

Presentation to the MWCOG Transportation Planning Board, December 15, 2010
Independent Greens of Virginia

According to energy intelligence experts, by 2008 42 of the 50 largest oil producing countries had reached their peak oil production and begun a decline in production measured world-wide as a 9% decline for 2008, a decline rate which increases at an increasing rate. In 2008 demand was increasing at an estimated 20-30%. To replace just the decline, we would need to discover **three** (3) new countries with oil fields the size of Saudi Arabia's. ¹

The US had reached peak oil production and began a decline in the 1970's.

The authors of "The Impending World Energy Mess, What It Is and What It Means to YOU!" say "...we believe that the decline of world oil production will overshadow climate concerns and will become humankind's most urgent priority, because of the immediate human pain and misery that will ensue." And ... "We also urge you to demand that your governments seriously and explicitly consider these issues and implement intelligent, informed action."²

Author Robert Wendling, with 28-years experience in energy technology policy and incentives, has forecast that **within 2-5 years it will be necessary in the United States to ration gasoline.**

China is putting \$300billion a year into building high-speed rail. Germany is converting to renewable energy and is today at just under 20% renewable with government **approved** plans to be at 40% renewable energy sources within in 9 years. Greens there, who are largely responsible for the shift to renewable are advocating for 100% renewable by 2020. We agree.

We urge you **to immediately take action** to expand rail mass transit. The following are actions we believe are necessary:

- Remove bottlenecks to higher-speed rail.
- Leverage the rail industry as much as possible to build rail.
- Encourage massive use of renewable energy sources (wind, solar, geothermal, hydro)
- Place high-speed rail on express lanes.
- Where express lanes end, devote a traffic lane to high-speed rail.
- Eliminate legislative/tax incentives which favor single occupancy vehicles over rail transit.
- Build/expand commuter rail immediately
- Revise zoning immediately to allow/encourage mixed use-high density development in communities surrounding rail stations.
- Encourage R&D of maglev rail in the US or facilitate construction by maglev companies from overseas.

¹ Colin Campbell, Ph.D., Association for the Study of Peak Oil; page 24 Confronting Collapse The Crisis of Energy and Money in a Post Peak Oil World, by Michael C. Ruppert, 2009 Chelsea Green Publishing, White River Junction, VT

² Page 237, The Impending World Energy Mess, What It Is And What It Means To YOU! by Robert L. Hirsch, Roger H. Bezdek and Robert M. Wendling, 2010 Apogee Prime/The Authors.