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Link to EIA data: http://www.eia.doe.gov/states/seds_updates.html

Ohioans spent \$11.7 billion on motor gasoline in 2009, ranks 6th in nation, according to new EIA data

According to state level data released late Friday, by the U.S. Energy Information Administration, Ohio used almost 118 million barrels of oil in 2009, at a cost to Ohioans of \$11.7 billion dollars. Since 98% of Ohio's oil is imported from out of state, that means \$11.5 billion left the state's economy to import the polluting fossil fuel. Plus, gas prices have risen 18% since this time last year.

"The billions we spend to import motor gas every year could be put to better use" said energy researcher Amanda Woodrum. "Eleven and a half billion dollars is enough to build the 3-C passenger rail corridor from Cleveland to Columbus to Cincinnati, cover its operating costs for 100 years, and shore up the \$8 billion hole in the state's budget."

Ohio needs a strategy to make our transportation sector more energy independent. Building a complete network of alternative transportation—rail, hybrid buses, streetcars, and bikable, walkable communities—would put many Ohioans to work. According to the Surface Transportation Policy Project, investments in public transportation create nearly 20 percent more jobs than equivalent investments in new road and bridge projects. These are good paying jobs—work for rail-track layers, electricians, dispatchers, and bus drivers.

According to the EIA data, Ohio ranks 6th in the nation for the amount of motor gasoline it consumes.

Woodrum added "We can't afford to keep giving billions of our hard-earned dollars to oil companies every year. Instead we should modernize our transportation sector, make it more energy independent, equitable, and sustainable, and put Ohioans to work doing it."

