

PickensPlan

T. Boone Pickens Media Coverage 5.20.10

Total of 14 Placements

- Print: 6
- Blog/Online: 4
- Broadcast: 4

Coverage Summary:

Reuters, the Associated Press and the Dallas Morning News were among the outlets that covered Pickens' meeting with Senator Kerry yesterday. The coverage looks at how Pickens and Kerry have moved on from the past to work together to see that an energy bill is passed. *Reuters* and *the Associated Press* included a photo of Pickens and Kerry with their articles.

The Dallas Morning News also reported on comments Pickens made to the audience at the National Defense University regarding the gulf oil spill, saying Congress and the Obama administration were too quick to blame BP. The piece also highlights the Pickens Plan and its inclusion in the Kerry-Lieberman bill.

Highlighted Placements (Full Articles Below)

- **Former Political Enemies Join Hands To Save The World?** – *Reuters* – 5/19/10
- **Kerry, Pickens: Odd Couple Of Climate Legislation** – *Associated Press* – 5/19/10
- **John Kerry, T. Boone Pickens Bury The Hatchet With Climate-Change Bill** – *Dallas Morning News* – 5/20/10
- **Boone Pickens: Legislators Too Quick To Blame BP For Gulf Oil Spill** – *Dallas Morning News* – 5/20/10

Print Placements (Full Articles Below)

- **Atlantic City Jitneys Going Green — In Every Sense Of The Word** – *Press of Atlantic City* – 5/20/10
- **PSC Candidate Holds WG&L Listening Session** – *Albany Herald* – 5/19/10

Blog/Online Placements (Full Articles Below)

- **Outside The Beltway With MJ Lee** – *Politico's The Huddle* – 5/20/10
- **T. Boone Pickens: BP Oil Spill Is a "Sad Accident"** – *NBC Washington* – 5/19/10
- **Pickens Avoids Mentioning Those Infamous Swift Boats** – *Washington Examiner* – 5/19/10
- **GM Will Build Natural Gas Vans -- Finally, Some Competition for T. Boone Pickens** – *BNET* – 5/19/10

HIGHLIGHTED COVERAGE

Former Political Enemies Join Hands To Save The World? – *Reuters* – 5/19/10



Nearly six years ago, Senator John Kerry and Texas oil tycoon T. Boone Pickens were mortal political enemies.

As a major backer of President George W. Bush's re-election effort in 2004, Pickens contributed millions to a right-wing ad campaign questioning Kerry's record as a Vietnam war hero. The ads, which Kerry disputed, put him on the defensive and may have contributed to the Democrat's failure to win the White House.

On Wednesday, the billionaire and the Massachusetts senator sat side-by-side in the Capitol's ornate Senate Foreign Relations Committee room, where Kerry presides as its chairman.

Their mission: To spread the word about the legislation Kerry and Senator Joseph Lieberman have written to tackle global warming by reducing U.S. consumption of dirty-burning fossil fuels blamed for climate change.

"If you look at life looking backwards and standing in one place, you're going to waste your time," Kerry told a small group of reporters when asked about the new relationship with the man he now calls "Boone." "Six years ago was six years ago," Kerry said.

Both Kerry and Pickens talked about the need to reduce America's reliance on foreign oil, which the Kerry-Lieberman bill aims to do. Pickens talked in patriotic tones about the need to make America energy independent within 10 years. "I don't care whether you use natural gas, ethanol, the battery. You can use anything, just so it's American," said Pickens, who turns 82 this week.

Patriotism aside, Pickens stands to gain financially from the climate change bill that Kerry hopes to push through the Senate this year.

His BP (as in "Boone Pickens") Capital Management firm has bet that natural gas prices will rise as the U.S. turns to cleaner-burning fuels. Kerry's bill attempts to encourage heavy-duty trucks to switch from diesel gasoline to natural gas and it also provides incentives for natural gas cars. While Pickens said he doesn't care which alternative energy the United States turns to, he eagerly points out that natural gas is "the only (alternative) fuel that will move an 18-wheeler."

