

## **Net U.S. Oil Import Reductions Between Now and 2030 (As Shown in EIA Estimates between 2004 and 2009)**

**As shown in the following charts, EIA's current reference or base case long-term scenario anticipates future oil imports will decline significantly over the next two decades. EIA now estimates that in 2030 imports will constitute 41% of the nation's total petroleum requirement significantly below current levels of approximately 57% (see sheet 4).<sup>1</sup>**

**EIA's current import estimate for 2030 also represents a significant reduction of more than 40% from the corresponding estimate five years ago. The steady decline in EIA's estimate of future imports since 2004 (as shown in sheets 2 through 4) lends support to the general proposition that when oil prices rise, consumption declines, reducing the level of imports needed to fill the gap between domestic production and consumption.**

**The oil import reductions estimated by EIA between now and 2030 far outweigh the potential production from remote provinces such as the Arctic Outer Continental Shelf and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.<sup>2</sup> When this nation needs to direct capital resources to infrastructure renewal, education and health care, as well as energy problems, does it make sense to invest limited capital resources on a speculative boom-and-bust cycle of petroleum development? Or would it make more sense to continue on the demonstrably effective conservation path, thereby freeing scarce capital resources to deal with problems whose resolution is critical to long-term economic growth?**

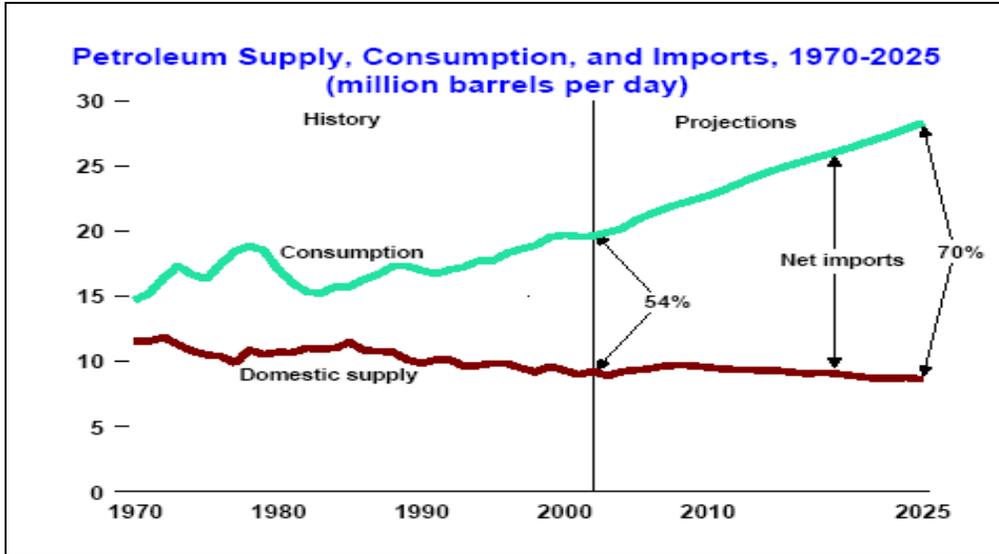
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<sup>1</sup> EIA prominently displayed its current estimate of declining future imports as the first chart accompanying the early release of the *2009 Annual Energy Outlook* in December 2008.

<sup>2</sup> See discussion in Richard A. Fineberg, *Oil Drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge: Economic Perspectives on a Misguided Distraction from the Nation's Energy Crisis* (report to the Alaska Wilderness League, January 22, 2009), and "Conservations Gains Far Outweigh Petroleum Potential Of Exploration on Alaska's Outer Continental Shelf" (Summary of reports to the Alaska Wilderness League, the Wilderness Society and the World Wildlife Fund, prepared for testimony to the U.S. Interior Department in Anchorage, Alaska, April 14, 2009).

