

# ENERGY INDEPENDENCE FOR NORTH AMERICA: TRANSITION TO THE HYDROGEN ECONOMY

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## ABSTRACT

A strategy will be presented for achieving energy independence for the United States and North America through a pathway that could ultimately transition the United States and the transportation sector into a hydrogen economy. The U.S. transportation sector, because of the unique mobility requirements of cars and trucks, is almost totally dependent on liquid carbon-based fuels, primarily conventional petroleum-based gasoline and diesel fuel. This has resulted in continued reliance on imported oil, mostly from less politically stable countries. Energy security

concerns have therefore motivated this focus on the hydrogen economy to replace the oil economy. The *National Energy Policy* has included recommendations for the energy independence, not only of the United States, but for the North American continent as well. The President, in his State of the Union address this year, announced the FreedomCAR and Fuel Initiative for achieving energy independence, which would transition the United States and the transportation sector into a hydrogen economy.