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| *CQ Researcher*: June 22, 2012“U.S. Oil Dependence: Is Independence from Foreign Oil Possible?” | **The following paragraph is considered unintentional plagiarism, although it utilizes unique language. Notice the manner the material is presented and how it mirrors the layout in the supplied handout from *CQ Researcher*.**  |
|  The United States is producing more oil today than it has since 1998, but gasoline prices are still high, averaging more than $3.50 per gallon nationally in early June. New technology is making it possible to extract oil from tar sands and shale rock, but that oil is expensive, and its production causes major environmental impacts. President Obama advocates expanding production of all energy sources, including oil, gas, nuclear power, wind and solar, while warning that the United States can never pump enough oil to sway world prices. Republicans counter that the Obama administration has restricted oil production and drilling should expand in Western states, the Artic and coastal waters. Environmentalists want more support for technologies to replace oil, such as electric cars and biofuels. But until those sources become economically competitive with oil, the United States will be subject to price swings in a world oil market it cannot control.  |  The Keystone XL pipeline is a controversial subject. As a general overview, it has been shown that some people believe it would be a benefit to the U.S. economy in the long run, bringing oil into the country and lessening the dependency on foreign oil. Despite the fact that the United States is currently producing a large amount of oil, more so than originally produced in the Nineties, and despite the fact newer methods of extracting oil from various locations work more efficiently, the oil product itself remains expensive for average consumers. As a counter measure, President Barrack Obama has suggested using alternative sources of energy resulting in balancing out the expenses for the average citizen. However, the G.O.P. argues that the Democratic philosophies of the current administration undercut the oil industry as a whole. They propose using oil found in North America would lessen our dependency on foreign imports. Alternatively, environmentalists argue more options should be made available for finding alternative measures, beyond what the President has proposed. As it is, the United States is caught in the middle and cannot alter the path of unpredictable price swings from the oil market.  |