

PickensPlan

T. Boone Pickens Media Coverage 12.5.09-12.7.09

Total of 9 Placements

- Print: 6
- Blog/Online: 2
- Broadcast: 1

Coverage Summary:

The Green Bay Press Gazette and *Appleton Post Crescent* published an op-ed by Pickens and Rep. Steve Kagen. The op-ed discusses how the Pickens Plan could help reduce America's dependency on foreign oil, keeping billions of dollars in the U.S. rather than sending that money to countries that do not have our best interests in mind. The NAT GAS Act, which Kagen is a co-sponsor of, is highlighted in the piece.

Jim Breiting, the Utah leader of the Pickens Plan, wrote a piece for the *Deseret News* encouraging people to contact Utah's representatives who have not taken a public stand in supporting the NAT GAS Act. Sen. Orrin Hatch and Rep. Jim Matheson are listed as supporters of the NAT GAS Act in the piece.

Highlighted Placements (Full Articles Below)

- **A Path Forward with Natural Gas** – *Green Bay Press Gazette* – 12/6/09
 - *Appleton Post Crescent*
- **Let's Keep Energy Money in the U.S.** – *Deseret News* – 12/7/09

Print Placements (Full Articles Below)

- **Doers Take Risks Critics Don't Understand** – *Ventura County Star* – 12/6/09
- **Letter: Why LNG?** – *The Daily Astorian* – 12/4/09
- **Buck Visits Estes; McInnis Visits Tancredo** – *Estes Park Trail Gazette* – 12/4/09

Blog/Online Placements (Full Articles Below)

- **The Answer is Blowing in the Wind** – *The Energy Collective* – 12/7/09
- **The Only Way to Play Energy Now** – *The Motley Fool* – 12/5/09

HIGHLIGHTED COVERAGE

A Path Forward with Natural Gas – *Green Bay Press Gazette* – 12/6/09

By Rep. Steve Kagen and T. Boone Pickens

EDITOR'S NOTE: Financier T. Boone Pickens is co-authoring newspaper columns with many of the House members who have co-sponsored his proposal for greater usage of natural gas. U.S. Rep. Steve Kagen and his staff worked with Pickens on this version of the column.

A substantial amount of energy that people in Northeastern Wisconsin use to heat and light their homes, cook their food, work their farms, and run their cars and trucks comes from gasoline and diesel fuel refined from oil.

The United States uses about a quarter of the world's daily oil supplies. Oil-based transportation accounts for a large percentage of greenhouse gases. No matter what your position on global climate change, we can all agree it is better to put less pollution into our atmosphere than more.

Seventy percent of the oil we import is used to power America's enormous fleet of vehicles: passenger cars; light-duty pickups and SUVs; heavy-duty vehicles, like 18-wheelers; refuse and recycling trucks; and municipal and school buses.

In the summer of 2008, gas prices were sky high. People need their cars and trucks to get to work and kids need buses to go to school. That was when the Pickens Plan was unveiled — a specific, broad-based program to reduce our dependency on foreign oil.

In October of this year, we imported 357 million barrels of oil at a cost of \$26.5 billion. Our money flowed out of the U.S. economy and into countries like Saudi Arabia, Nigeria and Venezuela; countries in unstable regions that do not have our best interests in mind; or both.

Fortunately, we have a domestic resource that can be used for the production of electricity as well as for taking its place as America's principal transportation fuel. That resource is natural gas. The Potential Gas Committee, in conjunction with the Colorado School of Mines has released a study that says there is as much as 2,000 trillion cubic feet of technically recoverable natural gas in the continental United States. That amount contains enough to last us well over 100 years.

When used as a fuel, natural gas releases only about half the greenhouse gases as are produced by burning gasoline or diesel.

If we replaced all of the 18-wheelers operated by the major trucking companies on their regular rotation schedule, we will be able to reduce by half the amount of oil we need to import from those oil-producing nations in just more than seven years.

The NAT GAS Act (H.R. 1835 in the House and S. 1408 in the Senate) is making its way through Congress. It will provide tax incentives for fleet owners to begin switching from vehicles now burning gasoline or diesel produced from imported oil, to cars and trucks that run on America's own natural gas.

Congress has been listening and is taking bipartisan action with a new bill, which will help Wisconsin and all of America to reduce its costly and environmentally harmful reliance on imported oil. Switching to America's own natural gas will help clean our air, save lives and improve our economy — and it cannot come soon enough.

