

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 27, 2006

The Honorable Dennis Hastert
Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

As you know, gasoline prices have risen two and half times since 2003, at a time when overall prices in the U.S. rose only minimally. Gas prices have been one of the top issues we hear from constituents about for the past several months now. When gas prices rise, all sectors of the economy are impacted, from transportation, to agriculture, to manufacturing. The fact that the economy is growing strongly despite gas prices is testimony to the pro-growth policies enacted by the President and by this Congress.

As you know, one of the reasons for higher gas prices is because no new refineries have been built in the U.S. in the past 30 years. Since demand has increased continuously, we now rely on imports for a significant percentage of our gasoline. One of the main reasons for the lack of new refineries is an overly cumbersome regulatory environment.

The House has taken the lead in crafting and passing legislation to encourage refinery construction. **H.R. 3893, the GAS Act of 2005**, which passed the House on October 7, 2005, and **H.R. 5254, the Refinery Permit Process Schedule Act**, which passed the House on June 7, 2006, both address the dearth of refinery construction by simplifying the regulatory regime governing those projects. Despite the urgency of this issue, the Senate did not act on H.R. 3893. Other than a recent Senate hearing on H.R. 5254, there has been no Senate action on that bill either.

We are writing to express our strong support for your leadership on this issue and to ask that you make these bills among your top priorities in your discussions with Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist. The House can send a message by passing legislation on its own, but we can not help the American people without corresponding action by the Senate.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Robert S. Adahoot

Henry S. Brown J

John Bozma

Lee Henry
Samble

Frank Lucas

Todd T. T. T.

John Batters

W. Good Alvin

Lee - Brown

Spencer Fader

Mark Snyder

Ch. Bradford Jr.

John T. Doolittle

Ralph M. Hall

Mike Ryan (nr)

Mike Simpson

E. D. "Butch" Otter

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Bill Paul

Barbara Cubin

Phil English

Bob Goodlatte

Thomas Price

Jo Bower

Tommy Evers

Amur

John M.

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