crowd. Then the tone turns serious.

"We're using 25 percent of all the oil with 4 percent of the people," Pickens says in a gravelly drawl. "That is going to cause a great amount of problems for us in the very near future. When the global economy picks up again, we're going to be back in the same spot."

His solution: Replace 20 percent of the electricity generated by natural gas with wind and solar power, and modernize the grid to more easily move electricity across state lines. Then use the natural gas as a substitute for crude oil-based diesel in 350,000 trucks and buses.

Pickens' support of renewable energy has won him some powerful allies in Washington. Among them are former Vice President Al Gore; Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev.; and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif. The billionaire also has spoken with Energy Secretary Stephen Chu, who is reportedly "agnostic" on the plan.

But any environmental benefit that comes with reducing oil consumption is a byproduct of his plan, not the reason for it. In fact, Pickens supports the use of coal, nuclear power and expanded oil drilling.

And while his interests have aligned him with Congressional leadership, he's still remembered by many Democrats for helping fund the Swift Boat ads that helped torpedo John Kerry's 2004 presidential campaign.

Pickens says he is encouraged by the stimulus bill, which has provisions to aid renewable energy development and modernize the electric grid. He also pushed federal legislation filed last month that would extend tax incentives for natural gas as a transportation fuel and tax credits for automakers who produce natural gas vehicles.

His campaign to cut foreign oil use has earned plenty of support. So far, his website has received more than 30 million hits, and 1.5 million people have signed up to join the volunteer "army" of supporters.

But not everyone is as enthusiastic. Some say Pickens' plan is flawed, too ambitious, or both. Others say he is pushing for the expanded use of wind and natural gas because he is heavily invested in both. But even skeptics credit Pickens with helping kick start a dialogue about energy policy.

The Edison Electric Institute, the trade association for electric utilities, agrees with Pickens' goal of expanding the use of renewable energy, improving the grid and reducing the nation's dependence on oil imports. But the group has concerns about a few specifics of his plan.

For one, wind is a variable resource (that is, it doesn't always blow),

so a backup power source is needed. And that backup fuel has traditionally been natural gas, EEI spokesman Jim Owen said.

"We just believe there are certain parts of the plan that may not be practical," Owen said. "Our concern is that we don't want people to be misled to believe that wind can deliver more than it can."

Using natural gas for transportation also causes challenges. While the U.S. has ample supplies, the fuel has many other uses. It's used in home heating, fertilizer production and as a factory fuel, and policies that boost demand and prices could have harmful consequences, said Bill O'Grady of Confluence Investment Management LLC and a former energy analyst at A.G. Edwards.

Pickens maintains he is working to fix the nation's energy policy for the benefit of future generations, not himself.

"I can make it to the finish line and my standard of living won't change," he says.

But observers point out that as the owner of Clean Energy Fuels, the nation's largest owner of natural gas refueling stations, Pickens stands to benefit in a big way if his plan succeeds.

"There's nothing wrong with making money," O'Grady said. "But he doesn't get the Mother Theresa award for this."

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MIA, Efron, Obamas on Time's most-influential list -- TIME.com - 5/1/09  
(press release)

Global hip-hop star MIA and young Hollywood heartthrob Zac Efron have joined US President Barack and First Lady Michelle Obama on Time

magazine's coveted list of The 100 Most Influential People in the World. The US-based magazine splits the list into five categories: leaders & revolutionaries, builders & titans, artists & entertainers, and heroes & icons.

In the leaders group, Obama found himself with world figures such as British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, French President Nicolas Sarkozy, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and US Secretary of State Hilary Clinton. There were spots for rightwing Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman, Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, China's Vice Premier Wang Qishan and Vice President Xi Jinping, Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and Norah al-Faiz, the Saudi deputy minister for women's education.

The builders & titans section included disgraced financier Bernie Madoff alongside US Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner. Mexican telecom tycoon Carlos Slim made the list, along with designer Stella McCartney, former oil magnate T Boone Pickens, who has spent millions of his fortune to press for alternative energy projects in the US, and Robin Chase, co-founder of US car-sharing community Zipcar.

Infosys founder Nandan Nilekani was lauded for establishing India's first truly global company, while Jack Ma made the list for founding e-commerce site Alibaba.com.

Right-wing US radio host Rush Limbaugh featured on the entertainers list along with Sam and Dan Houser, makers of the Grand Theft Auto video games. Efron, Penelope Cruz and Indian composer AR Rahman were alongside German filmmaker Werner Herzog, South African artist William Kentridge and US comedians Tina Fey and Jay Leno and actor Tom Hanks.

The heroes and icons group included Tiger Woods, actor-activist George Clooney, Michelle Obama, International AIDS Vaccine Initiative founder Seth Berkley, and sex-trade opponent Somaly Mam. Alongside such well-known figures as Oprah Winfrey and Sarah Palin, Suraya Pakzad was honoured for her work for women's rights in Afghanistan, and Sister Mary Scullion was included for her work helping the US homeless.

Featuring among scientists & thinkers list were US economists Nouriel Roubini and Paul Krugman, environmental activist Amory Lovins, and Jon

Favreau, Barack Obama's head speechwriter. Also: Dambisa Moyo, whose critiques of current African aid structures are changing the continent's finances, Nobel Prize physicist Yoichiro Nambu, social scientist Nicholas Christakis and Shai Agassi, whose Better Place enterprise is building battery-exchange and charging stations for a new generation of cars in Israel, Denmark, Australia, California and elsewhere.

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Could Energy Innovation Create A 'Green Bubble'? --- NPR.org - 5/1/09

By Jeff Brady

Texas oilman T. Boone Pickens now champions renewable energy sources. He has been forced to delay a 1,000-megawatt wind project in Texas because of snags in funding. Here, he delivers a keynote address during the National Clean Energy Summit in Las Vegas on Aug. 19.

In a series of ten stories airing this week on Morning Edition and All Things Considered and published here on NPR.org, we examine the costs, the politics and other challenges of upgrading the country's electricity grid.

One argument for a major overhaul of the U.S. electricity grid is to encourage the development of more renewable sources of energy, such as wind and solar. President Obama certainly has gotten behind green energy, and his administration is part of a concerted effort to help the industry grow.

In the wake of the housing bubble, that has some asking whether the country is headed for a renewable energy bubble.

Eric Janszen founded the financial advisory company iTulip in the midst of the Internet stock bubble. Janszen, whose company was named for the Dutch tulip bulb bubble in the 1630s, has made a career out of studying financial bubbles.

He says bubbles start with a kernel of something good – say, homeownership or the development of the Internet or, in this case, energy that causes less pollution. But then, he says, outside forces come in and create a sort of mania.

"You'll know that we're at some stage of an energy bubble when you start to hear about how you can get rich quick in the energy market," Janszen says. But first, he says, a few things have to happen. There must be significant government involvement designed to focus energy and capital on the specific industry – and clearly that's already happening.

"To really make these things go, you need a new source of credit," he says. In the housing bubble, it was mortgage-backed securities. Janszen says this element is important because you need a lot of capital gushing in to inflate stock and other asset prices.

#### Developing Plans, Finding Funding

But credit is a problem right now for renewable energy developers. Texas oilman T. Boone Pickens was forced to delay construction of a 1,000-megawatt wind project in Texas, and worries about an impending renewable energy bubble aren't keeping him up at night.

"I wake up in the night wondering 'Where am I going to get the money to build this project, because I've already got \$150 million in it'," Pickens says. He says part of the problem is that natural gas prices have dropped by more than half since last summer, and it's difficult to justify using wind to generate electricity when gas is so much cheaper. Add to that one of the other challenges of wind: It's going to rely heavily on an upgraded electricity grid that isn't built yet to get power from wind corridors to population centers.

Pickens says another issue may stand in the way of a renewable energy bubble: While the Obama administration is promoting the industry, the specifics of the government's plans aren't completely clear.

"But I think once you get through this year, it's going to be pretty clear how they expect [to] cause the industry to kick off and go," Pickens says.

Congress is working on legislation that would limit greenhouse gas emissions and then turn them into a commodity that can be traded. Such a cap-and-trade system might be the seed for creating the credit necessary to get a renewable energy bubble going, Janszen says.

"Some think the investment banks will get into the cap-and-trade business and figure out a way to use that market to create securities that can then be the foundation for an asset price inflation," Janszen says.

So, while a few people out there still see the potential for a renewable energy bubble, more pieces have to fall in place first, not the least of which is major upgrades to the country's electricity grid.

Planning for that is under way. The Electric Power Research Institute was given \$1.3 million in federal stimulus money recently to develop a framework for grid developers to follow. The group expects to complete that work by early summer.

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Oil Tycoon T. Boone Pickens Pushes Renewable Energy - The Roanoke Times  
- 5/1/09

By Jacob Geiger

It's been 10 months since oil billionaire T. Boone Pickens announced a massive plan to reduce American dependence on foreign oil through a major expansion of natural gas and wind power sources.

Pickens brought his plan to the campus of Washington and Lee University on Thursday night, telling several hundred students and alumni how he thinks natural gas can be used to replace diesel and gasoline as the fuel that powers American vehicles.

He said the dramatic fall of oil prices from more than \$140 per barrel when the plan was announced in July to \$51 today is not a sign that the United States can afford to stick with the status quo.

"OPEC has already said it needs \$75 per barrel, so I think we'll see that by the end of the year," Pickens said in an interview after the speech. "Say the global economy recovers in two years; oil will be back at \$150 per barrel in three years."

He lamented the fact that American automakers produce natural gas cars but then sell them only abroad.

"There are 10 million natural gas vehicles in the world, but only 142,000 are in the U.S.," Pickens said. "General Motors makes 18 types of natural gas vehicles but none in the U.S."

Some cities and companies are already converting their fleets to natural gas vehicles. The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority has begun replacing its diesel-burning buses with ones that run on natural gas. The switch was initially made because natural gas buses have lower emissions. But the city is so pleased that garbage trucks are now being converted as well, Pickens said.

Natural gas generates 20 percent of the nation's electricity. Pickens wants to use that gas to move cars and trucks. To replace that electrical capacity he is urging expansion of wind energy.

Before the proposed wind turbines can start delivering power from remote, windy locations to major cities, Pickens acknowledged that the nation needs new high-voltage transmission lines. But those lines often meet resistance from people who don't want the lines near their homes.

The congressional stimulus package included money to help fund these new power lines. Pickens said President Obama must use his popularity to push for the new energy grid and keep emphasizing renewable energy sources.

The final key, Pickens said, is getting students to take the lead in his movement.

"I'm going to offload some of the responsibility to you," he said. "A guy who is 81 shouldn't have all of the responsibility."

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Biofuel Production: a Drink-or-Drive Issue? - Environmental Science and Technology Journal - 5/1/09

Federal requirements to increase the production of ethanol has developed into a "drink-or-drive issue" in the Midwest as a result of biofuel production's impact on water supplies and water quality, says an environmental engineering researcher at Missouri University of Science and Technology in the latest issue of the journal Environmental Science & Technology.

In an analysis of the water required to produce ethanol from various crops, Dr. Joel G. Burken, a professor of environmental engineering at Missouri S&T, and colleagues from Rice University and Clarkson University find that ethanol could become a costly proposition in terms of "gallons per mile" and other water quality issues.

They describe the Midwest's water needs and impacts as the 'water footprint' in their cover feature for the May 1, 2009, issue of Environmental Science & Technology.

The researchers report that ethanol derived from corn grown in Nebraska, for example, would require 50 gallons of water per mile driven, when all the water needed in irrigation of crops and processing into ethanol is considered. Fuel derived from irrigated sorghum grown in that state

would require even more water to produce - as much as 115 gallons per mile.

Moreover, increasing production of biofuels from row crops will likely result in more water pollution due to soil erosion and the increased use of pesticides to grow enough crops to meet federal mandates for more ethanol, the researchers say. The mandated production using the current technology has driven the use of ethanol production from corn and biodiesel from soybeans as these are the currently available technologies.