Let's Keep Energy Money in the U.S. – *Deseret News* – 12/7/09

By Jim Breitinger

When the price of fuel goes up, we feel the pain. Two summers ago this happened and it helped derail our economy. Now prices are down again — adjusted for inflation, gasoline and diesel are cheap.

There are advantages to cheap fuel: Our economy functions with less pain when we pay less for the energy that moves people and products.

Yet what is the true cost of our addiction to oil? Consider this: Two-thirds of U.S. oil is imported. In October, we spent \$26.5 billion on foreign oil, just under \$600,000 per minute. In 2008, the prices hit historic highs. We sent \$700 billion dollars of our nation's wealth overseas. Boone Pickens calls this the greatest transfer of wealth in human history.

Where does our money go? As you insert your credit or debit card at the pump or place down your hard-earned cash a high percentage of your money goes to the Middle East, Russia and Venezuela. Oil has been a miracle commodity that has propelled our economy to new heights, but since the 1970s our addiction to oil has become problematic, especially as we have become increasingly dependent on oil from foreign nations.

This is where the Pickens Plan comes into play. Pickens is an octogenarian and a former Texas oil man who understands the energy landscape. He is alarmed for his country. Over a year ago he launched a public awareness campaign to motivate his fellow citizens to do something about the situation before we bankrupt ourselves by sending our hard-earned wealth overseas. Pickens made his money in oil, but he sees clearly that the future lies in alternative fuels. He is promoting wind energy and natural gas as two of the most important energy sources of the future.

The Pickens Plan offers not only a bridge to an energy future that keeps American dollars at home, it offers an elegant and simple solution that is being embraced by people across the political spectrum. Utah's Sen. Orrin Hatch and Rep. Jim Matheson have officially come on board behind the Natural Gas Act — the most important legislation currently in front of Congress in relation to the Pickens Plan. I've been told that Utah's entire congressional delegation supports the Natural Gas Act, but so far only these two of our five representatives in Washington have taken a public stand. Please learn more about the Natural Gas Act and the Pickens Plan at www.pickensplan.com.

If you agree with the goals of the plan, take the Pickens Pledge. Then contact Bob Bennett, Jason Chaffetz and Rob Bishop and encourage them to publicly take the pledge as well and support the Natural Gas Act. America's future depends on quickly breaking our addiction to foreign oil. Alternatives exist today. Let's keep our money at home, rebuild our economy and sustain the American way of life.

Jim Breitinger works at Riestler in Salt Lake City and is the Utah leader of the Pickens Plan.

PRINT COVERAGE

Doers Take Risks Critics Don't Understand – *Ventura County Star* – 12/6/09

In September 2007, the Lincoln Journal Star ran an article about The Bridges, billed as “Nebraska's first totally geothermal housing development.”

It is designed so every lot is beside water or woods. It has miles of walking and biking trails, two big waterfalls and six covered bridges. Homes near ponds will feature underwater geothermal systems; others will rely on more traditional underground systems.

Geothermal systems pump liquid through heat exchangers below the earth's surface, where the relatively constant temperature (about 55 degrees) heats or cools the liquid before it is pumped back into the home, compressed and redistributed through radiators. The new homes also will have energy-efficient doors and windows to help maintain comfortable temperatures during cold winters and warm summers.

In other words, developer Gary Pickering and homebuilder Mike Rezac imagined and built an elegant neighborhood in a beautiful setting that features energy-saving, environmentally conscious elements.

The condemnation was harsh and immediate.

The newspaper Web site drew complaints about what the developers were not doing: The homes are too big; they should have solar panels; you're wasting farmland; etc. As so often happens, a couple of dreamers risked their money and reputations to try something innovative and were met with criticism because of their dream's perceived imperfections.

And the risk has grown since the project began, as the economy in general - and housing in particular - tanked between the creation of the lots and the building of actual homes. It's unclear whether this project will succeed or how long it will take, yet this is exactly the sort of risk that entrepreneurs take every day.

T. Boone Pickens must know how it feels. For 30 years, the country has fretted over our dependence on foreign oil, all the while increasing our imports. So Pickens has gone to work on alternatives, including wind farms on America's Great Plains, an upgraded electricity grid to deliver wind power from the plains to the people, and the development of natural gas as a transportation fuel.

The economy - and a host of critics - is working against the Pickens Plan, but Pickens sees his project as a means to build "the platform on which our economy can continue to grow for decades to come."

