**Issue 15: Will Biofuels Like Ethanol Reduce US Dependencies on Foreign Oil**

In today's ever-growing society many new and real problems are voiced on a daily basis. From raising unemployment levels, and a crumbling infrastructure, to our impact on the environment these issues must be addressed. The most controversial of the bunch, which has come up continuously throughout the past several decades is the US dependence on foreign oil. By increasing the amount of biofuels produced in the United States will we be able to reduce our dependence on foreign oils?

Anthony Lonzo believes that it would be possible to reduce our consumption of foreign oils dramatically by producing biofuel. He presented through the viewpoint of Bob Dinneen, who made a very interesting point in his article. He said that every year the US consumes many billions of gallons of gasoline every year, which is produced mainly from foreign oil. By producing these massive quantities of biofuel but only will it reduce our dependence significantly but production costs would decrease through higher efficiency production facilities. In addition, as many others say, it will not create job loss, but just job migration from the oil industry to the biofuel industry reducing the negative effects of a crumbling industry.

Dakota Dehn represented Charles Drevna on the opposing side. Drevna mentioned in his article that by producing the biofuels we will not offset our dependence on foreign oil. This is due to the production process of the biofuels. The equipment used to produce, transport, and process the fuel is dependent on foreign oil, and the input of the foreign goods practically equivalent to the output of the local biofuel production. In addition to the benefit being minimal, the transportation of the biofuel is extremely expensive too, which will raise the final price paid by consumers to a higher level than that of the foreign fossil fuels. Overall it seems that by converting to the new, eco-friendly source of energy is not a valid solution to reducing our dependence.

The presenters brought many valid and important points to attention during the presentations, but my final decision is not possible to sway. Even though I am pro-biofuels and alternate energy sources I agree it will reduce the foreign dependence, though by a minimal amount. The topic question was very vague, and by decreasing dependence whatsoever I have to agree with the yes side, even though biofuel production will barely touch the foreign dependence. this is because nearly every manmade object is oil based or uses oil somewhere in the production process be it for fuel, lubrication, or production of a complex polymer. My decision is set and I believe that producing biofuels will decrease our foreign dependence on oil.