In their Environmental Science & Technology article, the researchers suggest that federal regulators take a closer look at how a push for bioenergy will affect water resources.

"Developing a sustainable national biofuels program requires careful consideration of logistical concerns ... and of unintended environmental impacts," write Burken and his co-authors, Rosa Dominguez-Faus and Dr. Pedro J. Alvarez of Rice University and Dr. Susan E. Powers of Clarkson University, in their article, "The Water Footprint of Biofuels: A Drink or Drive Issue?"

To arrive at their gallons-per-mile figures, the researchers first looked at the amount of water required to produce a single gallon of ethanol. In Nebraska, for example, it takes 800 gallons of water - from crop irrigation through final processing into ethanol - to create a single gallon of the corn-derived transportation fuel. Divide that by an average mileage of 16 miles per gallon (or two-thirds the average for gasoline-powered cars, a standard average for ethanol-powered vehicles), and the result is 50 gallons of water per mile.

While previous studies have examined biofuel production's impact on air quality, land use and net energy value, "the effect of increased biofuel production on water security has not been subjected to the same scrutiny," the researchers write. The main focus of previous studies looked at environmental trade-offs to fossil-fuel usage and not other aspects of biofuel production, according to the researchers.

"The overall water footprint associated with biofuels must recognize the impact of increased agricultural activity on water quality as well as

water consumption," they write. With the federal Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) of 2007 calling for a dramatic ramp-up in ethanol production by 2015, Burken and his colleagues foresee additional water quality problems due to "increased agricultural activity such as tilling more land for row crops and higher fertilizer and agricultural application."

The Energy Independence and Security Act requires the United States to produce 15 billion gallons of corn-derived ethanol annually by 2015 and 16 billion gallons of fuel from cellulosic crops, such as switchgrass, by 2016. The researchers note that 44 percent of all the corn produced in the United States from 2007 would be required for ethanol production to meet the 2015 goal.

"The decision to mandate ethanol production may look great initially as we all like the concept of biofuels," Burken says, "but really our difficult energy position and reliance on foreign oil is the result of our lack of an energy policy and investing a decade ago in biofuel technologies. Biofuel production is part of our energy future, but it needs to be considered as part of a portfolio of energy sources and technologies."

While it's unlikely the EISA will be repealed, Burken hopes lawmakers and regulators at the state and federal levels "consider a life-cycle analysis before implementing future mandates" for energy sources. Lawmakers and regulators need to consider all of the economic and environmental trade-offs - not just reducing greenhouse gas emissions, for instance. "Otherwise, we may be thinking we're addressing one environmental issue while in fact sacrificing another," Burken says.

Burken and his colleagues suggest that "drought-tolerant, high-yield plants grown on little irrigation water" would have less impact on water resources. One such crop, Burken says, is miscanthus, a fast-growing perennial grass that "grows so dense you can't walk through it and grows about 9-10 feet a year." Currently, however, no technology is available to convert the cellulosic biomass and produce it in large quantities. Once alternative biofuel production crops and processes are developed, selecting the best crop for individual settings will help to optimize biofuel production and minimize the environmental impacts of the production, Burken says.

"Developing the crops and distribution of crop production took about 100

years to get to where it was a few years ago," Burken says. "Redeveloping this production with the goal of biofuel production will take time and effort of farmers and engineers. While miscanthus may or may not be a part of our biofuels future, we at least need a little time and investment to develop the best solutions for our future."

Quoting Texas oilman T. Boone Pickens, whom Burken met on April 22 during the Missouri Energy Summit, Burken says, "The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago, but the next best time if you didn't is today."

#### BLOG/ONLINE COVERAGE

What if the Oil Stops - CuttingEdgeNews.com

This continuing coverage of America's oil crisis arises from the *The Plan: How to Save America When the Oil Stops—or the Day Before* (Dialog Press). Buy it here.

Update May 1. The day after The Cutting Edge News released its story about the impending sale of Fuelmaker, probably to Fuel Systems Solutions, the actual sale to Fuel Systems Solutions was announced. See related story in Energy.

"It is a very bad situation. I am not good. I am desperate," declared Haimo Staffler, president of IMI, the exclusive Italian distributor of home and office compressed natural gas (CNG) refueling devices manufactured by Honda Fuelmaker. The devices include the Phill unit designed to be the home refueler for the much touted restricted-production Honda Civic GX. The GX runs exclusively on CNG and holds the promise of untethering its owners from oil use and gas stations. Fuelmaker devices refuel not just Honda vehicles but any compatible CNG vehicle from forklifts to Fiats. Staffler's experience with Honda executives and their conduct in the Fuelmaker case has left him shocked and angry, accusing them of extreme misconduct.

"These people from Honda," he asserts, "they are driving me crazy. What they have done is terrible."

Specifically, Staffler accuses Honda of extreme misconduct in the recent sudden bankruptcy the Japanese carmaker forced on Fuelmaker. Overnight, that engineered bankruptcy has vaporized IMI's distribution agreements and product launches for Fuelmaker in Italy.

Staffler says at all times during more than a half-decade of partnering with Fuelmaker, he understood that the Canadian company was actually controlled by Honda and functioned as a Honda subsidiary.

Investigation has revealed that the famed Japanese car company indeed controlled the Toronto-based Fuelmaker directly through stock ownership and through a secretive wholly-owned nameless Canadian numbered corporation known only as "2045951 Ontario." Designed to mask ownership, the numbered corporation 2045951 is nonetheless referred to in page after page of corporate financial filings, obtained by this reporter, under the moniker "HondaSub."

By way of background, Fuelmaker's shutdown was orchestrated by American Honda and its alter-ego numbered corporation between March 31 and April 3 in a series of stealthy legal moves. The abrupt halt in operations and termination without severance of all staff stunned loyal employees, strategic partners, customers, suppliers and alt-fuel advocates of Fuelmaker and the CNG home and office refueling devices it manufactured and serviced. At the same time, the strategic liquidation allowed Honda to sell the company to another buyer minus the pre-existing obligations, debts and contractual duties—hence making it cheaper and more attractive.

Details of the Honda-Fuelmaker forced bankruptcy debacle were broken exclusively by this reporter in The Cutting Edge News. A plan by Honda to undermine its own CNG vehicle production and refueling program was first reported last fall in the book The Plan. In the aftermath of the revelations, loyal Honda customers have been shaken, and the company, once the darling of alt-fuel activists, has suffered a damaging public relations fall from grace.

The latest charge against crest-fallen Honda begins some six years ago, when Staffler saw the sleek and compact Phill refueling unit standing atop a short L-shaped tabletop display in Portugal. Staffler says he

immediately saw the Phill device “not as ‘the solution,’ but certainly one of several solutions to oil addiction in Italy.” Shortly thereafter, he met in Toronto with then-Fuelmaker president John Lyon and other company engineers. “They were all very nice people. But immediately, I knew I was dealing with Honda. I remember, for example, we wanted to test the compressors. But he says, ‘We are Honda. What is there to test?’”

With the Honda imprint, Staffler fell in love with the whole idea of CNG and Phill. Home and office refueling, he thought, would accelerate efforts by Italy and the wider world to kick the oil addiction. Italy is one of the oldest and most developed natural gas markets in Europe, dating from WWII when Mussolini was unable to obtain oil supplies. The dictator ordered fuel switched to CNG. Staffler agrees. “CNG is an old story in Italy,” he affirms. “It is now a big market. Fiat has a fantastic bifuel vehicle using CNG. Last year, Fiat sold about 80,000 of them for fleet and individual use in Italy. There are now more than 400,000 CNG vehicles of all kinds in Italy.”

What made Phill right for Italy, he says, was the abundance of CNG vehicles and the lack of refueling stations. Of an estimated 22,000 Italian fueling stations, CNG authorities indicate only about 600 offer CNG fuel.

Staffler says he tested the Phill units on his own CNG Mercedes and on other vehicles throughout Italy. “The units worked. They were excellent,” he says.

In 2006, recounts Staffler, IMI obtained Italian and European certifications for quality control and a mass installation program. “Without certification, we could not go to the Italian government for assistance. With it, we made the Phill like a home appliance, like a TV or a stove. But it took from 2003 working with Fuelmaker to make this happen.”

By October 2006, Staffler recounts, IMI was ready to buy units. “But Fuelmaker says to us, ‘Look, we are Honda. You are Italians. So you must pay first.’ You know, it was a joke, but I took this as a sort of unspoken negative against Italians. Like we are Mafia—but now we see who is the real Mafia, and who cannot be trusted. It is Honda, not us.”

“So we agreed to pay in advance,” he continues. “We gave them something like \$500,000 and we never had a guarantee, because of course they are Honda. We knew that and they told us that. We trusted Honda people.”

In September 2007 in Cairo, at an international natural gas vehicle convention, IMI and Fuelmaker signed an exclusive dealership agreement for Italy. The happy event was advertised on the Fuelmaker website. “Then,” recounts Staffler IMI goes to show after show all across Italy, we make TV presentations, videos—all to introduce Italians to the idea of refueling at home. We overcome all the arguments, especially the argument that home refueling is dangerous. By now, we had millions of Euros invested. Plus, we had participation from big public natural gas companies. We offered to install Phillips like cell phones--1000 installations in 2009 but 10,000 in 2010. We projected by 2010, by next year, we would be turning a profit.” In Italy, IMI’s Phill would sell for 4000 EU. With public sector help for installations, including government assistance, half that cost would be subsidized making the consumer expense a mere \$2000, or about as expensive as a big TV, according to IMI.

By late 2008, IMI executives were more than excited. “We were sure the latest Phill model was perfect, with all prior technical problems overcome,” asserts Staffler. “Fuelmaker is almost like a research university—always making it better. But now in late 2008 we need the production numbers. How many can we really get? We wanted plenty.”

IMI was so enthused about Fuelmaker, it tried to purchase the company to ensure a steady stream of refuelers and to make the idea a success everywhere. “We signed an NDA to negotiate for the company,” says Staffler “But we did not agree to buy the company because we did not agree on the value of the intellectual property.”

IMI then concentrated on becoming an enthusiastic booster and distributor of Fuelmaker devices assured of its Italian exclusive. By early 2009, Staffler recounts, “We had new companies set up throughout Italy, in Sicily, in Naples, in Milan and Rome and Turin. We lined up the important Fiat car dealers.” With a promising launch in the offing, Staffler says he again visited Toronto, this time in February 2009, where he met again with company executives. “Fuelmaker staffers are all good people, working hard at a difficult job,” he emphasizes.

With six years of his life and millions of IMI's Euros invested, Staffler's excitement was unbridled in the closing days of March 2009. Within weeks, he was prepared to make his dream a reality.

Then on April 6, he received a call from a colleague with the news: "Fuelmaker has declared bankruptcy." A stunned Staffler called Fuelmaker in Canada immediately, "but all I got was voice mail." He adds, "Then I went on the Internet and read the details in The Cutting Edge News and said this cannot be possible!" Italian officials in Canada also referred him the same story. Eventually, IMI attorneys confirmed that Fuelmaker was thrown into bankruptcy by Honda executives working behind the scenes through a nameless numbered corporation.

"I spent millions, six years of my life, and no one calls me," stated an exasperated Staffler. "I have to read it on the Internet!"

Days after learning of the company's shutdown, he recounts, "I am talking to Alan Hutchens from the receiver Alvarez and Marsal and he gives me confirmation." Hutchens is listed as a senior director of the firm. Staffler continues, "Then Hutchens tells me that they have exclusive agreement from November 2008 to try to sell Fuelmaker to another Italian company. Hutchens said that if discussions with that other Italian company do not succeed, we will talk to you. I said to Hutchens," continues Staffler, "Is this a joke or what? We are the exclusive distributor here. How can you be talking to another company? We don't do this in Italy. You say to me YOU are Italians, like Mafia, but look what you do. "

Stunned, Staffler concludes, "Now I know why Honda put Fuelmaker in bankruptcy. It is obvious they bankrupted the whole company because Fuelmaker is not a good company to sell by the numbers, but only with their intellectual property." Most industry sources agree the core of Fuelmaker's value is not its physical refueling devices as much as the proprietary engineering that makes the devices work.