It's easy to criticize and second-guess from the sidelines, but as Theodore Roosevelt said, "It behooves every man to remember that the work of the critic is of altogether secondary importance, and that, in the end, progress is accomplished by the man who does things."

Entrepreneurial investors focus on the doers, and know that there is always opportunity for progress because there are always people like Pickering, Rezac, and Pickens, looking ahead and trying something new. Oil is sometimes cheap and sometimes expensive, but it is always a limited resource. Alternatives like geothermal exchange and natural gas are inevitable energy sources of America's future. Everybody talks about energy and conservation, but these guys are doing something about it.

- Kinko's founder Paul Orfalea and Lance Helfert are co-founders of West Coast Asset Management in Montecito. Atticus Lowe and Dean Zatkowsky contributed to this column.

Letter: Why LNG? – *The Daily Astorian* – 12/4/09

Why liquefied natural gas when our goal, I thought, was to develop independent energy sources right out of the good ole U.S. T. Boone Pickens was quite vocal during the campaign last year about the abundance of natural gas in the U.S. That source, combined with the wind corridor from Texas to Minnesota, could bridge the transition from oil to renewables. LNG will not provide energy independence. It will link this county's energy needs to the volatilities of another area of the world.

I am also surprised that any of the residents of Clatsop County want LNG simply because we are, as I see it, basically giving the Great Columbia to some interlocking corporate entity over which the people now, and possibly forever, will have no influence about the further course of events.

Not to mention that \$7 million, which is often said to be so great a thing, is a drop in the bucket compared to the profits that will be extracted from this enterprise. Billions will be made and the local communities will devolve even further into poverty.

Patricia North, Hammond

Buck Visits Estes; McInnis Visits Tancredo – *Estes Park Trail Gazette* – 12/4/09

United States Senate candidate Ken Buck came to Estes Park two weeks ago to meet with voters. Buck started with a message that will resonate with many: "Republicans are every bit as much to blame for the country's problems as the Democrats."

Buck stressed that he will stand up for fiscal restraint and the grassroots. "Let's get back to deciding what the federal government should do," Buck said. He pointed to the department of energy, formed to lessen dependence on foreign oil, as a failed program. Our dependence on foreign oil has never been greater. Buck highlighted three areas for energy development: nuclear power; clean coal technology and renewables. All three areas will require at least 10 years of development to become significant contributors.

Like T. Boone Pickens, Buck points to natural gas as a key to transitioning away from oil dependence. Buck plans to take the high road and campaign on a positive agenda. Asked to contrast himself with his opponents, Buck said "Jane (Norton) was a lobbyist. Her husband is a lobbyist. Her daughter, sister and brother-in-law are all lobbyists."

In response to questions, Buck's criticism of Norton was restrained. It really isn't necessary for a candidate to become an Ultimate Fighting Championship competitor to prevail. The new media and outside money groups have as much or more influence than the candidates themselves. Head-ups political races have become roller derbies rather than boxing matches. Norton is already attracting third-party attacks. Jane Norton's brother-in-law, Charlie Black, was chief strategist to the McCain-Palin campaign and has had a long history in conservative politics. Black's boss, McCain, in turn asked Jane Norton to run for senator. Black was a founder of a powerful DC lobbying firm. In May 2008, MoveOn.org called for the McCain campaign to fire Black because of his lobbying firm's past representation of a string of foreign dictators. At the time, Black responded "I'm not ashamed of anything the firm did" and stressed that he has retired as a lobbyist. On Oct. 27, Michael Huttner of Progress Now Colorado attacked Norton, calling her "a puppet of corporate lobbyists in her family," and "the DC lobbyist's dream candidate."

At some point, MoveOn.org will repeat the Black attack against Jane Norton, especially given how Norton entered the race. The only choice for liberal groups will be to decide the timing. Norton will need to convince voters that she isn't one of the Republicans Buck describes as "just as responsible" for the county's current economic problems. Grassroots activists have little patience for party insiders. Populism has never been a sustained political force in American politics, but could have a profound impact in 2010 from both the left and right.

Meanwhile, in the governor's race, Tom Tancredo never entered the ring. Despite grassroots suspicions, Colorado Republicans unveiled a "Platform for Prosperity" to launch Scott McInnis as the GOP's chosen candidate. Josh Penry and Tom Tancredo both endorsed McInnis, announcing that the platform was the result of negotiations. McInnis succeeded in removing Tancredo as an opponent. Newspaper editorials widely panned the platform as long on platitudes and short on substance. The platform appears to be a standard recital of conservative GOP positions on a number of issues, intended to shore up party support. Noticeably absent from the McInnis platform was any mention of cutting corporate welfare -- or any other specific programs for that matter. Norton and McInnis are both pursuing a traditional campaign model, building from an insider/large-donor base to gain the resources needed to beat an incumbent. That means not alienating corporate interests.

