



Texas urged to lead energy independence

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AUSTIN, Texas (KXAN) -- Gov. Rick Perry said the nation must reduce its dependence on foreign oil by building a deeper, more diverse energy portfolio. Perry spoke at the Clean Carbon Policy Summit and Project Expo, hosted by the Clean Coal Technology Foundation of Texas.

"America's national security and economic stability are seriously threatened by the fact that we rely on other nations for 70 percent of our oil supply," said Perry.

Perry said that to attain energy diversification, Texas must foster collaboration between government, industry and academia to promote clean coal as well as other alternative energy technologies.

"Texas is better at producing energy than anyone else in the United States, which is why we need to lead the charge on energy independence," said Perry.

Texas is a leader in crude oil, refining and natural gas production, and wind energy production, but the governor said Texas must continue to expand alternative energy technologies, including nuclear, solar and clean coal.

He also warned against the ramifications of potential federal legislation regulating carbon without considering its impact on Texas and other oil-producing states. Gov. Perry opposes the proposed cap-and-trade measure which is essentially a tax on energy production and would create a disproportionate impact on Texas.

If implemented, it should at the very least include provisions that allow Texas to pass increased costs onto other states that rely on Texas' production of energy, goods and services, Perry added.

Texas currently leads the nation in installed wind energy capacity. In August, the Public Utility Commission approved a plan to connect more turbines to the energy grid and expand wind generation infrastructure.

Gov. Perry also said Texas must continue to pursue nuclear energy as a proven source of clean, safe, predictable and competitively-priced energy. Texas has four proposed nuclear sites making their way through the lengthy federal permitting process.

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