Shortly after their conversation, Staffler faxed Hutchens an indignant letter stating: "I was not aware of the fact that negotiations with the Italian company apparently go on since November 2008. So I guess that you understand my concern...You confirmed me 2 days ago that you were in negotiation with the same Italian company already before Honda declared Fuelmaker bankruptcy, and that you go on with the exclusive negotiation in this new, very different situation with the same company."

Staffler's fax continues, "Before April 2nd, Honda was the owner of 100% of Fuelmaker...Obviously less interesting appeared the state of the company concerning employment obligations, including the President of Toronto-based Fuelmaker, and all the commercial contracts (like the exclusive agreement with IMI). Now I am learning that the same company negotiates with you to buy the same 'product' but without 'problems.' I hope you understand that I am not willing to accept this non-transparent way of "negotiations" and ask you to stop immediately the exclusive negotiation and open it also to our company. Such a transparent method could, at the end, be much more useful for all the parties involved." This reporter has obtained a copy of IMI's fax and transmission confirmation.

Bankruptcies and court-ordered liquidations are traditionally conducted in a transparent fashion which does not favor one company over another.

Hutchens did not return phone calls for comment, nor did several other executives from Alvarez and Marsal working on the Fuelmaker liquidation. One man did call this reporter, identifying himself as one of the Alvarez and Marsal receivers but refused to give his name when asked and then hung up.

This reporter could not independently confirm Staffler's account or any details about a Honda negotiation with an Italian company as far back as 2008. But an April 20, 2009 Fuelmaker bankruptcy report obtained by this reporter confirms that after the much-heralded potential sale of the company to Clean Energy, controlled by T. Boone Pickens, failed, Honda executives, working through their alter-ego numbered corporation, "approached a second [bidding] party...to see if it remained interested in acquiring Fuelmaker assets." The document adds, "Negotiations with the party are currently on-going."

Numerous sources among Honda Fuelmaker partners speculated that Fuel Systems Solutions is the unnamed buyer in negotiation. Fuel Systems Solutions of Santa Ana California operates a primarily Italian company called BRC, as well as its primarily American business named IMPCO. The firm specializes in alternative fuel systems, especially in the realm of CNG. The firm's net income was \$23.3 million on revenue of approximately \$382.7 million in 2008 as compared to net income of \$5.9 million on revenue of approximately \$265.3 million in 2007, according to company documents obtained by this reporter. Fuel Systems Solutions senior

corporate executives could not be reached, but other company sources contacted declined to "comment on rumors." One source added, "Just wait for the press release." A stockholder of the firm involved with the CNG movement suggested any announcement might be issued on May 7 when quarterly earnings were released.

Retired Honda vice president Dan Bonawitz has been tapped to spearhead the Fuelmaker sale. Bonawitz and other Honda executives have been mum on their intentions. But this reporter has learned that on April 21st around 2 p.m. Pacific time, Bonawitz reportedly had a brief conversation with a colleague in which he said a potential Chinese buyer was no longer active but prospects were good for an Italian company, according to a source who made notes about the conversation. Bonawitz added, according to the source, that a leading point was the significant amount owed to French Gaz d' France. Bankruptcy filings indicate Gaz d' France is owed \$6.2 million, presumably deposits on future equipment and service.

Bonawitz did not return calls, nor did Honda corporate spokesperson Alicia Jones. The company is circulating an apparently misleading statement that it merely controls a "minority share" of Fuelmaker. On April 8, responding to growing outrage in the CNG community over its tactics, the company stated, "American Honda Motor Co., Inc. (Honda) has a minority interest in FuelMaker Corporation and has provided substantial financial assistance to FuelMaker for a number of years." No mention was made of its controlling interest via about \$24 million in funding or Fuelmaker preferred stock issued to Honda's alter-ego numbered corporation.

Fuelmaker records obtained by this reporter state: "2045951 Ontario Inc. ("Ontario Inc. "), a wholly-owned subsidiary of American Honda, held 80% of the issued and outstanding preferred shares of FuelMaker; and American Honda held the other 20% of the issued and outstanding preferred shares." From August 23, 2008, Honda allowed Fuelmaker to continue functioning on a "discretionary day-today" basis by virtue of a special "Forbearance Agreement" executed June 3, 2008, all based on Honda's ability to demand immediate repayment of its note and throw the company out of business. Despite knowing Fuelmaker could be forced into bankruptcy or insolvency any day, Honda continued to advertise Fuelmaker side by side with its Civic GX as viable technology being offered by a viable company. By suddenly demanding payment in late March 2009, Honda was able to suddenly kill the company, with court approval, triggering the current state of affairs.

Preferred stock, while essentially a loan, is a long-established auto industry device for quietly controlling another company to do its bidding. Decades ago, General Motors, Mack Truck, Firestone Tires, Standard Oil and Philips Petroleum used preferred stock to secretly fund National City Lines. They then directed NCL to purchase electric trolley lines across America, destroy them and replace them with oil-burning motor buses. All five companies and their executives were convicted in a federal court for subverting mass transit. The convictions were upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Angry Fuelmaker and Honda GX customers are now suggesting the company has acted as duplicitously as GM. Some are calling for class action lawsuits or prosecution.

On the CNGChat, an online community that debates the topic, one poster declared, "I spoke with a person from American Honda early today...At first she denied that Honda had any ownership in FM, but after I rattled off a couple of points (like the fact they point to the Phill in the GX brochure) she backed off a bit. She ended up telling me that she could neither confirm or deny. Like listening to the govt. I told her that FM had gotten about \$4600 of my money about 3 weeks ago and as far as I was concerned, Honda cheated me."

A second poster echoed that feeling with a one-liner: "Where do we get our money back from Honda? They cheated me!"

A third poster named Dave Fox, whose identity was confirmed by this reporter, declared: "Honda had 100% control of the preferred stock, and had a note for about 24 million. Some simple typing at Yahoo "Honda FuelMaker" produced some really disturbing articles dated back to when I ordered my car [in ] June 08, and my pump in Nov 08. I have about \$60,000 worth of Honda Civics in my driveway and they will be leaving shortly. To say that Honda has known about this for 8 months is a misstatement on my part. I think they have been planning this for about 3 years."

Fox added, "I am printing all the press I can on this and organizing it. Next week I will convert it to a PDF file and get it ready to e-mail to each and every elected State official in Congress. All 500 and change of them. It will be followed up by a filing for fraud, false advertising, and breach of warranty at the least. I am also going to request that Honda be forced out of the U.S."

Fox also posted a comment: "Honestly cannot believe a word they say. They have zero credibility as they just tossed us all under the bus. Responsible companies do not do that. Bottom line, Honda has an image problem, a customer service problem, and a bunch of people looking to throttle them. It is quite honestly firing time for the Execs here in America at the least and the CEO in Japan can go right along with them. Do not bring your self serving attitude to my door. I purchased the car in good faith, paid \$10,000 cash for the pump in good faith, and this is how I got treated. Shut it down and go back to Japan."

"The Fuelmaker question is not just curious--it is incredible," rails IMI's Staffler. "For me, the people from Honda are crazy or very bad people. Honda is one of the biggest names in the world. How can they do this? Whenever I talk with Fuelmaker they tell me and I know it is Honda, it is Honda, it is Honda. How could they do this? The Honda guys have decided all this. It is not possible for them to take these incredible actions. Our only recourse is to make the situation public. You cannot imagine the unhappiness of Fuelmaker workers and everyone else involved in this."

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Could Energy Innovation Create A 'Green Bubble'? --- NPR.org - 5/1/09

By Jeff Brady

Texas oilman T. Boone Pickens now champions renewable energy sources. He has been forced to delay a 1,000-megawatt wind project in Texas because of snags in funding. Here, he delivers a keynote address during the National Clean Energy Summit in Las Vegas on Aug. 19. Getty Images

In a series of ten stories airing this week on Morning Edition and All Things Considered and published here on NPR.org, we examine the costs, the politics and other challenges of upgrading the country's electricity grid.

One argument for a major overhaul of the U.S. electricity grid is to encourage the development of more renewable sources of energy, such as wind and solar. President Obama certainly has gotten behind green energy, and his administration is part of a concerted effort to help the industry grow.

In the wake of the housing bubble, that has some asking whether the country is headed for a renewable energy bubble.

Eric Janszen founded the financial advisory company iTulip in the midst of the Internet stock bubble. Janszen, whose company was named for the Dutch tulip bulb bubble in the 1630s, has made a career out of studying financial bubbles.

He says bubbles start with a kernel of something good – say, homeownership or the development of the Internet or, in this case, energy that causes less pollution. But then, he says, outside forces come in and create a sort of mania.

"You'll know that we're at some stage of an energy bubble when you start to hear about how you can get rich quick in the energy market," Janszen says. But first, he says, a few things have to happen. There must be significant government involvement designed to focus energy and capital on the specific industry – and clearly that's already happening.

"To really make these things go, you need a new source of credit," he says. In the housing bubble, it was mortgage-backed securities. Janszen says this element is important because you need a lot of capital gushing in to inflate stock and other asset prices.

## Developing Plans, Finding Funding

But credit is a problem right now for renewable energy developers. Texas oilman T. Boone Pickens was forced to delay construction of a 1,000-megawatt wind project in Texas, and worries about an impending renewable energy bubble aren't keeping him up at night.

"I wake up in the night wondering 'Where am I going to get the money to build this project, because I've already got \$150 million in it'," Pickens says. He says part of the problem is that natural gas prices have dropped by more than half since last summer, and it's difficult to justify using wind to generate electricity when gas is so much cheaper. Add to that one of the other challenges of wind: It's going to rely heavily on an upgraded electricity grid that isn't built yet to get power from wind corridors to population centers.

Pickens says another issue may stand in the way of a renewable energy bubble: While the Obama administration is promoting the industry, the specifics of the government's plans aren't completely clear.

"But I think once you get through this year, it's going to be pretty clear how they expect [to] cause the industry to kick off and go," Pickens says.

Congress is working on legislation that would limit greenhouse gas emissions and then turn them into a commodity that can be traded. Such a cap-and-trade system might be the seed for creating the credit necessary to get a renewable energy bubble going, Janszen says.

"Some think the investment banks will get into the cap-and-trade business and figure out a way to use that market to create securities that can then be the foundation for an asset price inflation," Janszen says.

So, while a few people out there still see the potential for a renewable energy bubble, more pieces have to fall in place first, not the least of which is major upgrades to the country's electricity grid.

Planning for that is under way. The Electric Power Research Institute was given \$1.3 million in federal stimulus money recently to develop a framework for grid developers to follow. The group expects to complete that work by early summer.

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Texas oil tycoon pitches wind power at Washington and Lee University -  
WBDK7.com - 5/1/09

Washington and Lee University has hosted a lot of well known speakers recently.

They include the NFL Commissioner and Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas.

The latest is a famous billionaire who has a message for all Americans.

T. Boone Pickens has been criss-crossing the country trying to sell his alternative energy plan. His latest stop was here on the campus of Washington and Lee.

Pickens told the crowd of more than a hundred inside Lee Chapel that America is too dependent on foreign oil.

The Pickens Plan calls for generating more electricity from wind.

He also wants the country to use more cars and trucks that run on natural gas.

"I think it's 100 percent realistic. I know the reserves are there. I understand the business," says Pickens.

Pickens says more than 1.5 million people have joined his fight since it launched last summer.

It got a lot of attention then because gas prices were nearly four dollars a gallon.

We asked him how difficult is his mission now that gas prices have fallen.

"No question you're more focused at \$4 dollar gasoline than \$2 dollar gasoline, but remember you are still imported the same percentage," says T. Boone Pickens.

Pickens clearly had a receptive audience here at W&L but he does have his critics.

Some say the oil tycoon will benefit handsomely if his plans takes off since he wants to build a massive turbine wind farm in Texas.

"I've already spent \$60 million if that's what I'm after I can tell you there would have been a more cheaper way to have to go about it then the way I've done it," says Pickens.