Will Pickens use his powers of persuasion on Republican senators, who so far are boycotting Kerry's climate initiative?

"Let me think about it," Pickens said. "I don't know for sure how active I'm going to be on that. No question I know most of the Republican senators and all."

Kerry wasn't shy, though, knowing he's got a tough sales job ahead. "I hope he contacts some."

Climate legislation pending in Congress also would encourage the development of wind energy, which Pickens also is investing in. "We have the best wind in the world," boasted Pickens.

Kerry, Pickens: Odd Couple Of Climate Legislation – *Associated Press* – 5/19/10



Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman John Kerry, D-Mass., left, meets with T. Boone Pickens to discuss the Kerry-sponsored climate bill, which Pickens supports, Wednesday, May 19, 2010, in Kerry's office on Capitol Hill in Washington. (AP Photo/Harry Hamburg)

By Matthew Daly

WASHINGTON — Call them the odd couple of climate change.

Six years ago, oilman T. Boone Pickens paid millions to support TV ads run by Swift Boat Veterans for Truth, a group that attacked Democrat John Kerry's Vietnam War record in the 2004 presidential campaign.

On Wednesday, the Texas oilman visited Kerry to endorse a sweeping climate change bill the Massachusetts senator is pushing in the Senate.

Kerry called the Swift Board ads old news and said he did not live his life looking backward. Pickens, who has been promoting his "Pickens Plan" to boost production of natural gas and domestic energy sources, said he was "out of politics," but supported the bill sponsored by Kerry and Sen. Joe Lieberman of Connecticut. The bill encourages use of wind power and natural gas.

John Kerry, T. Boone Pickens Bury The Hatchet With Climate-Change Bill – Dallas
Morning News – 5/20/10

By Dave Michaels

WASHINGTON – As T. Boone Pickens preached to an audience Wednesday about the perils of depending on oil from Middle Eastern countries, one scholar rose to question his view, saying there are no "permanent enemies."

The professor could just as easily have been describing Pickens' relationship with Sen. John Kerry. Pickens and Kerry, D-Mass., have forged an alliance around energy policy after years of conflict that began with Pickens' support for a group that questioned Kerry's military service in Vietnam.

Kerry made the first move, calling the Dallas billionaire in February to inquire about his plan to replace oil with natural gas produced in the United States. The senator later inserted a provision in his climate-change bill, unveiled last week, that expands subsidies for the purchase of natural gas vehicles, a cornerstone of the Pickens Plan.

"Everything from the Pickens Plan is in there," Pickens told an audience of defense and security professionals Wednesday at National Defense University in Washington.

Kerry said some of his staff disagreed with his decision to reach out to Pickens, who as recently as 2007 goaded Kerry over his service record in Vietnam. The flap stemmed from allegations made by the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth – partly funded by Pickens' millions – during Kerry's 2004 presidential campaign against George W. Bush.

"I picked up the phone and called him and said, 'Look, we've got to deal with today's challenges to the country,' " Kerry said. "I don't want to dwell on the past, and nor should you. We ought to see if we can get something good done."

Sen. Lindsey Graham, a South Carolina Republican who has worked on the climate bill with Kerry, called the overture "a compliment" to Kerry's interest in policy.

"They've had some problems in the past, so I really admired Senator Kerry for listening to Mr. Pickens and trying to incorporate some energy independence ideas," Graham said.

Pickens hasn't been a big financier of political campaigns since starting the Pickens Plan, on which he says he's spent \$62 million. He pledged to stay out of the 2008 presidential race as he tried to persuade the candidates of both parties to support his ideas.

Speaking up

Pickens isn't modest when describing the appeal of his plan. If Kerry's climate bill doesn't pass the Senate this year, Pickens said, his ideas would be added to a different energy bill that could move through the chamber.

