

Petroleum Prevarication

Comment regarding:

[2012-2017 OCS Oil and Gas Programmatic EIS Public Comment](#)

The United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Ocean Energy, Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) will prepare a programmatic environmental impact statement (EIS) for the new five-year Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas leasing program for 2012–2017. The Programmatic EIS will analyze the potential impacts of the adoption of the proposed five-year program.

Summary: There should be **no** offshore oil and gas leasing because of negative impacts on the environment and because so much oil, 24% of imports, is being exported from the United States. This is a 150% increase over exports/imports ratio in 2003. As imports have fallen, exports have risen by close to the same amount. To lower prices to increase economic and national security we must stop exporting oil. Oil corporation behavior is a betrayal of U.S. interests. The entire industry should be nationalized to serve the public interest.

Incredible! So there's a shortage and it's necessary to "[drill here, drill now, pay less](#)"!? Far from it. Oil corporations are making a killing while [killing the environment](#) and the U.S. economy.

Oil corporations pollute the Gulf and other U.S. waters and land. But, because the U.S. economy has collapsed, rather than selling that oil here at lower prices, they're exporting it to increase profits here and abroad. Oil corporations are making a killing while the increased cost of oil and gasoline are a major factor contributing to weakening the U.S. economy. But never mind the economy, oil corporation subsidies and profits are the priority.

This is "privatize the profits and socialize the costs" on a massive scale. I don't put much past either the oil corporations or the "conservatives" who support them, but even I am shocked at this.

See the graphs just below. Data [here](#) in this [file](#) that's has data in terms of "2005 Chain-weighted Dollars".

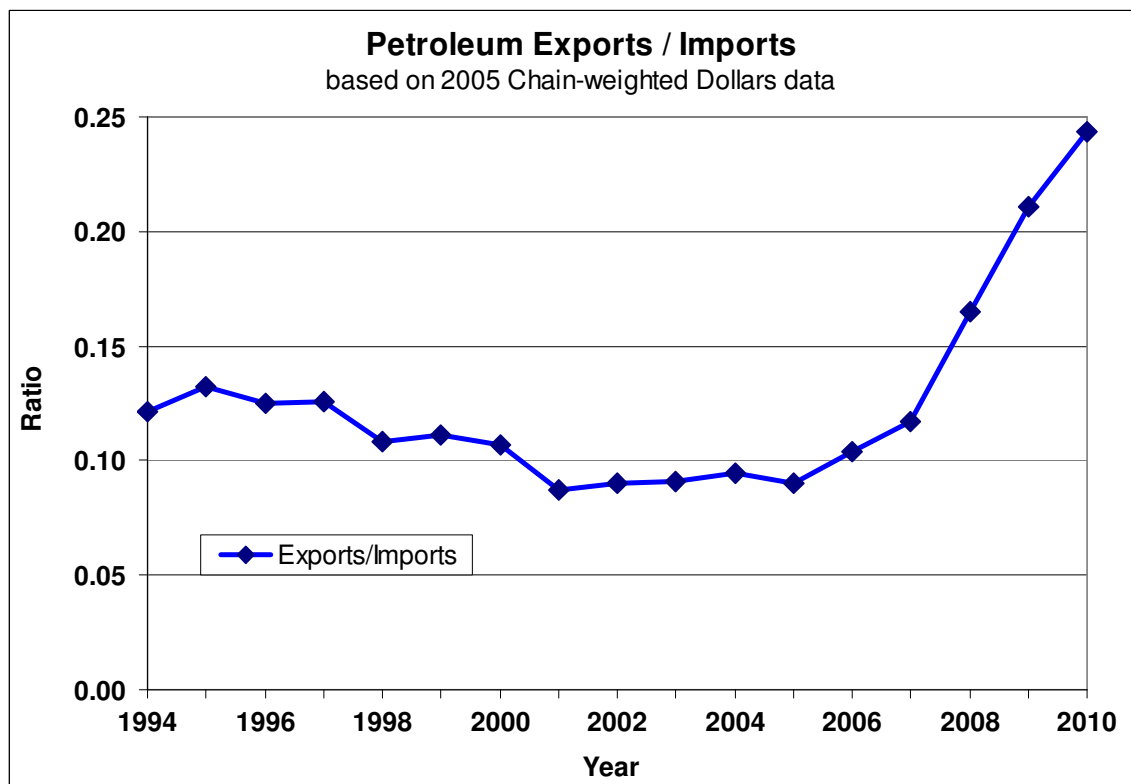


Figure 1. Amazing! U.S. petroleum exports have risen from ~10% of imports to a whopping 24%. The U.S. now exports about 1/4 as much oil as it imports!

