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Author James Kunstler speaks at Furman

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James N. Kunstler, author of 13 energy-related books, told a group at Furman University tonight that America's four biggest oil suppliers are quickly arriving at the point where they can no longer deliver.

And, he adds quickly, technology will not be the solution.

"You can't take technology and grind it up and put it in a gas tank," he said to laughs.

Kunstler said energy experts can envision a time when the United States' biggest suppliers -- Kuwait, China, Saudi Arabia and Mexico -- will no longer be able to deliver the same oil quantities.

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He said oil production in Saudi Arabia has already fallen to 8.4 million barrels daily, down from 9.9 million barrels.

Speaking at a standing-room-only lecture hall, Kunstler said America and other industrialized nations will be vying for oil with huge oil consumers, such as China, which has one of the world's fastest growing economies.


He Saudi Arabia, where the population is also growing, will need more and more of the oil it produces for itself.

"Climate change is only going to make things worse," he said. He said this country is making major blunders in terms of energy policies.

He characterized it as: "The miscalculation of resources in the industrial world."

He said back-to-back devastating hurricanes weakened the oil-producing platforms in the Gulf of Mexico by 23 percent, a blow that the workers on the platforms will never regain.

Kunstler, whose visit was sponsored by Upstate Forever, said we "can't wish" for a resolution, we've got to get real answers to real problems.

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