It's time to kick OPEC

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iff and the resulting oil price drop would help the US internationally. Oil price reductions would lower the Soviet Union's hard currency revenues from oil exports. Lower oil prices would also reduce the power of Arab nations like Iran, Iraq, Libya, and Saudi Arabia, who have been blackmailing the West for years with the "oil weapon." Furthermore, a tariff would send a signal to the world that we are willing to defend our interests; we would gain a great deal of international prestige for standing up to OPEC. And we would also be helping people in the poorest developing nations, for whom high oil prices have meant deprivation and starvation.

Finally, an oil import tariff would encourage continued energy conservation and facilitate our country's transition away from fossil fuels and toward renewable resources. It would further shrink our dependence on imported oil, reducing the possibility that young Americans will fight and die in some Persian Gulf desert in a war over oil.

The time has clearly come for courageous action. If we act boldly and institute a tariff on oil imports, we will seize a fleeting historic opportunity to change our future for the better. The Congress and the President should grab this chance, and remember that a timely, thoughtful decision is worth more than all the rhetoric in the world.

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