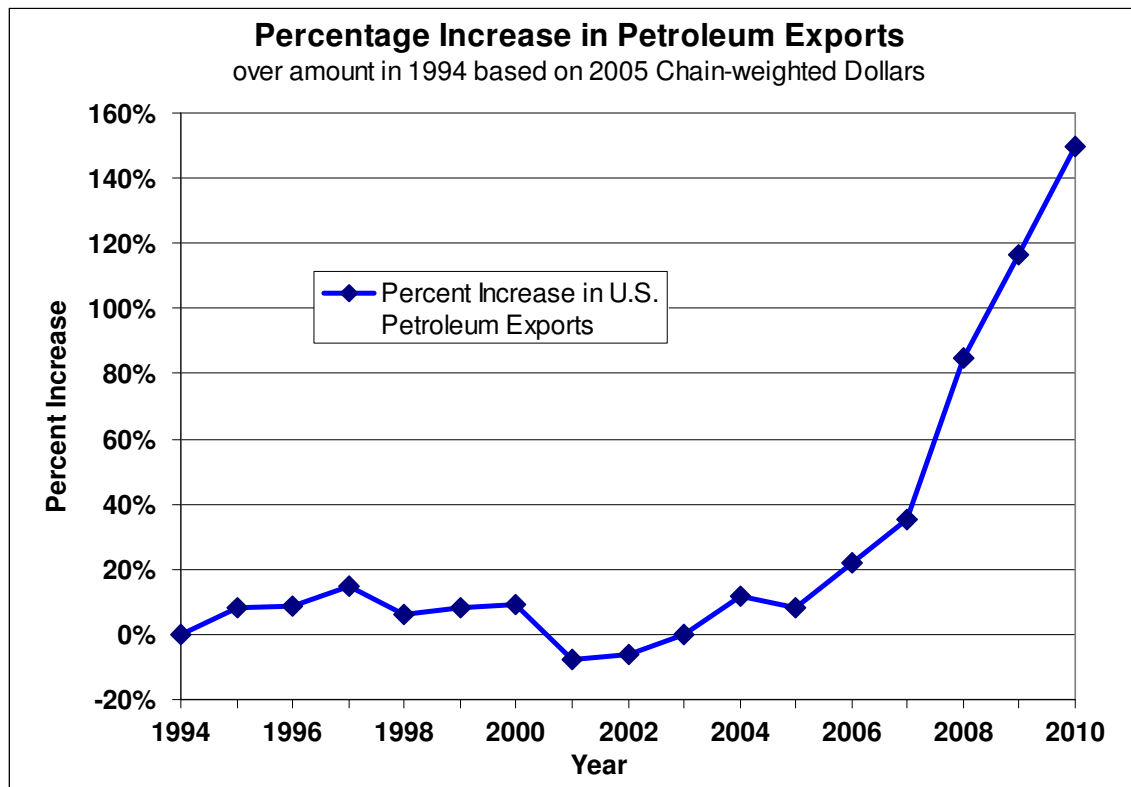


Figure 2. U.S. petroleum exports have increased by 150% over the levels in 1994 or 2003!

Though U.S. oil exports have increased to be 24% of oil imports, a 150% increase over exports in 2003, a "conservative" rebuttal is that this is not a problem. The rationale: We export our Alaskan oil to Japan because it's closer than shipping that oil to San Diego. So oil corporations export Alaskan oil and then import oil from Canada and Mexico that is closer to our refineries and they then sell that at a lower price than that Alaskan oil would have been. The A "conservative" view then is that we actually do win from this.

There are two problems with this: the basic assumptions are incorrect.