Like Ross Perot and the 1994 Contract with America, The Tea Party movement represents a rejection of insider politics and insider deals. Ken Buck is seeking first to include the grassroots in his campaign. If 2010 remains a year of voter discontent, Buck can succeed.

BLOG/ONLINE COVERAGE

The Answer is Blowing in the Wind – *The Energy Collective* – 12/7/09

By Mike Smith

(Mike is reporting on-site from Copenhagen, Denmark, at the COP15 climate change conference arriving Monday morning *at dawn).

Vestas has invested a billion dollars in the United States building wind turbines in Colorado to capture wind off the Rockies. The company has started manufacturing and will generate 2,500 U.S. Clean Energy Jobs by 2011 at full capacity. While the world market for wind is growing 42 percent each year, the U.S. is not ready for primetime. Last year, installed capacity of just over 25,000 Megawatts is enough for only 7 million homes (less than the population of New York).

In the U.S., we are also waiting for offshore facilities to complement what Vestas is doing in the mountains. Last week, a long-awaited project in Nantucket called Cape Wind began negotiations with National Grid to deliver power.

According to the DOE, producing energy from turbines in shallow seas off American Coasts costs about 50 percent more than land-based wind energy. It is a challenge to distribute the electricity via the existing grid. How, then, to motivate investment in a recession? JOBS.

“There is a multiplier effect in terms of jobs,” says Jon Chase, recently installed as Washington Government Affairs Director for Vestas. “People don’t realize there are 1,000’s of parts in a wind turbine.” In Denmark, where Vestas has been operational for years, the firm recently has added thousands of people to its payroll.

Wind will keep growing steadily as a renewable energy source because of state renewable energy requirements and federal tax incentives. Chase says America must create a large enough market for wind to push manufacturing here. “Now is the time to commit,” he added. “The government funding levels in the early years is just a start. We are in Washington trying to strengthen these (programs).”

To get to new production levels, wind power companies like Vestas want a Federal Renewable Energy Standard (RES), and Chase says a national RES will supply the Green Jobs President Obama is seeking. Both the House and Senate versions of the companion Energy bills will offer an RES. Until then, wind companies are banking on a Production Tax Credit to invest in America.

T. Boone Pickens, the oil czar, is calling for wind power to reduce dependence on foreign oil. He has paid lobbying firms and brought a populist campaign to the issue. “The U.S. has the best wind market in the world,” according to Vestas’ Chase. Wind should be attractive to companies and to power grid utilities.

In Denmark, wind produces anywhere from 15-20 percent of the energy to meet demand during non-peak hours, often late at night. Denmark began its wind investment over 30 years ago. According to the Danish Wind Industry Association, by 2020, the country hopes to produce about half of its electricity from wind power.

The Danes just announced a new Horns Rev 2, the world’s largest offshore wind farm in time for today’s grand opening of the COP15 global climate change conference. In fact, the largest wind turbine blade in the world is on proud display. It measures over 200 feet!

In the U.S., carbon pollution is reflected in the price of power. Wind will help drive costs down here. And that is not just blowing in the wind.

The Only Way to Play Energy Now – *The Motley Fool* – 12/5/09

By Austin Edwards

You and I both know it's coming ...

And when it does, millions of us will look back on the past year longingly. Meanwhile, a handful of us will look back triumphantly ...

\$5 gas, here we come -- again!

That's right, I said it ... despite a shaky economy and despite the Obama administration's likely crackdown on speculators that the Commodity Futures Trading Commission now blames for 2008's historic run-up.

Because, let's face it, over the long haul, demand for oil and gas will drastically outstrip supply. And the majority of that supply is controlled by a handful of obscenely wealthy foreign businessmen who, as old T. Boone Pickens points out, don't like us very much.

Point being, oil and gas prices will eventually recover -- and then soar to new highs. When they do, everyone's going to get pinched at the pump -- yet only a few will get rich.

Will you be one of them?

Frankly, that all depends on what you do right now. Lots of investors are looking toward names like Chesapeake Energy (NYSE: CHK), Spectra Energy (NYSE: SE), and El Paso (NYSE: EP) to lead a major rebound in natural gas ...