The well known Republican says he has supporters on both sides of the aisles including President Obama and many Senators like Harry Reid.

"I said 'Senator, this is my plan' and I laid out the plan to him and he said 'Boone, you are right that's a non-partisan issue what you're doing is all about America'," says Pickens.

Pickens may have convinced many politicians, but he knows he has to convince more Americans.

To learn more about Picken's plan, [click here](#).

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MIA, Efron, Obamas on Time's most-influential list -- TIME.com - 5/1/09  
(press release)

Global hip-hop star MIA and young Hollywood heartthrob Zac Efron have joined US President Barack and First Lady Michelle Obama on Time magazine's coveted list of The 100 Most Influential People in the World. The US-based magazine splits the list into five categories: leaders & revolutionaries, builders & titans, artists & entertainers, and heroes & icons.

In the leaders group, Obama found himself with world figures such as British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, French President Nicolas Sarkozy, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and US Secretary of State Hilary Clinton. There were spots for rightwing Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman, Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, China's Vice Premier Wang Qishan and Vice President Xi Jinping, Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and Norah al-Faiz, the Saudi deputy minister for women's education.

The builders & titans section included disgraced financier Bernie Madoff alongside US Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner. Mexican telecom tycoon Carlos Slim made the list, along with designer Stella McCartney, former oil magnate T Boone Pickens, who has spent millions of his fortune to press for alternative energy projects in the US, and Robin Chase, co-founder of US car-sharing community Zipcar.

Infosys founder Nandan Nilekani was lauded for establishing India's first truly global company, while Jack Ma made the list for founding e-commerce site Alibaba.com.

Right-wing US radio host Rush Limbaugh featured on the entertainers list along with Sam and Dan Houser, makers of the Grand Theft Auto video games. Efron, Penelope Cruz and Indian composer AR Rahman were alongside German filmmaker Werner Herzog, South African artist William Kentridge and US comedians Tina Fey and Jay Leno and actor Tom Hanks.

The heroes and icons group included Tiger Woods, actor-activist George Clooney, Michelle Obama, International AIDS Vaccine Initiative founder Seth Berkley, and sex-trade opponent Somaly Mam. Alongside such well-known figures as Oprah Winfrey and Sarah Palin, Suraya Pakzad was honoured for her work for women's rights in Afghanistan, and Sister Mary Scullion was included for her work helping the US homeless.

Featuring among scientists & thinkers list were US economists Nouriel Roubini and Paul Krugman, environmental activist Amory Lovins, and Jon Favreau, Barack Obama's head speechwriter. Also: Dambisa Moyo, whose critiques of current African aid structures are changing the continent's finances, Nobel Prize physicist Yoichiro Nambu, social scientist Nicholas Christakis and Shai Agassi, whose Better Place enterprise is building battery-exchange and charging stations for a new generation of cars in Israel, Denmark, Australia, California and elsewhere.

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#### BROADCAST COVERAGE

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1. Morning Edition

DMA: N/A

NPR (---) National

05/01/2009

05:00 AM - 06:00 AM

00:21:01 TZ; Green Power: There is a call to upgrade the nation's power grid to handle more green energy. President Barack Obama signed stimulus legislation that in part would help create more green jobs. There was 25 billion dollars included. SB; President Barack Obama, says we are taking big steps to renewable energy independence. I; Eric Janszen, iTulip, says we are headed to a green energy bubble. I; T. Boone Pickens, Texas Oilman, says he does not see an green energy bubble, says he wonders where he will get the money to build his wind project as he has 150 million dollars involved, says we need more specifics. Congress is working on a cap and trade system. The Electric Power Research institute was given 1.3 million dollars to develop a framework for grid developers to follow. Jeff Brady Reporting 00:25:29

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2. Thom Hartmann Nationwide

DMA: N/A

Syndicated Radio (---) National

04/30/2009

09:00 AM - 10:00 AM

00:16:20 ...There were over two thousand of these leveraged buyouts that occurred when values in excess of two hundred fifty billion dollars ...that was just the beginning ... these names ---you probably recognize these are the people who wre doing it -- Carl Icahn ... Victor Posner ... Nelson Peltz ... T Boone Pickens , Robert Bass, Kirk Kerkorian , Sir James Goldsmith who by the way on his deathbed in his later years felt so terrible about this he wrote a brilliant book ... called The Trap..... Carl Icahn ...remember TWA?.... 00:18:45

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3. CBS 2 News At 6:00 PM

DMA: 3

WBBM-TV CH 2 (CBS) Chicago

Spot Cost: \$611

04/30/2009

06:00 PM - 06:30 PM

Est. Audience: 50,884

Available formats: QuickView, DVD, CD, digital link, videotape, transcript, NewsBoard

00:15:23 TZ; Energy: Nordex USA has established its headquarters in Chicago. V; Nordex USA. I; Derek Johnson, Nodex Turbine Technician, who once served in the US Navy, is preparing for a training session in Germany. I; Dan McDevitt, Nordex Supervisor, loves to work in a growing industry. GR; wind turbine, animation. PC; Ralf Sigrist, Nordex President and CEO, now understands why Chicago is called the Windy City. I; Sigrist, praises Chicago for its international mindset. I; Korissa Kramer, Nordex Personnel Chief, has been flooded with resumes. T. Boone Pickens has championed wind energy. Mike Flannery reporting. 00:17:54

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4. Jason Matheson

DMA: 15

WFMP-FM 107.1 (---) Minneapolis/St. Paul

Spot Cost: \$56

04/30/2009

12:00 PM - 01:00 PM

Est. Audience: 7,000

00:30:00 they divide this list into sections ...there are leaders and revolutionaries ... builders and titans.... artists and entertainers ..... builders and titans - the Twitter guys, T. Boone Pickens , he is the oil man who's trying to start a windmill revolution ... Ted Turner, Brad Pitt 00:31:59

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5. NewsChannel 3 Daybreak

DMA: 48

WREG-TV CH 3 (CBS) Memphis

Spot Cost: \$83

05/01/2009

05:30 AM - 06:00 AM

Est. Audience: 33,586

Available formats: QuickView, DVD, CD, digital link, videotape,  
transcript, NewsBoard

[CC] 00:16:22 He's a billionaire with a message of energy conservation.  
T. Boone Pickens is traveling around the US to get his message out. " I  
think it's 100-percent realistic. I know the reserves are there. ...  
00:17:31

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6. Mornin'

DMA: 67

WDBJ-TV CH 7 (CBS) Roanoke/Lynchburg

Spot Cost: \$143

05/01/2009

06:00 AM - 07:00 AM

Est. Audience: 29,787

Available formats: QuickView, DVD, CD, digital link, videotape,  
transcript, NewsBoard

[CC] 00:31:17 And well known billionaire, T. Boone Pickens spoke at  
Washington and Lee University. We'll tell you what he had to say, in

just a moment. 00:33:23

[CC] 00:35:10 T. Boone Pickens has been criss crossing the his alternative energy country trying to sell plan. His latest stop was here on the campus of Washington and Lee. Pickens told the crowd of more than a hundred inside lee chapel that America is too dependent on foreign oil. The Pickens Plan calls for from wind. Generating more electricity he also wants the country to use more cars and trucks that run on natural gas.” I think it’s 100-percent realistic. I know the understand the reserves are there.” Pickens says more than a million and half people have joined his fight since it launched last summer. It got a lot of attention then because gas prices were nearly four dollars a gallon. We asked him how difficult is his mission now that gas prices have fallen. “T he focus, no question you’re more focus at four dollar gasoline than two dollar gasoline but remember you are still imported the same percentage. “ Pickens clearly had a receptive audience here at w&l but he does have his critics. Some say the oil tycoon will benefit handsomely if his plans takes off since he wants to build a massive turbine wind farm in Texas. ... 00:38:32

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7. Early Mornin’

DMA: 67

WDBJ-TV CH 7 (CBS) Roanoke/Lynchburg

Spot Cost: \$47

05/01/2009

05:30 AM - 06:00 AM

Est. Audience: 18,844

Available formats: QuickView, DVD, CD, digital link, videotape, transcript, NewsBoard

[CC] 00:00:06 And well known billionaire, T. Boone Pickens spoke to the campus of Washington and Lee. We'll tell you what he had to say, in just a moment. 00:02:27

[CC] 00:04:14 A well-known billionaire says we are too dependent on foreign oil. T. Boone Pickens took his alternative energy message to the campus of Washington and Lee last night. Pickens laid out his plan to a crowd of more than a hundred inside Lee Chapel. The oil tycoon wants trucks and buses to run on natural gas which is cheaper and cleaner. He also wants the country to generate more of its electricity from wind. The well known republican has found support among democrats including senate majority leader Harry Reid. T. Boone Pickens: he said I gotta ask you how you are going to fit into the presidential campaign of 08 and I said I'm out. This is more important to me and more important to this country than whoever is the president of the United States. Pickens also has the ear of the president. He told us President Obama has a great opportunity to push for a new energy policy that could make us less dependent on foreign oil.... 00:06:02

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8. News 7 At 11:00

DMA: 67

WDBJ-TV CH 7 (CBS) Roanoke/Lynchburg

Spot Cost: \$400

04/30/2009

11:00 PM - 11:35 PM

Est. Audience: 29,249

Available formats: QuickView, DVD, CD, digital link, videotape, transcript, NewsBoard

[CC] 00:08:55 Washington and Lee University has hosted a lot of well known speakers recently.... . As news 7's Justin Mcleod reports the latest is a famous billionaire who has a message for all Americans. T. Boone Pickens has been criss crossing the country trying to sell his alternative energy plan. His latest stop was here on the campus of Washington and Lee. During forum Pickens told the crowd of more than a hundred inside lee chapel that America is too dependent on foreign oil. The Pickens Plan calls for generating more electricity from wind. He also wants the country to use more cars and trucks that run on natural gas. " I think it's 100-percent realistic. I know the reserves are there. I understand the business. " Pickens says more than a million and half people have joined his fight since it launched last summer. It got a lot of attention then because gas prices were nearly four dollars a gallon. ... 00:10:26

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## 9. The Morning Show

DMA: 83

WCIA-TV CH 3 (CBS) Champaign/Springfield

Spot Cost: \$23

05/01/2009

05:00 AM - 06:00 AM

Est. Audience: 7,173

Available formats: QuickView, DVD, CD, digital link, videotape, transcript, NewsBoard

[CC] 00:21:41 A famous billionaire, continues advocating for alternative energy use for America. Justin Mcleod has more. T. Boone Pickens has been criss crossing the country trying to sell his alternative energy plan. His latest stop wahere on the campus of Washington and Lee. Pickens told the crowd of more than a hundred inside lee chapel that

America is too dependent on foreign oil. The Pickens Plan calls for generating more electricity from wind. He also wants the country to use more cars and trucks that run on natural gas. I think it's 100-percent realistic. I know the reserves are there. I understand the business. Pickens says more than a million and half people have joined his fight since it launched last summer. It got a lot of attention then because gas prices were nearly four dollars a gallon..... Pickens may have convinced many politicians but he knows he has to convince more Americans. 00:26:22

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From: Melissa McKay  
Sent: Friday, May 01, 2009 12:45 PM  
To: Sarah Hawkins  
Subject: RE: REVIEW- Pickens

The first line is confusing, you make it sound like it's from TIME but it's from earthtimes?

Put the St. Louis article first in summary and coverage bc it's the most comprehensive.

The NPR preview story needs to be included in the summary, noting that he'll be party of a series running next week on Morning Edition.

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From: Sarah Hawkins  
Sent: Friday, May 01, 2009 12:14 PM  
To: Melissa McKay  
Subject: REVIEW- Pickens

T. Boone Pickens Media Coverage 5.1.09

Total of 17 Placements

- \* Print: 4
- \* Blog/Online: 4
- \* Broadcast: 9

Coverage Summary:

TIME Magazine's coveted list of "The 100 Most Influential People in the World" listed T. Boone Pickens as the former oil magnate, who has spent millions of his fortune to press for alternative energy projects in the US.