1. Oil corporations export to Japan because it's closer: But it's not closer!

Valdez, AK, for example, is a lot closer to San Diego (& even closer to Seattle) than to Japan! Distances from [MapCrow](#).

- Valdez, US to Tokyo, JA = 3570.63 mi
- Valdez, US to San Diego, US = 2355.39 mi
- Valdez, US to Seattle, US = 1329.13 mi

2. Oil corporations export more to somewhere closer to the oil they recover from Alaska so they can import more from somewhere nearer at lower cost: . But, even if Japan were closer (it's not!), oil corporations are exporting MORE and importing LESS!

From 2005 to 2010 exports INCREASED by \$29.7B, but imports DECREASED by \$36.6B over that same period. The charts below clearly show this.

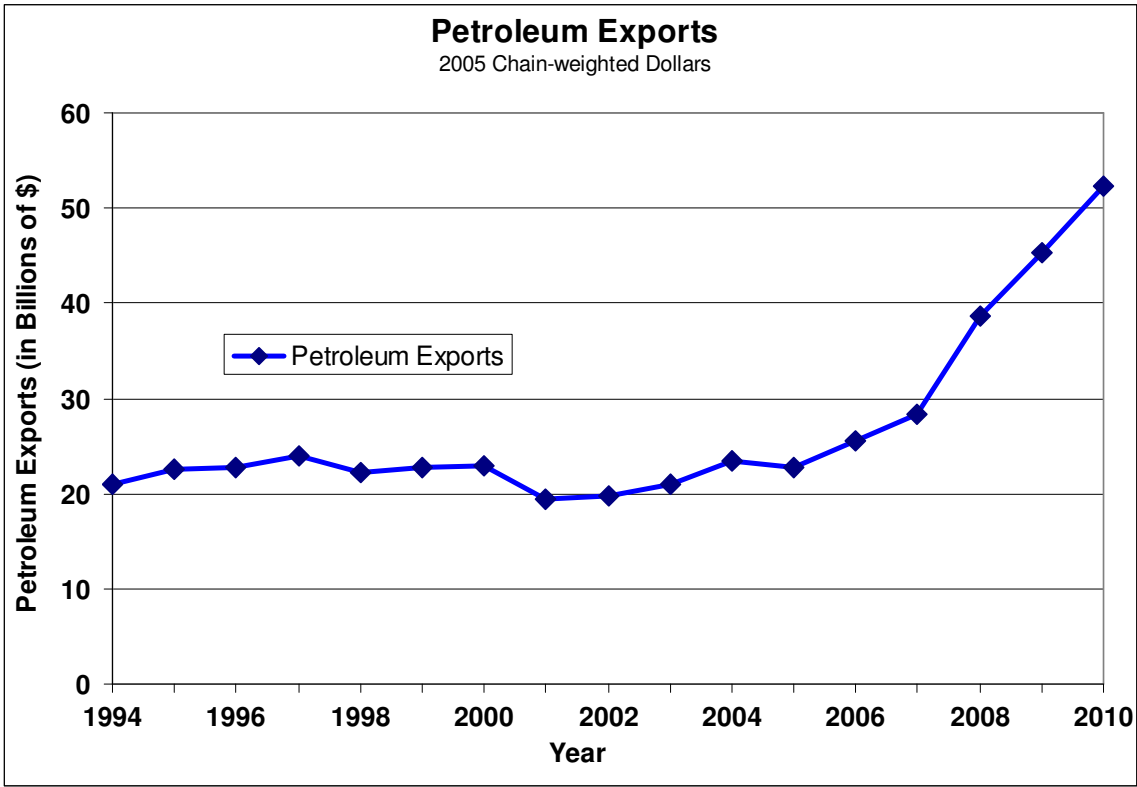


Figure 3. U.S. petroleum exports have increased by \$29.7B since 2005.