"When you look at that [climate] bill, I bring more votes to passing that bill than anything they bring to it," he bragged Wednesday. "What they have – I'm not going to grade it good, bad or indifferent – does not reduce dependence on foreign oil. The only piece that does is mine."

Cutting imports

Kerry, whose overarching concern is global-warming emissions caused by fossil fuels, echoed Pickens' claim. He said Pickens' provisions are the main rifle shot to reduce oil imports from OPEC countries, which total about 4.5 million barrels per day according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

"It's the single biggest energy independence move we can make," Kerry said. Touting the environmental benefits of switching to natural gas, he added: "It makes sense to get the immediate reduction in emissions, because it's cleaner."

Yet Pickens often seems indifferent toward the goal of the Democrats' legislative effort – slowing climate change. Pickens said he'd prefer that his natural-gas incentives advance in a stand-alone bill, rather than as part of Kerry's ambitious 987-page legislation.

Pickens' provisions seek to dramatically expand the number of vehicles powered by natural gas instead of oil, starting with heavy-duty trucks. The bill would double the tax credit for the purchase of natural gas-powered trucks and smaller cars that are part of a commercial fleet. It would also allow state and local entities to issue up to \$3 billion in tax-free bonds to finance projects for natural gas vehicles.

There are no official estimates of how much Pickens' provisions would cost, but he suggested on Wednesday that for each \$1 billion spent, 100,000 jobs would be created.

Seeking support

Still, no Republicans have stepped up to support Kerry's bill, which he co-wrote with Sen. Joe Lieberman, I-Conn. Graham pulled out of the coalition after Senate Democratic leaders suggested an immigration bill would advance ahead of the climate effort.

Kerry said he hoped Pickens' advocacy would draw some Republican support. For his part, Pickens said there are elements that Republicans "could support," but he didn't predict they would.

"I would rather go [with a] stand-alone [bill], but stand-alone was not an option," he said. "So I'm with climate. And I'm a good soldier. So I'm for the climate bill."

Boone Pickens: Legislators Too Quick To Blame BP For Gulf Oil Spill – *Dallas Morning News* – 5/20/10

By Dave Michaels

WASHINGTON – Dallas energy investor T. Boone Pickens faulted Congress and the Obama administration Wednesday for being too quick to blame oil company BP for the Gulf oil spill.

Pickens, who is closely allied with congressional Democrats these days, took issue with Interior Secretary Ken Salazar's remark that the government would "keep the boot on the neck" of BP.

"Leave them alone, and let them fix it," Pickens told an audience at National Defense University. "BP – there is nothing wrong with them."

Pickens made a fortune in the oil business but has renewed his fame as the leader of a campaign to wean the U.S. off foreign oil. The Pickens Plan calls for the U.S. to rely more on natural gas, which is plentiful in America and in North Texas.

A climate change bill sponsored by Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., and Sen. Joe Lieberman, I-Conn., includes subsidies for companies that switch from diesel-fueled to natural gas-powered trucks.

"Everything from the Pickens Plan is in there," Pickens said Wednesday.

Pickens said he has spent \$62 million on television ads that promote the Pickens Plan and thinks there are about 5 million Americans who support his plan.

But he said he remains unimpressed by Congress. President Obama still doesn't have an energy policy after more than a year in office, Pickens insisted.

As for Congress, "what I see is a group that does the talking about these things a lot of the time, and does not fully understand what they are talking about," he said.

PRINT COVERAGE

Atlantic City Jitneys Going Green — In Every Sense Of The Word – *Press of Atlantic City* – 5/20/10

By Michael Clark

ATLANTIC CITY — Atlantic City jitneys are going green, both in gas consumption and design.

Officials with the city's Jitney Association are in the process of converting their

190-vehicle fleet, now more than 13 years old, to new shuttle buses that operate on compressed natural gas.

“The whole idea behind this is we're going to reduce dependency on foreign oil and save us some money in the process,” said association President Tom Woodruff, who has been working on the conversion for about two years.

Various jitney drivers will drive the prototype during the next two months.