T. Boone Pickens received coverage today in The Roanoke Times and on local broadcast stations in Roanoke/Lynchburg, Virginia after speaking at a town hall meeting at Washington and Lee University.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch wrote a favorable piece on the Pickens Plan after his visit to University of Missouri highlighting his speech and alternative energy strides.

Highlighted Placements (Full Articles Below)

- \* MIA, Efron, Obamas on Time's most-influential list -- Earthtimes.com - 5/1/09 (press release)
- \* Oil Tycoon T. Boone Pickens Pushes Renewable Energy - The Roanoke Times - 5/1/09
- \* T. Boone Pickens Wants To Remake America's Energy Policy - The St. Louis Post-Dispatch - 5/1/09
  
- \* Tulsa World

Print Placements (Full Articles Below)

- \* Oil Tycoon T. Boone Pickens Pushes Renewable Energy - The Roanoke Times - 5/1/09
- \* T. Boone Pickens Wants To Remake America's Energy Policy - The St. Louis Post-Dispatch - 5/1/09

\* Tulsa World

\* Biofuel Production: a Drink-or-Drive Issue? - Environmental Science and Technology Journal - 5/1/09

Blog/Online Placements (Full Articles Below)

\* What if the Oil Stops - CuttingEdgeNews.com

\* Could Energy Innovation Create A 'Green Bubble'? --- NPR.org - 5/1/09

\* Texas oil tycoon pitches wind power at Washington and Lee University - WBDK7.com - 5/1/09

\* MIA, Efron, Obamas on Time's most-influential list -- Earthtimes.com - 5/1/09 (press release)

#### HIGHLIGHTED COVERAGE

MIA, Efron, Obamas on Time's most-influential list -- Earthtimes.com - 5/1/09 (press release)

Global hip-hop star MIA and young Hollywood heartthrob Zac Efron have joined US President Barack and First Lady Michelle Obama on Time magazine's coveted list of The 100 Most Influential People in the World. The US-based magazine splits the list into five categories: leaders & revolutionaries, builders & titans, artists & entertainers, and heroes & icons.

In the leaders group, Obama found himself with world figures such as British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, French President Nicolas Sarkozy, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and US Secretary of State Hilary Clinton. There were spots for rightwing Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman, Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, China's Vice Premier Wang Qishan and Vice President Xi Jinping, Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and Norah al-Faiz, the Saudi deputy minister for women's education.

The builders & titans section included disgraced financier Bernie Madoff alongside US Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner. Mexican telecom tycoon Carlos Slim made the list, along with designer Stella McCartney, former oil magnate T Boone Pickens, who has spent millions of his fortune to press for alternative energy projects in the US, and Robin Chase, co-founder of US car-sharing community Zipcar.

Infosys founder Nandan Nilekani was lauded for establishing India's first truly global company, while Jack Ma made the list for founding e-commerce site Alibaba.com.

Right-wing US radio host Rush Limbaugh featured on the entertainers list along with Sam and Dan Houser, makers of the Grand Theft Auto video games. Efron, Penelope Cruz and Indian composer AR Rahman were alongside German filmmaker Werner Herzog, South African artist William Kentridge and US comedians Tina Fey and Jay Leno and actor Tom Hanks.

The heroes and icons group included Tiger Woods, actor-activist George Clooney, Michelle Obama, International AIDS Vaccine Initiative founder Seth Berkley, and sex-trade opponent Somaly Mam. Alongside such well-known figures as Oprah Winfrey and Sarah Palin, Suraya Pakzad was honoured for her work for women's rights in Afghanistan, and Sister Mary Scullion was included for her work helping the US homeless.

Featuring among scientists & thinkers list were US economists Nouriel Roubini and Paul Krugman, environmental activist Amory Lovins, and Jon Favreau, Barack Obama's head speechwriter. Also: Dambisa Moyo, whose critiques of current African aid structures are changing the continent's finances, Nobel Prize physicist Yoichiro Nambu, social scientist Nicholas Christakis and Shai Agassi, whose Better Place enterprise is building battery-exchange and charging stations for a new generation of cars in Israel, Denmark, Australia, California and elsewhere.

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- 5/1/09

By Jacob Geiger

It's been 10 months since oil billionaire T. Boone Pickens announced a massive plan to reduce American dependence on foreign oil through a major expansion of natural gas and wind power sources.

Pickens brought his plan to the campus of Washington and Lee University on Thursday night, telling several hundred students and alumni how he thinks natural gas can be used to replace diesel and gasoline as the fuel that powers American vehicles.

He said the dramatic fall of oil prices from more than \$140 per barrel when the plan was announced in July to \$51 today is not a sign that the United States can afford to stick with the status quo.

"OPEC has already said it needs \$75 per barrel, so I think we'll see that by the end of the year," Pickens said in an interview after the speech. "Say the global economy recovers in two years; oil will be back at \$150 per barrel in three years."

He lamented the fact that American automakers produce natural gas cars but then sell them only abroad.

"There are 10 million natural gas vehicles in the world, but only 142,000 are in the U.S.," Pickens said. "General Motors makes 18 types of natural gas vehicles but none in the U.S."

Some cities and companies are already converting their fleets to natural gas vehicles. The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority has begun replacing its diesel-burning buses with ones that run on natural gas. The switch was initially made because natural gas buses have lower emissions. But the city is so pleased that garbage trucks are now being converted as well, Pickens said.

Natural gas generates 20 percent of the nation's electricity. Pickens

wants to use that gas to move cars and trucks. To replace that electrical capacity he is urging expansion of wind energy.

Before the proposed wind turbines can start delivering power from remote, windy locations to major cities, Pickens acknowledged that the nation needs new high-voltage transmission lines. But those lines often meet resistance from people who don't want the lines near their homes.

The congressional stimulus package included money to help fund these new power lines. Pickens said President Obama must use his popularity to push for the new energy grid and keep emphasizing renewable energy sources.

The final key, Pickens said, is getting students to take the lead in his movement.

"I'm going to offload some of the responsibility to you," he said. "A guy who is 81 shouldn't have all of the responsibility."

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T. Boone Pickens Wants To Remake America's Energy Policy - The St. Louis Post-Dispatch - 5/1/09

By Jeffrey Tomich

At 80 years old, T. Boone Pickens is still the big man on campus.

Walking the crowded corridors of Jesse Hall at the University of Missouri following a speech, a man in a cap and jeans greets the billionaire with a handshake.

"You're a hell of a man," the stranger says, slapping Pickens on the back.

A minute later, another man tells Pickens that he's converted his pickup to run on propane. Trailing behind his boss, a Pickens employee keeps a fistful of envelopes – fan mail – that people have handed him during a three-hour visit.

"We get these everywhere," the aide says.

A geologist by trade, Pickens is among the richest people in America with an estimated net worth of \$3.1 billion. He's been in the spotlight since the early 1980s when he led a series of takeover bids for companies Gulf Oil and Phillips Petroleum. In the mid-90s he founded private investment firm BP Capital Management.

But the rock star treatment Pickens gets these days is a product of his latest endeavor – a \$58 million self-funded crusade to reshape America's energy policy by helping wean the country off Middle Eastern oil.

"For 40 years we've had no energy plan in America. Zero. None," Pickens said. "If we go 10 years longer, we're going to fall in the stupid category."

Pickens launched his campaign on July 8, when crude oil was almost \$150 a barrel and gasoline was \$4 a gallon. Since then, energy prices have been choked by the recession, and "energy security" – a popular phrase during last fall's presidential race – has taken a back seat to reviving the economy.

But Pickens continues to sell his plan with the verve of someone half his age. Last month he spent 70 hours in his jet, making 54 stops, he said. And the pace isn't slowing. Before flying to Columbia on April 23, Pickens met in Dallas with Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal. After his speech at Mizzou, it was on to Philadelphia to pick up an award. On Saturday, he hosted a town hall in

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urging them to hold politicians accountable for fixing America's energy woes. Then it was on to lunch with university President Gary Forsee, Missouri S&T Chancellor John Carney and Columbia Mayor Darwin Hindman.

As he picked at a salad and swigged Diet Dr Pepper, Pickens thanked Hindman for being one of 185 U.S. mayors to endorse his energy plan.

"I disagree with him on a couple of points, but I basically agree with him on the point of needing to reduce our foreign oil dependence," Hindman said afterward in an interview.

"We've got too many eggs in one basket."

On stage, Pickens is at home in front of the 2,000 people who filled Jesse Auditorium. Perched on a stool, he sermonizes on the economic and national security risks of America's foreign oil addiction. He starts with colorful anecdotes about Big 12 football and self-deprecating jokes to loosen up the crowd. Then the tone turns serious.

"We're using 25 percent of all the oil with 4 percent of the people," Pickens says in a gravelly drawl. "That is going to cause a great amount of problems for us in the very near future. When the global economy picks up again, we're going to be back in the same spot."

His solution: Replace 20 percent of the electricity generated by natural gas with wind and solar power, and modernize the grid to more easily move electricity across state lines. Then use the natural gas as a substitute for crude oil-based diesel in 350,000 trucks and buses.

Pickens' support of renewable energy has won him some powerful allies in Washington. Among them are former Vice President Al Gore; Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev.; and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif. The billionaire also has spoken with Energy Secretary Stephen Chu, who is reportedly "agnostic" on the plan.

But any environmental benefit that comes with reducing oil consumption is a byproduct of his plan, not the reason for it. In fact, Pickens supports the use of coal, nuclear power and expanded oil drilling.

And while his interests have aligned him with Congressional leadership, he's still remembered by many Democrats for helping fund the Swift Boat ads that helped torpedo John Kerry's 2004 presidential campaign.

Pickens says he is encouraged by the stimulus bill, which has provisions to aid renewable energy development and modernize the electric grid. He also pushed federal legislation filed last month that would extend tax incentives for natural gas as a transportation fuel and tax credits for automakers who produce natural gas vehicles.

His campaign to cut foreign oil use has earned plenty of support. So far, his website has received more than 30 million hits, and 1.5 million people have signed up to join the volunteer "army" of supporters.

But not everyone is as enthusiastic. Some say Pickens' plan is flawed, too ambitious, or both. Others say he is pushing for the expanded use of wind and natural gas because he is heavily invested in both. But even skeptics credit Pickens with helping kick start a dialogue about energy policy.

The Edison Electric Institute, the trade association for electric utilities, agrees with Pickens' goal of expanding the use of renewable energy, improving the grid and reducing the nation's dependence on oil imports. But the group has concerns about a few specifics of his plan.

For one, wind is a variable resource (that is, it doesn't always blow), so a backup power source is needed. And that backup fuel has traditionally been natural gas, EEI spokesman Jim Owen said.

"We just believe there are certain parts of the plan that may not be practical," Owen said. "Our concern is that we don't want people to be

misled to believe that wind can deliver more than it can."

Using natural gas for transportation also causes challenges. While the U.S. has ample supplies, the fuel has many other uses. It's used in home heating, fertilizer production and as a factory fuel, and policies that boost demand and prices could have harmful consequences, said Bill O'Grady of Confluence Investment Management LLC and a former energy analyst at A.G. Edwards.

Pickens maintains he is working to fix the nation's energy policy for the benefit of future generations, not himself.

"I can make it to the finish line and my standard of living won't change," he says.

But observers point out that as the owner of Clean Energy Fuels, the nation's largest owner of natural gas refueling stations, Pickens stands to benefit in a big way if his plan succeeds.

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PRINT COVERAGE

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Biofuel Production: a Drink-or-Drive Issue? - Environmental Science and Technology Journal - 5/1/09

Federal requirements to increase the production of ethanol has developed into a "drink-or-drive issue" in the Midwest as a result of biofuel production's impact on water supplies and water quality, says an environmental engineering researcher at Missouri University of Science and Technology in the latest issue of the journal Environmental Science & Technology.

In an analysis of the water required to produce ethanol from various crops, Dr. Joel G. Burken, a professor of environmental engineering at Missouri S&T, and colleagues from Rice University and Clarkson

University find that ethanol could become a costly proposition in terms of "gallons per mile" and other water quality issues.

