

Nancy Johnson



Fifth District, Connecticut

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Contact: Brian Schubert

(202) 225-4476

Johnson Calls on ExxonMobil to Donate Profits to Connecticut Home Heating Assistance Program

Oil Companies See Record Profits While Consumer Prices Soar

WASHINGTON, DC -- Congresswoman Nancy Johnson today called on ExxonMobil to donate its profits to a key state assistance program to help ease the home heating crisis expected in the Northeast this winter. Johnson sent the letter below to ExxonMobil CEO Lee Raymond in the wake of today's news that oil companies were seeing record profits and revenues.

"I am calling on ExxonMobil today to redirect some of your record profits to help ease the home heating crisis that we expect in the Northeast this winter. Home heating costs are expected to jump by as much as 50 percent, which will place an unbearable strain on those who are least able to afford it," Johnson wrote. "By lowering your overall profit margin during this time of short supply you would be exhibiting appropriate generosity at a time of national need. A donation of \$18 million to Connecticut Energy Assistance Program, for example, would help heat the homes of 60,000 needy families for the winter."

Congresswoman Johnson's letter to ExxonMobil is below.

October 28, 2005

Lee R. Raymond, Chairman and CEO
ExxonMobil Corporation
5959 Las Colinas Blvd
Irving, TX 75039

Dear Mr. Raymond:

Reports that Exxon Oil reaped profits of nearly \$10 billion in the past three months cries out for investigation by Congress. Families across America are facing a tremendous financial burden as the price of gasoline at the pump has skyrocketed in recent months.

In addition, public schools, hospitals and other key institutions will face budget-busting energy bills. Small businesses will see unprecedented increases in fuel costs that will cost jobs.

I will be asking House leaders to conduct an inquiry into this unprecedented spike in prices and profits and hope that your company will participate fully.

In the meantime, I am calling on ExxonMobil today to redirect some of your record profits to help ease the home heating crisis that we expect in the Northeast this winter. Home heating costs are expected to jump by as much as 50 percent, which will place an unbearable strain on those who are least able to afford it.

Given the profits your company earned in the past quarter, you would certainly be perceived as a good corporate citizen if you contributed voluntarily to Connecticut's fuel assistance program, which Governor Rell has projected will need an additional \$23 million for this winter.

As a good corporate citizen I believe you have an obligation to think about the people who consume your product and the financial well being of the nation. By lowering your overall profit margin during this time of short supply you would be exhibiting appropriate generosity at a time of national need. A donation of \$18 million to Connecticut Energy Assistance Program, for example, would help heat the homes of 60,000 needy families for the winter.

I am well aware that fluctuations in oil prices may be dictated by events outside the control of oil companies. Natural disasters such as hurricanes can cause shortages and price spikes. Increased international demand also creates stress on the supply chain. However, I believe it is unacceptable for the companies that produce the oil to use these factors as an excuse for unreasonably high gasoline prices that hurt low-income families and struggling communities the most.

Oil, like medicine and food, is a staple that people cannot do without. It is not a luxury item or something that can be substituted for easily. Oil is essential to our economy and our security. I urge you to share your profits with your customers and our nation. I look forward to your response.

Very truly yours,

/s/

Nancy L. Johnson
Member of Congress

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