

# **Concerned About High Gas Prices? Cosponsor H.R. 910 and Make a Difference Today!**

March 8, 2011

Dear Colleague:

We write to draw your attention to a recent [Rasmussen Poll](#) indicating three-quarters of Americans believe this country does not do enough to develop its own oil and gas resources. This finding should come as little surprise to lawmakers – for the past two years, the Obama Administration has engaged in a destructive campaign to embargo our own domestic fossil fuel supplies from ourselves. Whether through greenhouse gas regulation, permit delays, or permanent moratoriums, the White House takes every opportunity to decrease access to safe and secure sources of oil and natural gas.

Gasoline prices have climbed dramatically over the past three months. American consumers deal with this hardship every day, and as this poll indicates, the majority of respondents do not see the pain subsiding anytime soon. Americans also understand the realities of supply and demand as it relates to oil prices. Unfortunately the White House does not.

Each time this Administration has had an opportunity to open up sources of oil and gas, it has refused, and relied on alternative policies that do nothing to increase American-made energy supplies. This is evidenced by recent calls by some Administration officials, possibly out of desperation, to open up the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) to calm prices. Curiously enough, the 727 million barrels in the SPR attracts the attention of some policymakers while the 50 billion barrels of oil currently off-limits in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico, Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, Alaska's North Slope and outer continental shelf, and Rocky Mountain Basins are conveniently ignored. Another significant oversight includes the stalled approval of the Keystone XL Pipeline, which would bring over a million barrels a day from Alberta's oil sands and North Dakota's Bakken formation to U.S. consumers. These facts, however, are not lost on the 76% of American consumers who understand more production should occur in this country.

It is time for the Administration to listen to the American people. While the President recently called oil “yesterday’s energy,” American consumers realize their cars, trucks, and livelihoods will depend on oil and gas for the foreseeable future. Arbitrarily denying access to North American reserves does not usher in green technologies – it only hampers job creation, compromises energy security, and pushes us closer toward the point at which the price of oil sends the economy into another recession.

This poll has a message for the President which we can help deliver. In coming weeks, we will scrutinize the Administration’s energy policies and priorities. We will develop legislation to responsibly unleash our resource potential. And we will hold the Administration accountable for the cavalier nature in which it holds American jobs and energy production hostage.

H.R. 910, the Energy Tax Prevention Act of 2011, is the first in this legislative series to stop rising gas prices by halting EPA’s Clean Air Act greenhouse gas regulations. As one small refiner testifying before the Committee on Energy and Commerce put it: “EPA’s proposed [greenhouse gas] regulations for both refinery expansions and existing facilities will likely have a devastating effect on... all of our nation’s fuels producers.... If small refiners are forced out of business, competition will suffer and American motorists, truckers and farmers will be increasingly reliant on foreign refiners to supply our nation’s gasoline and diesel fuel.”

We, along with Reps. Rahall and Peterson, have taken the first steps in attempting to restrain this regulatory overreach that will restrict oil supplies and cause gasoline prices to rise. If you wish to join us, sign up as a cosponsor H.R. 910, the Energy Tax Prevention Act, by contacting Katie Novaria with the Committee Staff at 6-0056. Stop rising gasoline prices today.

Sincerely,

/s

Rep. Fred Upton  
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce

/s

Rep. Ed Whitfield  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy and Power