They describe the Midwest's water needs and impacts as the 'water footprint' in their cover feature for the May 1, 2009, issue of Environmental Science & Technology.

The researchers report that ethanol derived from corn grown in Nebraska, for example, would require 50 gallons of water per mile driven, when all the water needed in irrigation of crops and processing into ethanol is considered. Fuel derived from irrigated sorghum grown in that state would require even more water to produce - as much as 115 gallons per mile.

Moreover, increasing production of biofuels from row crops will likely result in more water pollution due to soil erosion and the increased use of pesticides to grow enough crops to meet federal mandates for more ethanol, the researchers say. The mandated production using the current technology has driven the use of ethanol production from corn and biodiesel from soybeans as these are the currently available technologies.

In their Environmental Science & Technology article, the researchers suggest that federal regulators take a closer look at how a push for bioenergy will affect water resources.

"Developing a sustainable national biofuels program requires careful consideration of logistical concerns ... and of unintended environmental impacts," write Burken and his co-authors, Rosa Dominguez-Faus and Dr. Pedro J. Alvarez of Rice University and Dr. Susan E. Powers of Clarkson University, in their article, "The Water Footprint of Biofuels: A Drink or Drive Issue?"

To arrive at their gallons-per-mile figures, the researchers first looked at the amount of water required to produce a single gallon of ethanol. In Nebraska, for example, it takes 800 gallons of water - from crop irrigation through final processing into ethanol - to create a single gallon of the corn-derived transportation fuel. Divide that by an average mileage of 16 miles per gallon (or two-thirds the average for gasoline-powered cars, a standard average for ethanol-powered vehicles),

and the result is 50 gallons of water per mile.

While previous studies have examined biofuel production's impact on air quality, land use and net energy value, "the effect of increased biofuel production on water security has not been subjected to the same scrutiny," the researchers write. The main focus of previous studies looked at environmental trade-offs to fossil-fuel usage and not other aspects of biofuel production, according to the researchers.

"The overall water footprint associated with biofuels must recognize the impact of increased agricultural activity on water quality as well as water consumption," they write. With the federal Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) of 2007 calling for a dramatic ramp-up in ethanol production by 2015, Burken and his colleagues foresee additional water quality problems due to "increased agricultural activity such as tilling more land for row crops and higher fertilizer and agrichemical application."

The Energy Independence and Security Act requires the United States to produce 15 billion gallons of corn-derived ethanol annually by 2015 and 16 billion gallons of fuel from cellulosic crops, such as switchgrass, by 2016. The researchers note that 44 percent of all the corn produced in the United States from 2007 would be required for ethanol production to meet the 2015 goal.

"The decision to mandate ethanol production may look great initially as we all like the concept of biofuels," Burken says, "but really our difficult energy position and reliance on foreign oil is the result of our lack of an energy policy and investing a decade ago in biofuel technologies. Biofuel production is part of our energy future, but it needs to be considered as part of a portfolio of energy sources and technologies."

While it's unlikely the EISA will be repealed, Burken hopes lawmakers and regulators at the state and federal levels "consider a life-cycle analysis before implementing future mandates" for energy sources. Lawmakers and regulators need to consider all of the economic and environmental trade-offs - not just reducing greenhouse gas emissions, for instance. "Otherwise, we may be thinking we're addressing one environmental issue while in fact sacrificing another," Burken says.

Burken and his colleagues suggest that "drought-tolerant, high-yield plants grown on little irrigation water" would have less impact on water resources. One such crop, Burken says, is miscanthus, a fast-growing perennial grass that "grows so dense you can't walk through it and grows about 9-10 feet a year." Currently, however, no technology is available to convert the cellulosic biomass and produce it in large quantities. Once alternative biofuel production crops and processes are developed, selecting the best crop for individual settings will help to optimize biofuel production and minimize the environmental impacts of the production, Burken says.

"Developing the crops and distribution of crop production took about 100 years to get to where it was a few years ago," Burken says.

"Redeveloping this production with the goal of biofuel production will take time and effort of farmers and engineers. While miscanthus may or may not be a part of our biofuels future, we at least need a little time and investment to develop the best solutions for our future."

Quoting Texas oilman T. Boone Pickens, whom Burken met on April 22 during the Missouri Energy Summit, Burken says, "The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago, but the next best time if you didn't is today."

#### BLOG/ONLINE COVERAGE

What if the Oil Stops - [CuttingEdgeNews.com](http://CuttingEdgeNews.com)

This continuing coverage of America's oil crisis arises from the *The Plan: How to Save America When the Oil Stops—or the Day Before* (Dialog Press). Buy it here.

Update May 1. The day after The Cutting Edge News released its story about the impending sale of Fuelmaker, probably to Fuel Systems Solutions, the actual sale to Fuel Systems Solutions was announced. See related story in Energy.

"It is a very bad situation. I am not good. I am desperate," declared

Haimo Staffler, president of IMI, the exclusive Italian distributor of home and office compressed natural gas (CNG) refueling devices manufactured by Honda Fuelmaker. The devices include the Phill unit designed to be the home refueler for the much touted restricted-production Honda Civic GX. The GX runs exclusively on CNG and holds the promise of untethering its owners from oil use and gas stations. Fuelmaker devices refuel not just Honda vehicles but any compatible CNG vehicle from forklifts to Fiats. Staffler's experience with Honda executives and their conduct in the Fuelmaker case has left him shocked and angry, accusing them of extreme misconduct.

"These people from Honda," he asserts, "they are driving me crazy. What they have done is terrible."

Specifically, Staffler accuses Honda of extreme misconduct in the recent sudden bankruptcy the Japanese carmaker forced on Fuelmaker. Overnight, that engineered bankruptcy has vaporized IMI's distribution agreements and product launches for Fuelmaker in Italy.

Staffler says at all times during more than a half-decade of partnering with Fuelmaker, he understood that the Canadian company was actually controlled by Honda and functioned as a Honda subsidiary.

Investigation has revealed that the famed Japanese car company indeed controlled the Toronto-based Fuelmaker directly through stock ownership and through a secretive wholly-owned nameless Canadian numbered corporation known only as "2045951 Ontario." Designed to mask ownership, the numbered corporation 2045951 is nonetheless referred to in page after page of corporate financial filings, obtained by this reporter, under the moniker "HondaSub."

By way of background, Fuelmaker's shutdown was orchestrated by American Honda and its alter-ego numbered corporation between March 31 and April 3 in a series of stealthy legal moves. The abrupt halt in operations and termination without severance of all staff stunned loyal employees, strategic partners, customers, suppliers and alt-fuel advocates of Fuelmaker and the CNG home and office refueling devices it manufactured and serviced. At the same time, the strategic liquidation allowed Honda to sell the company to another buyer minus the pre-existing obligations, debts and contractual duties—hence making it cheaper and more attractive.

Details of the Honda-Fuelmaker forced bankruptcy debacle were broken exclusively by this reporter in The Cutting Edge News. A plan by Honda to undermine its own CNG vehicle production and refueling program was first reported last fall in the book The Plan. In the aftermath of the revelations, loyal Honda customers have been shaken, and the company, once the darling of alt-fuel activists, has suffered a damaging public relations fall from grace.

The latest charge against crest-fallen Honda begins some six years ago, when Staffler saw the sleek and compact Phill refueling unit standing atop a short L-shaped tabletop display in Portugal. Staffler says he immediately saw the Phill device "not as 'the solution,' but certainly one of several solutions to oil addiction in Italy." Shortly thereafter, he met in Toronto with then-Fuelmaker president John Lyon and other company engineers. "They were all very nice people. But immediately, I knew I was dealing with Honda. I remember, for example, we wanted to test the compressors. But he says, 'We are Honda. What is there to test?'"

With the Honda imprint, Staffler fell in love with the whole idea of CNG and Phill. Home and office refueling, he thought, would accelerate efforts by Italy and the wider world to kick the oil addiction. Italy is one of the oldest and most developed natural gas markets in Europe, dating from WWII when Mussolini was unable to obtain oil supplies. The dictator ordered fuel switched to CNG. Staffler agrees. "CNG is an old story in Italy," he affirms. "It is now a big market. Fiat has a fantastic bifuel vehicle using CNG. Last year, Fiat sold about 80,000 of them for fleet and individual use in Italy. There are now more than 400,000 CNG vehicles of all kinds in Italy."

What made Phill right for Italy, he says, was the abundance of CNG vehicles and the lack of refueling stations. Of an estimated 22,000 Italian fueling stations, CNG authorities indicate only about 600 offer CNG fuel.

Staffler says he tested the Phill units on his own CNG Mercedes and on other vehicles throughout Italy. "The units worked. They were excellent," he says.

In 2006, recounts Staffler, IMI obtained Italian and European

certifications for quality control and a mass installation program. "Without certification, we could not go to the Italian government for assistance. With it, we made the Phill like a home appliance, like a TV or a stove. But it took from 2003 working with Fuelmaker to make this happen."

By October 2006, Staffler recounts, IMI was ready to buy units. "But Fuelmaker says to us, 'Look, we are Honda. You are Italians. So you must pay first.' You know, it was a joke, but I took this as a sort of unspoken negative against Italians. Like we are Mafia—but now we see who is the real Mafia, and who cannot be trusted. It is Honda, not us."

"So we agreed to pay in advance," he continues. "We gave them something like \$500,000 and we never had a guarantee, because of course they are Honda. We knew that and they told us that. We trusted Honda people."

In September 2007 in Cairo, at an international natural gas vehicle convention, IMI and Fuelmaker signed an exclusive dealership agreement for Italy. The happy event was advertised on the Fuelmaker website. "Then," recounts Staffler IMI goes to show after show all across Italy, we make TV presentations, videos—all to introduce Italians to the idea of refueling at home. We overcome all the arguments, especially the argument that home refueling is dangerous. By now, we had millions of Euros invested. Plus, we had participation from big public natural gas companies. We offered to install Phills like cell phones--1000 installations in 2009 but 10,000 in 2010. We projected by 2010, by next year, we would be turning a profit." In Italy, IMI's Phill would sell for 4000 EU. With public sector help for installations, including government assistance, half that cost would be subsidized making the consumer expense a mere \$2000, or about as expensive as a big TV, according to IMI.

By late 2008, IMI executives were more than excited. "We were sure the latest Phill model was perfect, with all prior technical problems overcome," asserts Staffler. "Fuelmaker is almost like a research university—always making it better. But now in late 2008 we need the production numbers. How many can we really get? We wanted plenty."

IMI was so enthused about Fuelmaker, it tried to purchase the company to ensure a steady stream of refuelers and to make the idea a success everywhere. "We signed an NDA to negotiate for the company," says Staffler "But we did not agree to buy the company because we did not

agree on the value of the intellectual property.”

IMI then concentrated on becoming an enthusiastic booster and distributor of Fuelmaker devices assured of its Italian exclusive. By early 2009, Staffler recounts, “We had new companies set up throughout Italy, in Sicily, in Naples, in Milan and Rome and Turin. We lined up the important Fiat car dealers.” With a promising launch in the offing, Staffler says he again visited Toronto, this time in February 2009, where he met again with company executives. “Fuelmaker staffers are all good people, working hard at a difficult job,” he emphasizes.

With six years of his life and millions of IMI’s Euros invested, Staffler’s excitement was unbridled in the closing days of March 2009. Within weeks, he was prepared to make his dream a reality.

Then on April 6, he received a call from a colleague with the news: “Fuelmaker has declared bankruptcy.” A stunned Staffler called Fuelmaker in Canada immediately, “but all I got was voice mail.” He adds, “Then I went on the Internet and read the details in The Cutting Edge News and said this cannot be possible!” Italian officials in Canada also referred him the same story. Eventually, IMI attorneys confirmed that Fuelmaker was thrown into bankruptcy by Honda executives working behind the scenes through a nameless numbered corporation.

“I spent millions, six years of my life, and no one calls me,” stated an exasperated Staffler. “I have to read it on the Internet!”