Barring any major problems, the association, which is composed of individual jitney owners, expects to see its first 40 new jitneys roaming the city's streets July 1 and the remaining 150 vehicles operational by September or October.

Jitney owner John Lanfranchi test-drove the new vehicle Tuesday and was glowing after his spin.

“It definitely exceeded my expectations,” he said. “The way the bus handles, it was pretty much you couldn’t notice any difference at all. This is probably one of the most exciting things that I’ve ever been involved in.”

Compressed natural gas is a fossil fuel substitute for gasoline and diesel that is considered cleaner and cheaper than the current options used by most automobiles. Woodruff expects drivers to save at least 50 cents per gallon on gasoline, along with continued savings through less frequent oil changes and fewer replacements of gas injectors.

The fleet’s overhaul combined the efforts of the association with Clean Energy Fuels Corp., which builds and runs compressed natural gas fueling stations and is financially backed by Dallas billionaire T. Boone Pickens.

“They are part of a big scope of work to lower emissions and encourage alternative energy,” said Barbara Johnson, an assistant vice president of the corporation’s grant, risk management and human resources departments.

The association received its first prototype Tuesday. The new vehicle swaps its current aqua-colored exterior for a green-and-white design tagged with the familiar orange sun logo on its side.

“The actual colors, the thought process was we’re going green and we expect to have an entire green footprint,” Woodruff said.

The association is looking to relocate from its current station in the city’s Inlet section to build a new station with natural gas fueling pumps. But the green initiatives would only start there. Woodruff said the association also hopes the station will have operations that recycle rainwater for vehicle washing and runs its electricity on solar power.

But as the association works to establish a new home, with the old Ruffu Ford lot on Albany Avenue as one potential location, drivers of the new jitneys can only fuel up in one location.

The Atlantic County Utilities Authority will break ground on a new compressed natural gas facility next week to accommodate 15 new CNG trash trucks that will be added to its fleet. The city jitneys will share that site until it establishes its own. The ACUA facility is expected to be fully operational by July 1. Johnson said Clean Energy Fuels provides the capital to build all of the stations and hopes the established infrastructure will motivate smaller fleets to personally invest in compressed natural gas vehicles.

However, Lanfranchi said the limited fueling locations could be the lone downside to the fleet conversion.

Each new jitney costs \$56,917. Individual owners must invest 55 percent of those costs, or about \$31,000. The federal government will cover the rest of the costs through \$300 million in national stimulus funding. And it will be up to the individual owners to decide what to do with their old jitneys.

Lanfranchi said several drivers were skeptical at first, but after researching the vehicles and the potential for future savings, most were sold on the idea and voted overwhelmingly to move forward with the project.

The association's fleet conversion is part of a heightened awareness of alternative energy in Atlantic City. Several other projects are being planned or are already being implemented, including converting the city's Public Works building to solar power and plans to rezone Duck Island as an alternative energy zone. Many of these initiatives spawned from Mayor Lorenzo Langford's Alternative Energy Task Force, a group composed of city officials, representatives of The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey and others.

"This is absolutely an exciting time," said City Solicitor G. Bruce Ward, who is currently leading the task force. "We believe the city is moving in the right direction, especially when we see the morning news about gallons of oil being dumped into the ocean and threatening the coastline."

PSC Candidate Holds WG&L Listening Session – Albany Herald – 5/19/10

ALBANY, Ga. — A man campaigning for a seat on the state's Public Service Commission was in Albany Wednesday speaking with an Albany Water, Gas & Light Commission representative to hear the authority's thoughts and concerns.

Tim Echols said he's traveling the state, speaking with utilities and other PSC-regulated industries in an effort to hear the issues that are affecting them.

Echols joined Sam Fleet, who is the state leader for the Pickens Plan — a group organized by American oil and gas tycoon T. Boone Pickens that says it is bent on breaking the country's dependence on foreign oil — in meeting with WG&L officials Wednesday.