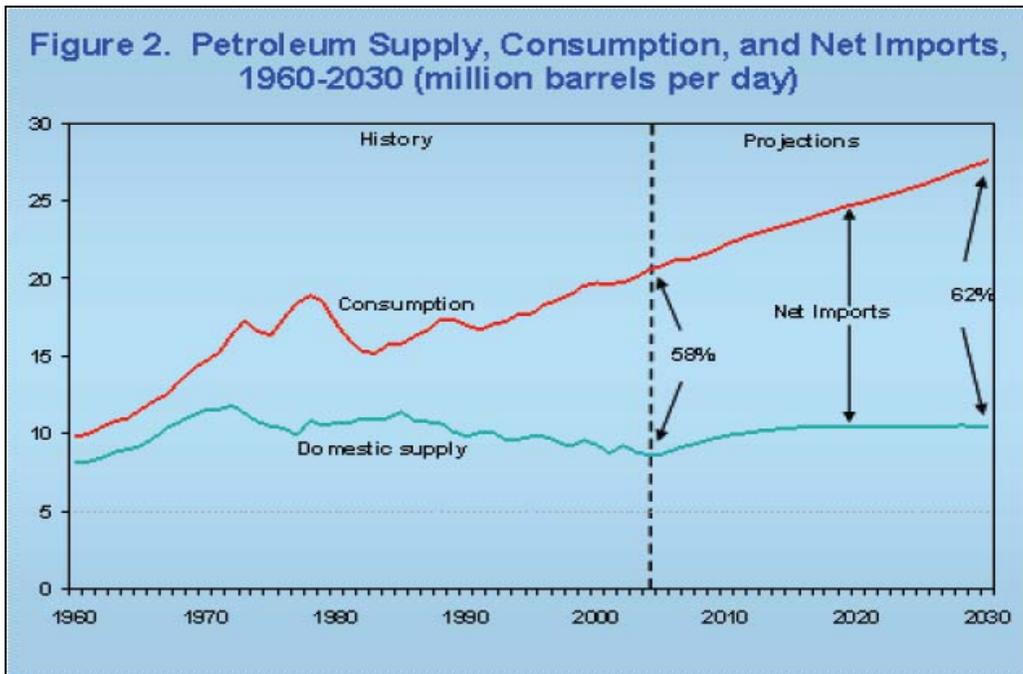
### EIA Net Import Projections, 2004 - 2009

**2004:**



From: U.S. EIA, *Overview of the Annual Energy Outlook 2004*, March 23, 2004.

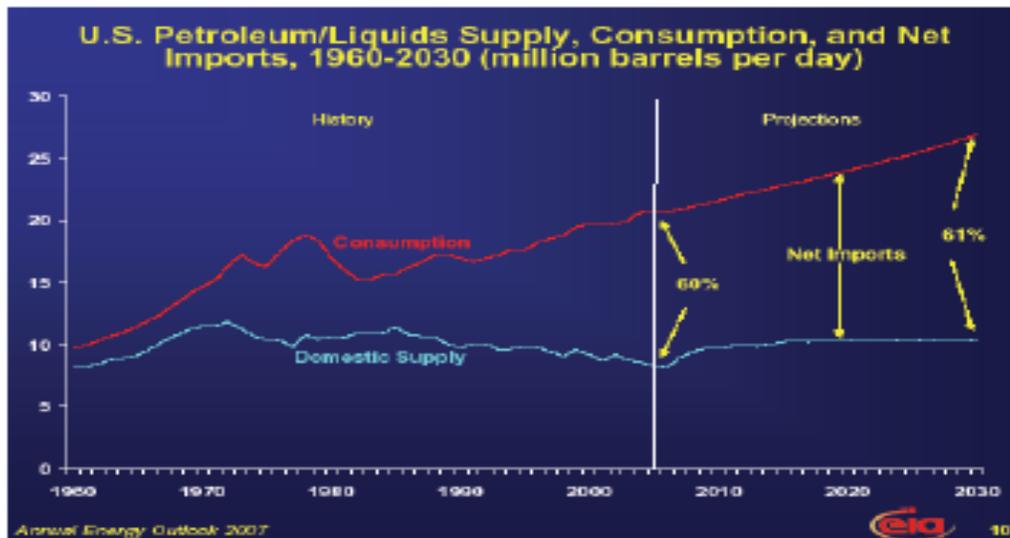
**2006:**



From, U.S. EIA, *"Annual Energy Outlook 2006 (Administrator's Presentation)"*, December 2005.

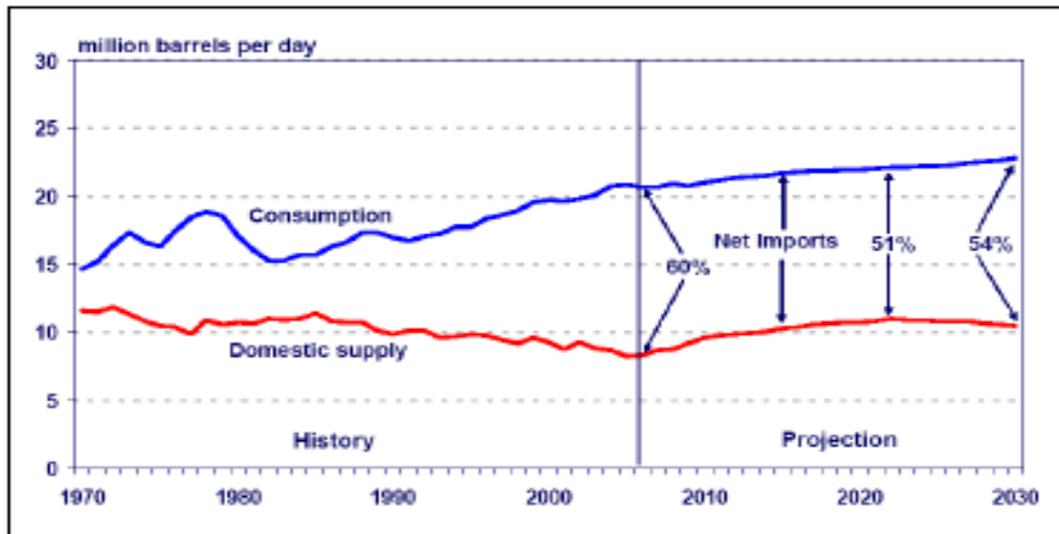
### EIA Net Import Projections, 2004 - 2009

