

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 17, 2008

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Office of the Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Speaker:

Your letter to the President urging him to draw down oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve signals your recent recognition that the solution to today's high energy prices is to increase supply in the market. That is why we ask that you immediately schedule legislation to allow Members of this body to vote for increasing American supplies of energy.

As you have come to realize, supply really does affect the price consumers pay at the pump, however, we do not share your optimism that releasing "a small portion" of SPR oil would noticeably affect either world oil markets or the price of a gallon of gasoline. The three prior instances you cited in which drawing down the SPR seemed to alleviate momentary price spikes all involved temporary supply shortages. That is hardly the case today. Economists agree that today's high prices are driven by demand shock, and they also agree that world demand, high as it is today, will only continue growing regardless of what the United States does with the SPR. Successfully attacking this problem requires a sustained increase in American energy production.

You stated in your letter to the President that "deploying a small portion of the resources in the SPR would provide much needed assistance to American consumers." Can you imagine what an act of Congress, signed into law this year, to develop millions of barrels per day in Alaska, the Intermountain West, and in the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf would do?

Madam Speaker, the more environmentally conscientious countries in the world—from Scandinavia to Japan—have no qualms about developing their own energy resources, including in the waters off their own coasts. They understand this basic reality: withholding oil and gas will not alter world demand. Withholding oil may only displace production to countries with lower environmental standards than our own.

The "severe energy price crisis facing millions of Americans," referenced in your letter compels congressional action. We have provided a list of some of the many bills introduced this Congress that if enacted would increase supplies and reduce prices for consumers.

- ✓ Access OCS – (HR 6108)
- ✓ Access ANWR – (HR 6107)
- ✓ Alternative Fuels for Defense and Aviation – (HR 6131)
- ✓ Boutique Fuels – (HR 2493)
- ✓ Coal-to-Liquids – (HR 2208)
- ✓ Develop Oil Shale Resources – (HR 6138)
- ✓ Repeal Section 526 of EISA 2007 – (HR 5656)
- ✓ Refineries – (HR 6139; HR 2279)

Americans want more energy production here in America, and we urge you to let the will of the American people prevail by permitting the House to vote on whether we will allow more American energy supply. This is the people's House. Let's take the action our constituents need and demand.

Sincerely,

Joe Barton

Frank Rosten

Ed Royce

Nathan Deal

Jerry Lewis

Paul C. Brown

Steve Byrne

Ken Calvert

Elton Hilly

Cliff Young

Joe ^{IL-19}

Harold Ryan

Tom Latham

Dan Dent

Barbara Cubin

Sam Johnson

Thelma Drake

Paul Bergers

Pete Sessions

John Eason

Ralph M. Hall

Lamar Smith

Ed Whitfield

Geoff Davis

Ch. Bandy

Doug Walden

Bob E. Tate

Lynell

Michael T. McCal

~~Michael Dwyer~~

Aue Myrick

Joe Wilson

Ron Paul

~~Robert~~

Doug Lamborn

Thomas B. D

Marsha Blackburn

K. Michael

Dr. Hans Arbig

Jan Stewart

Candice S. Miller

Paul Star

Ken Bandy

Key Gray

John Culberson

Tim Wainwright

Phil Gingrey

W. G. Abi

Randy Kull

John Campbell

Robert B. Adair

Howard B. "Bud" McKee

John Boozma

J. M. Kist

Randy Nuyk

Louis Lehman

Jenny Redberg

Charles W. Dent

Jerry Moran

T. McOttle

Shelley Moore Capito

John Sun

John Kline

Todd R. Platts

Stephen Bandy

Sam O. Strick

John Huley

Bill Shuster

Terry Ewatt

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Rep. Jerry Lewis (CA-41)
Rep. Paul C. Broun (GA-10)
Rep. Steve Buyer (IN-04)
Rep. Ken Calvert (CA-44)

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Rep. Harold Rogers (KY-05)
Rep. Lamar Smith (TX-21)
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Rep. Geoff Davis (KY-04)
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Rep. Thelma Drake (VA-02)
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Rep. Kay Granger (TX-12)
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Rep. Tom Price (GA-06)
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Rep. Marsha Blackburn (TN-07)
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