“That's why I'm here,” Echols said. “I'm going around, hearing what your problems are, what your concerns are, so that when I'm elected I can deal with those issues.”

Proponents of alternative energy sources, Echols and Fleet seemed to have merged ideological paths, and each spoke about alternatives to petroleum-based fuels such as nuclear energy and natural gas.

One form of natural gas that Fleet said has been successful in Atlanta in terms of vehicle use has been Compressed Natural Gas.

Currently in use in the Metro Atlanta Rail and Transit Authority bus fleet and in garbage trucks around the metro area, Fleet said she sees a real future in CNG for municipal utilities because of their vehicle fleets.

“Right now, it's not something that is conducive to consumer use because there just aren't enough refueling stations to allow for long-distance travel,” Fleet said. “But where it is proving extremely useful is for entities who have fleet vehicles who patrol from a base like refuse trucks and buses.”

Fleet said the benefits of CNG is that it gets comparable fuel mileage to current petroleum fuels while easing dependence on foreign oil and is plentiful in the U.S.

The downside, critics say, is the cost to retrofit gas or diesel engines to run on CNG, but Pickens is in Washington this week to try and drum up support for tax breaks that would help ease that cost.

WG&L's major concern seems to be the territorial laws that are currently on the books in Georgia that prevent utilities authorities largely from operating electrical service outside of city limits.

Echols said he heard their concerns and will research that law to see if there would be a way to ease restrictions while staying away from deregulation.

BLOG/ONLINE COVERAGE

Outside The Beltway With MJ Lee – *Politico's The Huddle* – 5/20/10

PICKENS SIDES WITH BP: According to Texas energy investor T. Boone Pickens, Congress and the Obama administration should tone down their criticism of BP regarding the Gulf of Mexico oil spill. Dave Michaels in *The Dallas Morning News*: "Pickens, who is closely allied with congressional Democrats these days, took issue with Interior Secretary Ken Salazar's remark that the government would "keep the boot on the neck" of BP. "Leave them alone, and let them fix it," Pickens told an audience at National Defense University. "BP – there is nothing wrong with them." <http://bit.ly/9kPXey>

T. Boone Pickens: BP Oil Spill Is a "Sad Accident" – *NBC Washington* – 5/19/10

Texas oilman and energy entrepreneur T. Boone Pickens said that despite the still-gushing BP oil leak in the Gulf -- what he calls a "sad accident" -- the off-shore drilling industry still has a "fairly good record." Pickens was attending a private party at the home of Juleanna Glover last night as a prelude to a gala later this week to save Americas Mustangs.

Video - http://www.nbcwashington.com/around-town/events/VID_T_Boone_Pickens_All_National_.html

Pickens Avoids Mentioning Those Infamous Swift Boats – *Washington Examiner* – 5/19/10

By Nikki Schwab and Tara Palmeri

He doesn't want to talk about it.

T. Boone Pickens may have given \$2 million to the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth, a group formed in 2004 to question the military record of then-presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry, but that's all in the past.

"Oh, that's a long time ago," Pickens said, abruptly.

Pickens, who was a guest at a reception at Juleanna Glover's Kalorama home, now considers Kerry a buddy, and he's working with him on the American Power Act with Sen. Joe Liebermann, I-Conn.

Yeas & Nays wanted to know what it was like to join forces after once being foes.

"It's good, good, very good," Pickens said. "He's working for America, and I'm working for America, too. We're working together."

When Yeas & Nays followed up, Pickens ended the conversation with "That's enough."

The coffee reception, hosted by Kristen Glover, was held for Madeleine Pickens' cause, the preservation of America's wild horses. Mrs. Pickens spoke eloquently about the wild mustangs for minutes as guests stared at how young she looked for her a woman in her 60s. (Madeleine's twin sister, Christine Penrod, also was at the party, where she was almost confused with her sister.)

And, touchy as that "S" word may be, there were four Swifts at the reception -- Byron Swift, Bill Swift and his wife, Mary Swift, and two Matt Swifts.

