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President-elect Obama on US Energy Policy: "IT'S MORE IMPORTANT NOW"

Washington, DC – President-elect Barak Obama reaffirmed his commitment for energy independence in his first television interview since the election. Steve Kroft of the CBS's News Magazine, 60 Minutes questioned the President-elect on a variety of issues. Senator Obama stated that national security and the economy are his top two priorities, followed by energy and health care. When it came to energy policy he was asked:

"When the price of oil was at \$147 dollars a barrel there were a lot of spirited and profitable discussions that were held on energy independence. Now you've got the price of oil under \$60 dollars. Does doing something about energy (pause) is it less important?"

President-elect Obama said "it's more important now, it may be a little harder politically, but it's more important." The President-elect went on to say, "This has been our pattern. We go from shock to trance. Oil prices go up, gas prices at the pump go up – everybody goes into a flurry of activity. Then prices go back down and suddenly we act like its not important and we start filling up our SUV's again – and as a consequence we never make any progress. It is part of the addiction that has to be broken. Now is the time to break it."

The Business Council for Sustainable Energy joins President-elect Barak Obama in the quest for sustainable energy policy for the United States. Lisa Jacobson, Executive Director says, "We are glad to see Senator Obama continues to make energy independence a high priority. We have many clean energy resources and energy efficient technologies that with proper investment can shake our energy dependence issues, manage climate change, provide thousands of "green" related jobs and grow our economy in a sustainable way."

The Business Council for Sustainable Energy is an organization that was founded in 1992 by senior executives of the renewable energy, energy efficiency, electric utility and natural gas industries. The Council advocates for market-based solutions to the energy and climate change challenges and opportunities facing the United States, and invites you to visit our website at www.bcse.org for more information.

To watch the full interview:

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2008/11/16/60minutes/main4607893.shtml>