Mr. Speaker, Mr. President, Distinguished Members of Congress, and fellow inhabitants of our planet, Earth. On this, one of the most important occasions of my life, my first words must be to say thank you for granting me this rare privilege of addressing a joint meeting of the United States Congress. It is truly an honor to speak to you this evening.

I, Jared Butowsky, being an American, as well as a member of the human race, wish to talk about a growing concern among the American people, as well as the people of every country on Earth. That concern is a need for a clean, viable alternative energy source; one that has neither the environmental impact nor the cost of fossil fuels. Fossil fuel consumption has burdened humanity with a catastrophic dilemma, one that is both environmental and economic. The time has come for us to choose the path of our future. Do we continue to use fossil fuels and endanger our lives, or do we innovate and find solutions to save both ourselves, and our Earth? We owe it to ourselves, as well as our future generations, to take the latter option and safeguard the future of humanity. That is why I am here today to propose a global scholarship initiative for students who are willing to endeavor towards that brighter future.

There are many downsides to the consumption of fossil fuels. First of all, there is the contamination to the environment. Due to carbon gas emissions, the average temperature around the globe has gone through significant changes, damaging the ecosystem in the process. The United States is the biggest offender, as the Environmental Protection Agency has released studies showing an increase in carbon dioxide emissions by 9% from 1990 to 2014, with between five and six billion metric tons of CO2 equivalent produced per year (EPA). I know there are several here who would deny this fact, but even if climate change theory was not true, it is impossible to deny that fossil fuels are a non-renewable resource, and experts on the subject have estimated that there are around 110 years’ worth remaining. This may seem like a lot, but it ultimately means that fossil fuel is not sustainable as a source of energy, and in the scope of geological time, this is a blip, this is nothing. As the availability of fossil fuels has dwindled, we have already seen drastically increased costs, both for companies *and* for consumers. This leads into my next point regarding fossil fuels: wars have been fought in order to get access to them. Society has become so desperate for fossil fuels, that we are killing each other for the right to have them. This travesty should not, and cannot be allowed to continue.

There are many alternatives to fossil fuels. I will now advocate for four of those alternatives, as well as explaining the attributes of each one. I will also go over the challenges faced by all four, so as to show why the global scholarship initiative is needed.

One alternative energy source is geothermal energy, which is the generation of electricity via steam from springs of hot water below the surface of the Earth to turn a turbine. There are already three types of geothermal power plants in existence (and in use): “dry steam”, “flash steam”, and “binary cycle”. Small-scale geothermal plants can potentially be used for rural areas. A disadvantage of this energy source is that it will be necessary to find these springs first. This is especially a problem in the Eastern United States, as most of the geothermal reservoirs in this country are in the West. (RenewableEnergyWorld.com)

Another alternate energy source, and perhaps the most well known, is solar energy, where light from the sun is harnessed via solar panels and converted into electricity. A major advantage of solar energy, as a result, is that sources of it will be very easy to find. Granted, solar panel cells are currently not very efficient, with only about one-sixth of the sunlight striking a typical commercial cell actually producing electricity, but with further research and development, that hurdle can be overcome. (ibid)

A third alternative is wind energy, which is the use of a wind turbine, which is the modern equivalent of a windmill, to generate electricity. There are already several power companies who have begun to use fields with several wind turbines to provide electricity to customers. Naturally, a major disadvantage faced by wind energy is that it is not of much use if there is not much wind in a given area. (ibid)

The fourth, and final, energy source I will talk about is hydroelectric energy, the harnessing of the energy produced by flowing water. A small hydroelectric generator can produce enough energy for a house. Hydroelectric energy already provides 10% of the nation’s electricity, but perhaps that percentage can be increased. The downside to expanding the use of hydroelectric energy would be the difficulty of making sure not to disturb the ecosystem too much while installing the new hydroelectric plants. (ibid)

It is my hope that, of these four sources of alternative energy, one will prove viable and worth being further researched. While all four of these have their disadvantages, proper research may be able to mitigate, or even do away with them entirely.

Granted, there are concerns from corporate entities that can make this happen, and I am willing to address them. One such concern is that switching to a new source of energy can be expensive. While this can be true if it is done all at once, switching does not need to be done all at once; the switch over to clean energy can be gradual. Not to mention, the expense can be offset with cost-effective production and an efficient supply.

A second concern is the difficulty of setting up the systems needed in order to make these energy sources work. I respond that yes, it can be difficult, but if these corporations would just collaborate with their government, it would make everything go far more smoothly. Whether or not they do so, though, it will be worth the effort in setting these up to ensure a brighter future for humanity.

Getting into concerns of the general populace, some are concerned about the possibility that they may not have enough energy for all of their appliances when using a source of alternative energy. That is not really anything to be worried about, because, as Quayle Hodek- founder and CEO of Renewable Choice Energy- said a few years back, a single small solar panel, using technology from that time, could give light to a poor family in Guatemala (TEDx Talks). Just imagine how much power can be gotten from a few more solar panels! Imagine how much power can be gotten through further researching solar energy in order to create cells which can more efficiently harness electricity via sunlight!

Ultimately, we need to invest more in research and development. We need to give scholarships and grants to students willing to look into this in a global energy initiative. We need a marketability increase for consumer usage of viable energy. Efficient distribution methods and innovative technology will speed up production and lower costs.

Of course, there will be a need to find the sources from which this energy can be extracted, such as geysers. There will also be a need to test this energy so as to ensure that the new source will be cost-effective, good for the environment, and reusable. It will be worth it, however, as the cost of extraction will be lower than the cost of drilling for oil.

While it has taken 155 to 66 million years for the Earth to produce fossil fuels, our consumption of these energy sources will have provided us with far fewer years’ worth of energy. The undeniable facts must be addressed now, by all of us. Please, join me in a concerted effort to fund a global initiative for the awarding of scholarships and grants to every student in the world who can find solutions to our plight. The end will arrive soon, no more oil, gas, or coal to power our civilization. That is why we need to act to prevent a catastrophe and save the future of the human race. And as a bonus, more money will be made in the long run. I thank you all for coming, and I hope you have a safe trip home and a good night.

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