Yeas & Nays caught up with Pickens on his way out, and he complained that our conversation was too long. It was exactly two minutes and 34 seconds.

When asked what he'll order for lunch when he meets with Kerry this week, he said, "I'll have whatever he's having, he's a big man."

GM Will Build Natural Gas Vans -- Finally, Some Competition for T. Boone Pickens –
BNET – 5/19/10

By Jim Motavalli

Only one carmaker, Honda, offers a factory-made natural gas car (the Civic GX) on the American market. The still-small field is dominated by conversions, but General Motors announced Wednesday that it will be offering compressed natural gas (CNG) versions of its Chevrolet Express and GMC Savana full-sized vans later this year.

It's about time T. Boone Pickens had some competition. There's clearly a business case to be made, with tougher pollution standards, for commercializing CNG vehicles.

The larger-than-life Pickens is known for his Pickens Plan, which advocates the use of wind to generate electricity, and natural gas for road vehicles. It's not as well known that, aside from owning Clean Energy (CLNE), the leading North American provider of natural gas (CNG and LNG) for transportation, he's also a major provider of converted Ford CNG vehicles through Clean Energy's BAF Technologies subsidiary.

Clean Energy acquired BAF, which is based in Dallas, last October. BAF describes itself as “the leading provider of natural gas vehicle systems and conversions in the United States.” It converts the full-sized Ford (F) Crown Victoria, and also a number of Ford commercial vehicles, including F-150 pickups, E-350 vans, and the kind of airport shuttles regularly seen at LAX and elsewhere.

Dan Whitten, a spokesman for America’s Natural Gas Alliance, said, “GM sees a market here. CNG vehicles have a lot of potential in the marketplace. As cities have to come into compliance with clean air regulations, they are cutting down their emission of particulate matter and ozone by switching to natural gas vehicles.”

I’ve interviewed Pickens twice, and in the most recent encounter in January he made plain that his interest had shifted from converting passenger cars (the original aim of the Pickens Plan) to targeting large trucks. “We have to target the heavy-duty vehicles, which is where you can get the volume,” he told me, adding that he was holding meetings with large trucking companies to try and get them to convert to natural gas.

Pickens is a major booster of H.R. 1835, which offers both new and stronger tax credits for people and companies that buy natural gas vehicles. It would also require that 50 percent of new federal vehicles bought before the end of 2014 be CNG or LNG capable.

The natural gas industry, of course, was ecstatic about CNG Chevys. Taylor Shimn, a spokesman for major natural gas supplier Chesapeake Energy (CHK) told me in an interview, “The GM announcement was pretty significant. Now American businesses have access to vehicles that are not dependent on foreign oil. We see significant growth in this sector.”

There are perhaps a dozen companies around the country producing aftermarket natural gas vehicles, mostly commercial. According to Dean Sloane, managing director of one such company — Clean Vehicle Solutions — GM’s strategy will likely be to offer natural gas options at the dealer level, but then farm the actual work off to companies like his. “These are not huge runs of vehicles, so that strategy makes perfect sense,” he said. “I think that’s the approach the OEMs will use in the near period of time.”

BROADCAST COVERAGE

1. KTRH Morning News

KTRH-AM (ABC) Freq. 740, Houston | DMA: 10

05/20/2010, 05:00 AM - 06:00 AM

00:08:00 You might call them the odd couple of climate change .Texas oilman **TBoonePickens** helped fund ads run by a group that attacked Democrat John Kerry's Vietnam war record six years ago . Now**Pickens** is endorsing a sweeping climate change bill pushed by the Massachusetts senator. 00:09:59