But I, for one, have instead been loading up on specialty deepwater drillers like Transocean and looking at other lesser-known oil-services companies like McDermott International (NYSE: MDR) and Weatherford International (NYSE: WFT).

I've even picked up shares of the Energy Select SPDR, which provides exposure to both oil and gas behemoths like ExxonMobil and lesser-known companies like EOG Resources (NYSE: EOG) and Hess (NYSE: HES). Not to mention, it pays a decent 1.8% dividend.

I've also had my eye on smaller, specialty energy players like seismic data acquisition companies Dawson Geophysical and even tiny TGC Industries. They're both swimming in cash, trading near historically low multiples, and well-positioned to shoot higher when the price of oil and gas finally rises. Of course, there's only one problem.

You don't want to wait forever to cash in, do you?

Neither do I. So I sat down with our in-house dividends expert, James Early, to ask him about the other way to play energy.

No, I'm not referring to dividend-paying oil-services companies like Halliburton or Schlumberger. Instead, I'm talking about a group of often-overlooked energy investments that make big money regardless of the price of oil -- and that pay you big bucks to own them.

The only way to play energy now

You may already know that I'm talking about master limited partnerships (MLPs), but in case you don't, here's a quick rundown.

MLPs were born out of two Reagan-era tax reforms instituted to spur the development of U.S. energy infrastructure. Consequently, nearly all MLPs are involved in the transportation, storage, refining, or processing of oil and gas.

Yet MLPs charge by the volume of oil or gas they transport, refine, etc., so fluctuations in the price of the commodities have only a minimal effect on their earnings. And because they're organized as partnerships, they're not taxed on the entity level -- which, for reasons I'll explain in a moment, provides investors a huge tax advantage.

It also means that, by law, they have to pay out the great majority of their earnings to their investors -- hence their ultrahigh yields (typically from 6% to 10%).

You can buy MLPs online or through your broker, and they trade on major exchanges right along with regular dividend-paying stocks -- the one exception being that instead of shares, you purchase units, making you a unitholder, rather than a shareholder.

"For investors who want a lot of payout without a ton of risk"

That's how James Early describes these investments in the comprehensive MLP guide he recently put together for members of our Motley Fool Income Investor community.

One of the MLPs he's recommending is Magellan Midstream Partners. Though lesser-known than Kinder Morgan Energy Partners, Magellan actually operates the longest oil and gas pipeline in the U.S. -- a huge advantage when you consider that it more or less runs an oil and gas toll road.

Magellan is also flush with cash, and since going public in February 2001, it has increased or maintained its quarterly payout (called a "distribution" in MLP land) for 33 consecutive quarters. Granted, it has already shot up 75% since James recommended it last November -- but he still thinks it has another 30% or so of upside, and it pays a juicy 7.0% dividend.

More good news

Because MLPs aren't taxed on the corporate level, you won't have to pay taxes on the majority of the cash you earn until after you sell the units, making it a great way to earn tax-deferred income.

In short, if you're looking for a way to cash in on energy right now, I'd look no further than Magellan Midstream Partners. It's just one of five MLPs, and more than 50 dividend-paying stocks, that James is recommending to Income Investor members.

You can get in-depth research on every single one, plus get James' comprehensive guide to MLPs absolutely free, by accepting a 30-day guest pass to Income Investor.

It costs nothing, and there is no obligation to subscribe. All you have to do is click here.

This article was originally published Aug. 28, 2009. It has been updated.

Austin Edwards owns shares of Transocean and the Energy Select SPDR. Magellan Midstream Partners and Spectra Energy are Income Investor recommendations. Dawson Geophysical is a Motley Fool Hidden Gems selection. The Fool owns shares of Chesapeake Energy, which is an Inside Value pick.

BROADCAST COVERAGE

1. Squawk Box
CNBC (---) National
12/04/2009 07:00 AM - 08:00 AM

DMA: N/A
Spot Cost: \$2,322
Est. Audience: 274,383

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

00:16:49 TZ; Going Green: The United Nations will discuss climate change next week in Copenhagen. SI; Dupont Chairman Charles Holliday said we have a complex scientific theory that suggest that 6.8 billion people in the world should change how they live and I don't think you or I can sell that even though I believe it is real. Holliday said Dupont is building a big solar plant. AB; **T. Boone Pickens** wants to use **natural gas** to power trucks and use **wind**. GR; **Natural Gas**. 00:26:10