Days after learning of the company’s shutdown, he recounts, “I am talking to Alan Hutchens from the receiver Alvarez and Marsal and he gives me confirmation.” Hutchens is listed as a senior director of the firm. Staffler continues, “Then Hutchens tells me that they have exclusive agreement from November 2008 to try to sell Fuelmaker to another Italian company. Hutchens said that if discussions with that other Italian company do not succeed, we will talk to you. I said to Hutchens,” continues Staffler, “Is this a joke or what? We are the exclusive distributor here. How can you be talking to another company? We don't do this in Italy. You say to me YOU are Italians, like Mafia, but look what you do. “

Stunned, Staffler concludes, “Now I know why Honda put Fuelmaker in

bankruptcy. It is obvious they bankrupted the whole company because Fuelmaker is not a good company to sell by the numbers, but only with their intellectual property.” Most industry sources agree the core of Fuelmaker’s value is not its physical refueling devices as much as the proprietary engineering that makes the devices work.

Shortly after their conversation, Staffler faxed Hutchens an indignant letter stating: “I was not aware of the fact that negotiations with the Italian company apparently go on since November 2008. So I guess that you understand my concern...You confirmed me 2 days ago that you were in negotiation with the same Italian company already before Honda declared Fuelmaker bankruptcy, and that you go on with the exclusive negotiation in this new, very different situation with the same company.”

Staffler’s fax continues, “Before April 2nd, Honda was the owner of 100% of Fuelmaker...Obviously less interesting appeared the state of the company concerning employment obligations, including the President of Toronto-based Fuelmaker, and all the commercial contracts (like the exclusive agreement with IMI). Now I am learning that the same company negotiates with you to buy the same ‘product’ but without ‘problems.’ I hope you understand that I am not willing to accept this non-transparent way of “negotiations” and ask you to stop immediately the exclusive negotiation and open it also to our company. Such a transparent method could, at the end, be much more useful for all the parties involved.” This reporter has obtained a copy of IMI’s fax and transmission confirmation.

Bankruptcies and court-ordered liquidations are traditionally conducted in a transparent fashion which does not favor one company over another.

Hutchens did not return phone calls for comment, nor did several other executives from Alvarez and Marsal working on the Fuelmaker liquidation. One man did call this reporter, identifying himself as one of the Alvarez and Marsal receivers but refused to give his name when asked and then hung up.

This reporter could not independently confirm Staffler’s account or any details about a Honda negotiation with an Italian company as far back as 2008. But an April 20, 2009 Fuelmaker bankruptcy report obtained by this reporter confirms that after the much-heralded potential sale of the company to Clean Energy, controlled by T. Boone Pickens, failed, Honda executives, working through their alter-ego numbered corporation,

“approached a second [bidding] party...to see if it remained interested in acquiring Fuelmaker assets.” The document adds, “Negotiations with the party are currently on-going.”

Numerous sources among Honda Fuelmaker partners speculated that Fuel Systems Solutions is the unnamed buyer in negotiation. Fuel Systems Solutions of Santa Ana California operates a primarily Italian company called BRC, as well as its primarily American business named IMPCO. The firm specializes in alternative fuel systems, especially in the realm of CNG. The firm’s net income was \$23.3 million on revenue of approximately \$382.7 million in 2008 as compared to net income of \$5.9 million on revenue of approximately \$265.3 million in 2007, according to company documents obtained by this reporter. Fuel Systems Solutions senior corporate executives could not be reached, but other company sources contacted declined to “comment on rumors.” One source added, “Just wait for the press release.” A stockholder of the firm involved with the CNG movement suggested any announcement might be issued on May 7 when quarterly earnings were released.

Retired Honda vice president Dan Bonawitz has been tapped to spearhead the Fuelmaker sale. Bonawitz and other Honda executives have been mum on their intentions. But this reporter has learned that on April 21st around 2 p.m. Pacific time, Bonawitz reportedly had a brief conversation with a colleague in which he said a potential Chinese buyer was no longer active but prospects were good for an Italian company, according to a source who made notes about the conversation. Bonawitz added, according to the source, that a leading point was the significant amount owed to French Gaz d' France. Bankruptcy filings indicate Gaz d' France is owed \$6.2 million, presumably deposits on future equipment and service.

Bonawitz did not return calls, nor did Honda corporate spokesperson Alicia Jones. The company is circulating an apparently misleading statement that it merely controls a “minority share” of Fuelmaker. On April 8, responding to growing outrage in the CNG community over its tactics, the company stated, “American Honda Motor Co., Inc. (Honda) has a minority interest in FuelMaker Corporation and has provided substantial financial assistance to FuelMaker for a number of years.” No mention was made of its controlling interest via about \$24 million in funding or Fuelmaker preferred stock issued to Honda’s alter-ego numbered corporation.

Fuelmaker records obtained by this reporter state: “2045951 Ontario Inc. (“Ontario Inc. ”), a wholly-owned subsidiary of American Honda, held 80%

of the issued and outstanding preferred shares of FuelMaker; and American Honda held the other 20% of the issued and outstanding preferred shares.” From August 23, 2008, Honda allowed Fuelmaker to continue functioning on a “discretionary day-today” basis by virtue of a special “Forbearance Agreement” executed June 3, 2008, all based on Honda’s ability to demand immediate repayment of its note and throw the company out of business. Despite knowing Fuelmaker could be forced into bankruptcy or insolvency any day, Honda continued to advertise Fuelmaker side by side with its Civic GX as viable technology being offered by a viable company. By suddenly demanding payment in late March 2009, Honda was able to suddenly kill the company, with court approval, triggering the current state of affairs.

Preferred stock, while essentially a loan, is a long-established auto industry device for quietly controlling another company to do its bidding. Decades ago, General Motors, Mack Truck, Firestone Tires, Standard Oil and Philips Petroleum used preferred stock to secretly fund National City Lines. They then directed NCL to purchase electric trolley lines across America, destroy them and replace them with oil-burning motor buses. All five companies and their executives were convicted in a federal court for subverting mass transit. The convictions were upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Angry Fuelmaker and Honda GX customers are now suggesting the company has acted as duplicitously as GM. Some are calling for class action lawsuits or prosecution.

On the CNGChat, an online community that debates the topic, one poster declared, “I spoke with a person from American Honda early today...At first she denied that Honda had any ownership in FM, but after I rattled off a couple of points (like the fact they point to the Phill in the GX brochure) she backed off a bit. She ended up telling me that she could neither confirm or deny. Like listening to the govt. I told her that FM had gotten about \$4600 of my money about 3 weeks ago and as far as I was concerned, Honda cheated me.”

A second poster echoed that feeling with a one-liner: “Where do we get our money back from Honda? They cheated me!”

A third poster named Dave Fox, whose identity was confirmed by this reporter, declared: “Honda had 100% control of the preferred stock, and had a note for about 24 million. Some simple typing at Yahoo “Honda

FuelMaker" produced some really disturbing articles dated back to when I ordered my car [in ] June 08, and my pump in Nov 08. I have about \$60,000 worth of Honda Civics in my driveway and they will be leaving shortly. To say that Honda has known about this for 8 months is a misstatement on my part. I think they have been planning this for about 3 years."

Fox added, "I am printing all the press I can on this and organizing it. Next week I will convert it to a PDF file and get it ready to e-mail to each and every elected State official in Congress. All 500 and change of them. It will be followed up by a filing for fraud, false advertising, and breach of warranty at the least. I am also going to request that Honda be forced out of the U.S."

Fox also posted a comment: "Honestly cannot believe a word they say. They have zero credibility as they just tossed us all under the bus. Responsible companies do not do that. Bottom line, Honda has an image problem, a customer service problem, and a bunch of people looking to throttle them. It is quite honestly firing time for the Execs here in America at the least and the CEO in Japan can go right along with them. Do not bring your self serving attitude to my door. I purchased the car in good faith, paid \$10,000 cash for the pump in good faith, and this is how I got treated. Shut it down and go back to Japan."

"The Fuelmaker question is not just curious--it is incredible," rails IMI's Staffler. "For me, the people from Honda are crazy or very bad people. Honda is one of the biggest names in the world. How can they do this? Whenever I talk with Fuelmaker they tell me and I know it is Honda, it is Honda, it is Honda. How could they do this? The Honda guys have decided all this. It is not possible for them to take these incredible actions. Our only recourse is to make the situation public. You cannot imagine the unhappiness of Fuelmaker workers and everyone else involved in this."

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Could Energy Innovation Create A 'Green Bubble'? --- NPR.org - 5/1/09

By Jeff Brady

Texas oilman T. Boone Pickens now champions renewable energy sources. He has been forced to delay a 1,000-megawatt wind project in Texas because of snags in funding. Here, he delivers a keynote address during the National Clean Energy Summit in Las Vegas on Aug. 19. Getty Images

In a series of ten stories airing this week on Morning Edition and All Things Considered and published here on NPR.org, we examine the costs, the politics and other challenges of upgrading the country's electricity grid.

One argument for a major overhaul of the U.S. electricity grid is to encourage the development of more renewable sources of energy, such as wind and solar. President Obama certainly has gotten behind green energy, and his administration is part of a concerted effort to help the industry grow.

In the wake of the housing bubble, that has some asking whether the country is headed for a renewable energy bubble.

Eric Janszen founded the financial advisory company iTulip in the midst of the Internet stock bubble. Janszen, whose company was named for the Dutch tulip bulb bubble in the 1630s, has made a career out of studying financial bubbles.

He says bubbles start with a kernel of something good – say, homeownership or the development of the Internet or, in this case, energy that causes less pollution. But then, he says, outside forces come in and create a sort of mania.

"You'll know that we're at some stage of an energy bubble when you start to hear about how you can get rich quick in the energy market," Janszen says. But first, he says, a few things have to happen. There must be significant government involvement designed to focus energy and capital on the specific industry – and clearly that's already happening.

"To really make these things go, you need a new source of credit," he says. In the housing bubble, it was mortgage-backed securities. Janszen says this element is important because you need a lot of capital gushing in to inflate stock and other asset prices.

### Developing Plans, Finding Funding

But credit is a problem right now for renewable energy developers. Texas oilman T. Boone Pickens was forced to delay construction of a 1,000-megawatt wind project in Texas, and worries about an impending renewable energy bubble aren't keeping him up at night.

"I wake up in the night wondering 'Where am I going to get the money to build this project, because I've already got \$150 million in it'," Pickens says. He says part of the problem is that natural gas prices have dropped by more than half since last summer, and it's difficult to justify using wind to generate electricity when gas is so much cheaper. Add to that one of the other challenges of wind: It's going to rely heavily on an upgraded electricity grid that isn't built yet to get power from wind corridors to population centers.

Pickens says another issue may stand in the way of a renewable energy bubble: While the Obama administration is promoting the industry, the specifics of the government's plans aren't completely clear.

"But I think once you get through this year, it's going to be pretty clear how they expect [to] cause the industry to kick off and go," Pickens says.

Congress is working on legislation that would limit greenhouse gas emissions and then turn them into a commodity that can be traded. Such a

cap-and-trade system might be the seed for creating the credit necessary to get a renewable energy bubble going, Janszen says.

"Some think the investment banks will get into the cap-and-trade business and figure out a way to use that market to create securities that can then be the foundation for an asset price inflation," Janszen says.

So, while a few people out there still see the potential for a renewable energy bubble, more pieces have to fall in place first, not the least of which is major upgrades to the country's electricity grid.

Planning for that is under way. The Electric Power Research Institute was given \$1.3 million in federal stimulus money recently to develop a framework for grid developers to follow. The group expects to complete that work by early summer.

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Texas oil tycoon pitches wind power at Washington and Lee University -  
WBDK7.com - 5/1/09

Washington and Lee University has hosted a lot of well known speakers recently.

They include the NFL Commissioner and Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas.

The latest is a famous billionaire who has a message for all Americans.

T. Boone Pickens has been criss-crossing the country trying to sell his alternative energy plan. His latest stop was here on the campus of Washington and Lee.