Audience: 25,200 Spot Cost: \$197

2. Daybreak

KVII-TV (ABC) CH 7, Amarillo | DMA: 131

05/20/2010, 06:00 AM - 07:00 AM

[CC] 00:31:31 Call them the odd couple of climate change. Six years ago, **oilmanT. BoonePickens** paid millions to support TV ads run by Swift Boat Veterans For Truth, a group that attacked Democrat John Kerry's Vietnam War record in the 2004 presidential campaign. On Wednesday, the Texas **oilman** visited Kerry to endorse a sweeping climate change bill the Massachusetts senator is pushing in the senate. Kerry called the Swift Boat ads old news and said he did not live his life looking backward. The bill is sponsored by Kerry and Senator Joe Lieberman of Connecticut. It encourages use of **wind** power and **naturalgas**.00:32:39

Audience: 8,941 Spot Cost: \$60

3. WALB News 10 At 11:00

WALB-TV (NBC) CH 10, Albany, GA | DMA: 145

05/19/2010, 11:00 PM - 11:35 PM

[CC] 00:06:17 Georgia's energy's needs are growing, but the sources for that energy are limited. One candidate for the State's Public Service Commission came to Albany today to talk about energy and alternative ways to produce make it. WALB News 10's Wainwright Jeffers has more.

Finding ways to fuel Georgia's power needs is an ongoing struggle. Utilizing alternative energy still isn't all that common here. " To get people to change , you've got to have an incentive." Tim Echols is hosting town halls across South Georgia. He is a candidate for the State's Public Services Commission." I'm going to actively be promotion energy innovation and getting citizens to take advantage of these tax credits." He's teamed up with the **Pickens Plan**, they're pushing for America to be **energy** independent. "Last month we spent \$31 billion on foreign **oil**, we can keep that money here in the US." They say it's possible using readily available resources like solar and **windenergy**. " In Texas over the past ten years, and their use of **windenergy**, bills have been reduced 10%." " If you build a new home in Hawaii you have to put a solar hot water heater in, it's the law. In Georgia we have a \$2,500 tax credit." Echols says getting the word out about incentives for homeowners and companies is imperative. " You think about compressed **naturalgas**, Marta runs busses on this, AT&T is running vehicles on them." " Support the **natgas** act and it gives companies more incentives to switch over to compressed **naturalgas**." Despite the push for alternative **energy** , Echols believes coal won't be obsolete any time soon. " yes they're retrofitting Plant Mitchell and other plants to burn natural **gas**, but coal is reliable". But as solar, **wind**, and biofuels become more commonplace, they say the **energy** produced will be very affordable.00:07:31

Audience: 34,140 **Spot Cost:** \$609

4. Fox News At Ten

WFXL-TV (FOX) CH 31, Albany, GA | DMA: 145

05/19/2010, 10:00 PM - 10:35 PM

[CC] 00:13:10 Candidate for the open seat on the Public Service Commission , Tim Echols hosted the first of his six town hall meetings across south Georgia. Fox 31's Jeff Abeln was there and has more. **Energy**, **oil**, and possible increases of utility rates were discussed at tim echols town hall. Echols' says he hears Georgia power's rates will increase by nine dollars. Tim Echols: it's unfortunate because people are having a difficult time, families are having a hard time being able to make ends meet. It's not the time where we want any budget item in our family budget item going up. Jeff abeln: Also discussed was using alternative **energy** sources. Echols says there is plenty of **naturalgas** in Georgia but says the problem is there is no place to get the **fuel** for **naturalgas** cars. Tim Echols: one of the things we have to have is infrastructure. We got to be able to pump the stuff in there to be able to use it and we don't have that. Jeff Abeln: also in attendance was Sam Fleet, the state director for the **Pickens Plan**. Fleet talked about the U. S' dependency on foreign **oil**. Sam Fleet: We're at \$31 billion dollars that we spent on foreign oi. this is people who don't like us very much. 40 Years the Department of **Energy** has been trying to stop our dependency on foreign oil. Well they haven't done a very good job. Jeff Abeln: do you think the U.S. will ever decrease its dependency of foreign **oil**? Tell us at mysouthwestga. Co m. Jeff Abeln, Fox 31 News.00:14:42

Audience: 8,876 **Spot Cost:** \$296