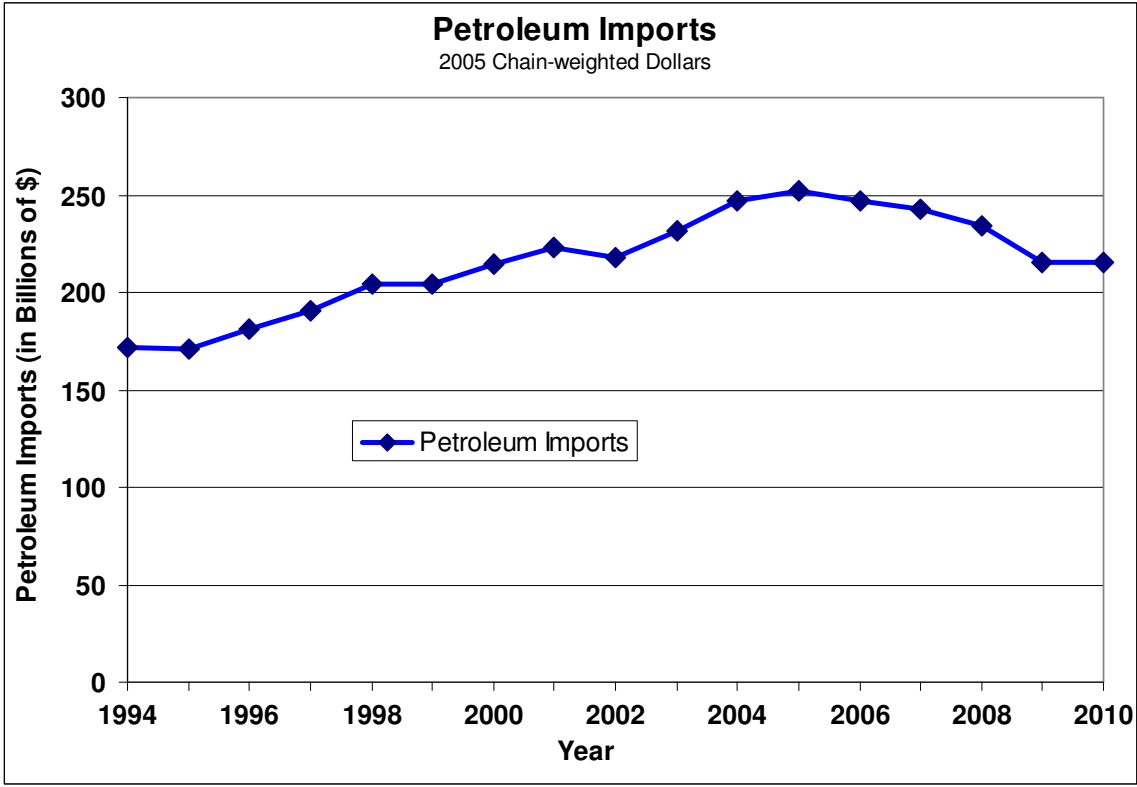


Figure 4. At the same time exports are soared, U.S. petroleum imports fell by \$36.6B since 2005.

"Conservatives" argue that there should be more drilling in the U.S. to access "our oil". But once oil corporations have leases to drill for oil, any oil they get is *oil corporation oil*, not *our oil* and they can sell it anywhere they like. And they do ... for greater profits, no matter that more U.S. oil could go to the U.S. to increase supply and reduce prices. It is not in their interest to reduce prices and profits.

This undermines the U.S. economy and is essentially a theft of U.S. resources. I call it economic treason.

Based on this behavior, there should be no offshore drilling. Beyond this, I've come to the conclusion that the entire industry should be nationalized to stop this theft from the public. This is vital for economic and national security because oil corporations have demonstrated they have no allegiance to the United States of America.

Sincerely,
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Comment Receipt

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2012-2017 OCS Oil and Gas Programmatic EIS Scoping Comment:	10MMS5YR85711
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<p>See my attachment. Summary: There should be no offshore oil and gas leasing because of negative impacts on the environment and because so much oil, 24% of imports, is being exported from the United States. This is a 150% increase over exports/imports ratio in 2003. As imports have fallen, exports have risen by close to the same amount. To lower prices to increase economic and national security we must stop exporting oil. Oil corporation behavior is a betrayal of U.S. interests. The entire industry should be nationalized to serve the public interest.</p>	

Questions about submitting comments over the Web? Contact us at: ocs5yeareis@anl.gov or call the 2012-2017 OCS Oil and Gas Programmatic EIS Webmaster at (630)252-7207.