

# King CONG Dominates Energy Policy

*Interview with Harvey Wasserman excerpted from Corporations and Democracy, July 4, 2008. A long-time researcher and writer on corporate energy issues, he is a Senior Editor at FreePress.org and author of SOLARTOPIA! Our Green-Powered Earth, A.D. 2030*

The Bush/McCain gas price escalation is an Enron rerun. From 1999 to 2001, Enron ripped off California for \$100 billion. There was no energy shortage. Their employees were playing with supply, pulling power plants offline to raise the price of electricity. In San Diego it went up 700%.

Corporations control the national energy policy by owning or renting the Congress and the President. Cheney, in his secret meetings obviously cut a deal with the big energy suppliers to: 1) continue the tradition of Enron gouging the American public; 2) sit on renewables; and 3) go to war in Iraq. That was the Bush energy policy—to go to war with Iraq and conquer their energy supply. And they did it not to supply it to the United States, but to ensure that it did not come in too great a quantity so that they could keep the price high.

Now we have this massive rise in gas prices and the Saudis say there is lots of supply and that it is the bankers and speculators that are driving up the prices.

Meanwhile, the Bush Administration is using the high prices as an excuse to drill for oil and build nuclear plants. Essentially, they are wrecking the earth in order to solve their oil shortage problem. McCain has the same gas and oil advisors as

Bush. But nothing they are proposing is going to solve the problem.

The corporate death grip on supplying and refining fossil fuels, the electric grid and the automobile system does not allow us to solve the problem. If we got rid

of King CONG, which is corporate Coal, Oil Nuclear and Gas, and replaced it with available technology, wind, solar, tidal, geothermal, increased efficiency, mass transit and conservation, we could get all of the energy the earth needs.

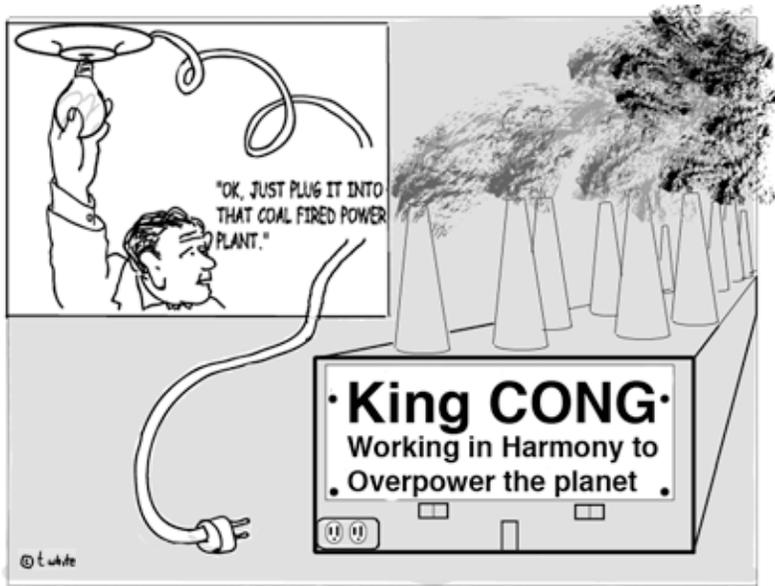
It is not a problem of technology. It is a problem of corporate domination. In 1920, GM did not see their competition as Ford and Chrysler. They saw mass transit as their competition. General Motors, Standard Oil and the glass and rubber companies consciously destroyed mass transit because they wanted to sell cars and gas. It made way for the biggest ecological disaster in history. We can't even buy fuel-efficient automobiles because Detroit won't make them.

Now, the gas and oil companies are absolutely terrified of the solar, wind, tidal and geothermal companies. That is why they are diverting everybody's energy into nuclear power, which is a complete failure both economically and ecologically. Nuclear does not threaten the interests of King CONG because they are all invested in it. But they cannot control renewable energy because it uses free energy for its fuel.

In the long term we have this perfect storm of running out of both fossil fuels and the capacity of the earth to sustain the burning of fossil fuels. King CONG has too much money invested to let renewables happen. Polluting industries make more money out of destroying the planet than preserving it.

What is amazing about all these King CONG guys is that they all praise the free market, but then turn around and support massive subsidies for nuclear power. Nuclear power cannot be built without massive government subsidies. They cannot get private financing. They cannot get private insurance. No body would think of building a nuclear plant in a true market economy.

That is the first thing we have to do. If we removed all energy subsidies, renewable energies would win out.



How many corporate-funded Presidents does it take to screw up a country?  
graphic: T White