Pickens told the crowd of more than a hundred inside Lee Chapel that America is too dependent on foreign oil.

The Pickens Plan calls for generating more electricity from wind.

He also wants the country to use more cars and trucks that run on natural gas.

"I think it's 100 percent realistic. I know the reserves are there. I understand the business," says Pickens.

Pickens says more than 1.5 million people have joined his fight since it launched last summer.

It got a lot of attention then because gas prices were nearly four dollars a gallon.

We asked him how difficult is his mission now that gas prices have fallen.

"No question you're more focused at \$4 dollar gasoline than \$2 dollar gasoline, but remember you are still imported the same percentage," says T. Boone Pickens.

Pickens clearly had a receptive audience here at W&L but he does have his critics.

Some say the oil tycoon will benefit handsomely if his plans takes off since he wants to build a massive turbine wind farm in Texas.

"I've already spent \$60 million if that's what I'm after I can tell you there would have been a more cheaper way to have to go about it then the way I've done it," says Pickens.

The well known Republican says he has supporters on both sides of the aisles including President Obama and many Senators like Harry Reid.

"I said 'Senator, this is my plan' and I laid out the plan to him and he said 'Boone, you are right that's a non-partisan issue what you're doing is all about America'," says Pickens.

Pickens may have convinced many politicians, but he knows he has to convince more Americans.

To learn more about Picken's plan, [click here](#).

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MIA, Efron, Obamas on Time's most-influential list -- Earthtimes.com - 5/1/09 (press release)

Global hip-hop star MIA and young Hollywood heartthrob Zac Efron have joined US President Barack and First Lady Michelle Obama on Time magazine's coveted list of The 100 Most Influential People in the World. The US-based magazine splits the list into five categories: leaders & revolutionaries, builders & titans, artists & entertainers, and heroes & icons.

In the leaders group, Obama found himself with world figures such as British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, French Prsident Nicolas Sarkozy, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and US Secretary of State Hilary Clinton. There were spots for rightwing Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman, Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, China's Vice Premier Wang Qishan and Vice President Xi Jinping, Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and Norah al-Faiz, the Saudi deputy minister for women's education.

The builders & titans section included disgraced financier Bernie Madoff alongside US Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner. Mexican telecom tycoon Carlos Slim made the list, along with designer Stella McCartney, former oil magnate T Boone Pickens, who has spent millions of his fortune to press for alternative energy projects in the US, and Robin Chase, co-founder of US car-sharing community Zipcar.

Infosys founder Nandan Nilekani was lauded for establishing India's first truly global company, while Jack Ma made the list for founding e-commerce site Alibaba.com.

Right-wing US radio host Rush Limbaugh featured on the entertainers list along with Sam and Dan Houser, makers of the Grand Theft Auto video games. Efron, Penelope Cruz and Indian composer AR Rahman were alongside German filmmaker Werner Herzog, South African artist William Kentridge and US comedians Tina Fey and Jay Leno and actor Tom Hanks.

The heroes and icons group included Tiger Woods, actor-activist George Clooney, Michelle Obama, International AIDS Vaccine Initiative founder Seth Berkley, and sex-trade opponent Somaly Mam. Alongside such well-known figures as Oprah Winfrey and Sarah Palin, Suraya Pakzad was honoured for her work for women's rights in Afghanistan, and Sister Mary Scullion was included for her work helping the US homeless.

Featuring among scientists & thinkers list were US economists Nouriel Roubini and Paul Krugman, environmental activist Amory Lovins, and Jon Favreau, Barack Obama's head speechwriter. Also: Dambisa Moyo, whose critiques of current African aid structures are changing the continent's finances, Nobel Prize physicist Yoichiro Nambu, social scientist Nicholas Christakis and Shai Agassi, whose Better Place enterprise is building battery-exchange and charging stations for a new generation of cars in Israel, Denmark, Australia, California and elsewhere.

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BROADCAST COVERAGE

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1. Morning Edition

DMA: N/A

NPR (---) National

05/01/2009

05:00 AM - 06:00 AM

00:21:01 TZ; Green Power: There is a call to upgrade the nation's power grid to handle more green energy. President Barack Obama signed stimulus legislation that in part would help create more green jobs. There was 25 billion dollars included. SB; President Barack Obama, says we are taking big steps to renewable energy independence. I; Eric Janszen, iTulip, says we are headed to a green energy bubble. I; T. Boone Pickens, Texas Oilman, says he does not see an green energy bubble, says he wonders where he will get the money to build his wind project as he has 150 million dollars involved, says we need more specifics. Congress is working on a cap and trade system. The Electric Power Research institute was given 1.3 million dollars to develop a framework for grid developers to follow. Jeff Brady Reporting 00:25:29

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2. Thom Hartmann Nationwide

DMA: N/A

Syndicated Radio (---) National

04/30/2009

09:00 AM - 10:00 AM

00:16:20 ...There were over two thousand of these leveraged buyouts that occurred when values in excess of two hundred fifty billion dollars ....that was just the beginning ... these names ---you probably recognize these are the people who wre doing it -- Carl Icahn ... Victor Posner ... Nelson Peltz ... T Boone Pickens , Robert Bass, Kirk Kerkorian , Sir James Goldsmith who by the way on his deathbed in his later years felt so terrible about this he wrote a brilliant book ... called The Trap..... Carl Icahn ...remember TWA?.... 00:18:45

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3. CBS 2 News At 6:00 PM

DMA: 3

WBBM-TV CH 2 (CBS) Chicago

Spot Cost: \$611

04/30/2009

06:00 PM - 06:30 PM

Est. Audience: 50,884

Available formats: QuickView, DVD, CD, digital link, videotape, transcript, NewsBoard

00:15:23 TZ; Energy: Nordex USA has established its headquarters in Chicago. V; Nordex USA. I; Derek Johnson, Nordex Turbine Technician, who once served in the US Navy, is preparing for a training session in Germany. I; Dan McDevitt, Nordex Supervisor, loves to work in a growing industry. GR; wind turbine, animation. PC; Ralf Sigrist, Nordex President and CEO, now understands why Chicago is called the Windy City. I; Sigrist, praises Chicago for its international mindset. I; Korissa Kramer, Nordex Personnel Chief, has been flooded with resumes. T. Boone Pickens has championed wind energy. Mike Flannery reporting. 00:17:54

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4. Jason Matheson

DMA: 15

WFMP-FM 107.1 (---) Minneapolis/St. Paul

Spot Cost: \$56

04/30/2009

12:00 PM - 01:00 PM

Est. Audience: 7,000

00:30:00 they divide this list into sections ...there are leaders and revolutionaries ... builders and titans.... artists and entertainers ..... builders and titans - the Twitter guys, T. Boone Pickens , he is the oil man who's trying to start a windmill revolution ... Ted Turner, Brad Pitt 00:31:59

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5. NewsChannel 3 Daybreak

DMA: 48

WREG-TV CH 3 (CBS) Memphis

Spot Cost: \$83

05/01/2009

05:30 AM - 06:00 AM

Est. Audience: 33,586

Available formats: QuickView, DVD, CD, digital link, videotape, transcript, NewsBoard

[CC] 00:16:22 He's a billionaire with a message of energy conservation. T. Boone Pickens is traveling around the US to get his message out. " I think it's 100-percent realistic. I know the reserves are there. ...  
00:17:31

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6. Mornin'

DMA: 67

WDBJ-TV CH 7 (CBS) Roanoke/Lynchburg

Spot Cost: \$143

05/01/2009

06:00 AM - 07:00 AM

Est. Audience: 29,787

Available formats: QuickView, DVD, CD, digital link, videotape, transcript, NewsBoard

[CC] 00:31:17 And well known billionaire, T. Boone Pickens spoke at Washington and Lee University. We'll tell you what he had to say, in just a moment. 00:33:23

[CC] 00:35:10 T. Boone Pickens has been criss crossing the his alternative energy country trying to sell plan. His latest stop was here on the campus of Washington and Lee. Pickens told the crowd of more than a hundred inside lee chapel that America is too dependent on foreign oil. The Pickens Plan calls for from wind. Generating more electricity he also wants the country to use more cars and trucks that run on natural gas." I think it's 100-percent realistic. I know the understand the reserves are there." Pickens says more than a million and half people have joined his fight since it launched last summer. It got a lot of attention then because gas prices were nearly four dollars a gallon. We asked him how difficult is his mission now that gas prices have fallen. "T he focus, no question you're more focus at four dollar gasoline than two dollar gasoline but remember you are still imported the same percentage. " Pickens clearly had a receptive audience here at w&l but he does have his critics. Some say the oil tycoon will benefit handsomely if his plans takes off since he wants to build a massive turbine wind farm in Texas. ... 00:38:32

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7. Early Mornin'

DMA: 67

WDBJ-TV CH 7 (CBS) Roanoke/Lynchburg

Spot Cost: \$47

05/01/2009

05:30 AM - 06:00 AM

Est. Audience: 18,844

Available formats: QuickView, DVD, CD, digital link, videotape, transcript, NewsBoard

[CC] 00:00:06 And well known billionaire, T. Boone Pickens spoke to the campus of Washington and Lee. We'll tell you what he had to say, in just a moment. 00:02:27

[CC] 00:04:14 A well-known billionaire says we are too dependent on foreign oil. T. Boone Pickens took his alternative energy message to the campus of Washington and Lee last night. Pickens laid out his plan to a crowd of more than a hundred inside Lee Chapel. The oil tycoon wants trucks and buses to run on natural gas which is cheaper and cleaner. He also wants the country to generate more of its electricity from wind. The well known republican has found support among democrats including senate majority leader Harry Reid. T. Boone Pickens: he said I gotta ask you how you are going to fit into the presidential campaign of 08 and I said I'm out. This is more important to me and more important to this country than whoever is the president of the United States. Pickens also has the ear of the president. He told us President Obama has a great opportunity to push for a new energy policy that could make us less dependent on foreign oil.... 00:06:02

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8. News 7 At 11:00

DMA: 67

WDBJ-TV CH 7 (CBS) Roanoke/Lynchburg

Spot Cost: \$400

04/30/2009

11:00 PM - 11:35 PM

Est. Audience: 29,249

Available formats: QuickView, DVD, CD, digital link, videotape,  
transcript, NewsBoard

[CC] 00:08:55 Washington and Lee University has hosted a lot of well known speakers recently.... . As news 7's Justin Mcleod reports the latest is a famous billionaire who has a message for all Americans. T. Boone Pickens has been criss crossing the country trying to sell his alternative energy plan. His latest stop was here on the campus of Washington and Lee. During forum Pickens told the crowd of more than a hundred inside lee chapel that America is too dependent on foreign oil. The Pickens Plan calls for generating more electricity from wind. He also wants the country to use more cars and trucks that run on natural gas. " I think it's 100-percent realistic. I know the reserves are there. I understand the business. " Pickens says more than a million and half people have joined his fight since it launched last summer. It got a lot of attention then because gas prices were nearly four dollars a gallon. ... 00:10:26

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9. The Morning Show

DMA: 83

WCIA-TV CH 3 (CBS) Champaign/Springfield

Spot Cost: \$23

05/01/2009

05:00 AM - 06:00 AM

Est. Audience: 7,173

Available formats: QuickView, DVD, CD, digital link, videotape, transcript, NewsBoard

[CC] 00:21:41 A famous billionaire, continues advocating for alternative energy use for America. Justin Mcleod has more. T. Boone Pickens has been criss crossing the country trying to sell his alternative energy plan. His latest stop wahere on the campus of Washington and Lee. Pickens told the crowd of more than a hundred inside lee chapel that America is too dependent on foreign oil. The Pickens Plan calls for generating more electricity from wind. He also wants the country to use more cars and trucks that run on natural gas. I think it's 100-percent realistic. I know the reserves are there. I understand the business. Pickens says more than a million and half people have joined his fight since it launched last summer. It got a lot of attention then because gas prices were nearly four dollars a gallon..... Pickens may have convinced many politicians but he knows he has to convince more Americans. 00:26:22