



Strange Company

The Energy Security Leadership Council is a group of leaders in the United States drawn from the senior ranks of the military as well as corporate America. Some of the council's views would likely find support among the most ardent environmental groups.

The council is launching an energetic effort to get the US Congress to reduce gasoline consumption through a combination of higher efficiency standards and a switch to alternate fuels. The group sees a risk to both American competitiveness and national security unless aggressive action is taken.

“end the exemption for commercial vehicles”

In a recently released report it urges the American government to mandate an improvement of four percent in overall fuel efficiency standards. It also calls for the government to end the exemption for commercial vehicles in such standards. Currently, the high proportion of energy used by commercial vehicles such as trucks delivering consumer goods is driven by consumer consumption, but exclusively exempt from environmental restraints. The Council believes that adoption of their proposals could reduce oil consumption by 20 percent of current American demand.

Automobile manufacturers in the United States have resisted arbitrary measures and are currently working for a new set of voluntary standards with the American government. The industry claims that tougher environmental standards would increase prices for vehicles, which in turn would induce motorists to keep driving older, less fuel efficient cars.