**2007:**



From U.S. EIA, *Annual Energy Outlook 2007*, Advanced Release presentation (posted Dec. 5, 2006).

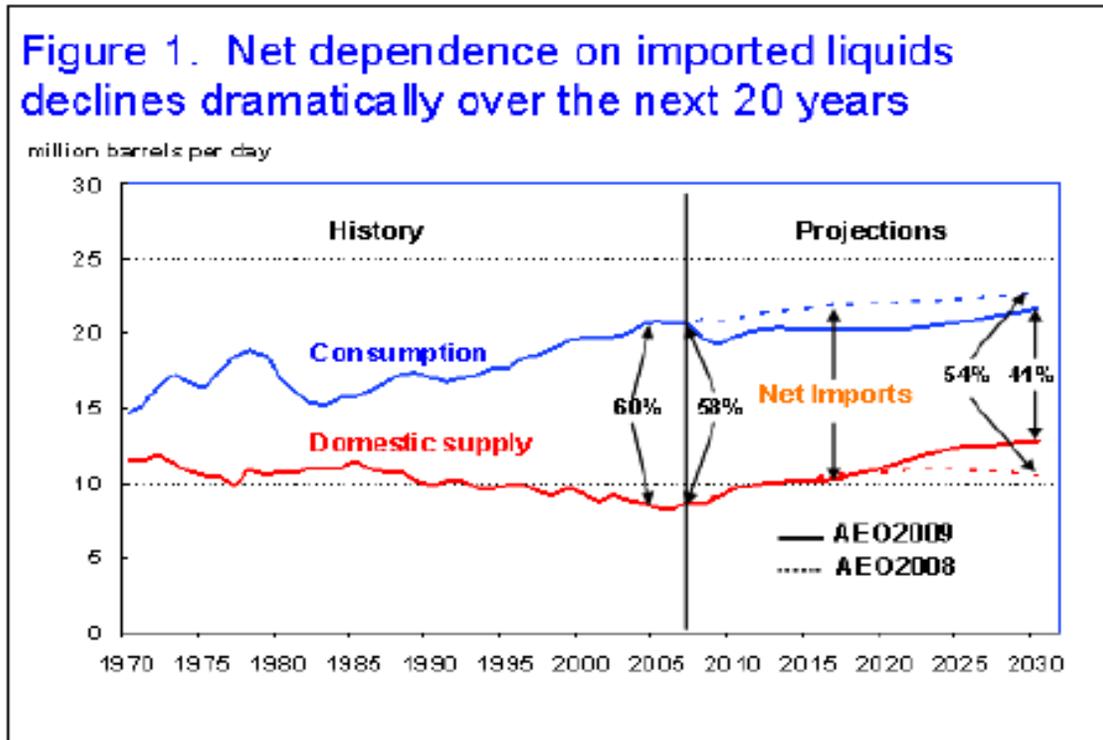
**2008: IMPORT SHARE OF NET LIQUIDS USE DECLINES FROM ITS CURRENT LEVEL.**



The EIA's 2008 projection of future oil imports was presented as Figure 9 in EIA Administrator Guy Caruso's March 4, 2008 testimony to the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

## EIA Net Import Projections, 2004 - 2009

**2009:** EIA Import Share of Net Petroleum Liquids “Declines Dramatically”\*



U.S. Energy Information Administration, "New EIA Energy Outlook Projects Flat Oil Consumption to 2030, Slower Growth In Energy Use and Carbon Dioxide Emissions, and Reduced Import Dependence," Dec. 17, 2008 (press release and press release Figure 1, accessed Jan. 2, 2009 at <http://www.eia.doe.gov/nrelc/press/press312.html>).

\* This the description of reduced future oil imports in the words of the U.S. Energy Information Administration in its press release introducing the 2009 Annual Energy Outlook for 2009, Dec. 17, 2008.