

THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 432

Approved September 26, 2005

WHEREAS, The states of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, and Mississippi have suffered devastating losses due to Hurricane Katrina; and

WHEREAS, Hundreds are confirmed to have died and thousands may also have perished as a result of Katrina; and

WHEREAS, Over an estimated one million people are without power; and

WHEREAS, Thousands of homes and businesses have been destroyed; and

WHEREAS, Entire areas including Mobile County, Alabama and Gulfport, Mississippi have been obliterated; and

WHEREAS, Up to 80 percent of the City of New Orleans is currently under water, 20 feet deep in some areas; and

WHEREAS, In the interest of the health, safety and public welfare of its residents, the City of New Orleans has ordered a complete evacuation of the municipality, as a result of the lack of electricity, running water and sanitation; and

WHEREAS, It is estimated that thousands of New Orleans residents may still be stranded on rooftops or in their homes; and

WHEREAS, The City of New Orleans and the State of Louisiana, with the assistance of the National Guard and the Department of Homeland Security are evacuating more than 25,000 residents to Houston, Texas; and

WHEREAS, The Mayor of New Orleans is estimating fatalities to be in the thousands; and

WHEREAS, It may be months before New Orleans is again inhabitable.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence does hereby extend its condolences and deepest sympathy to all those who have lost loved ones and send thoughts and prayers to all who are suffering without food, water or worldly possession as a result of Hurricane Katrina; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Council does hereby

- 1) Urge the people of Providence to consider making donations of cash or supplies to relief organizations that will benefit those hardest hit in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, and Mississippi; and
- 2) That a copy of this signed Resolution be sent to New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin, Louisiana Governor Kathleen Blanco; Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour; Alabama Governor Bob Riley; and Florida Governor Jeb Bush.

IN CITY COUNCIL
SEP 1 2005
READ:
LAY ON TABLE Until Sept. 15, 2005
Cair. Bellamy CLERK

Councilwoman Roman, Councilman Segal, Councilmen Williams & Young,
Councilwoman Valuzzi, Councilmen Bassett & Gluzzi, Jackson, Luna, Mancini,
Council President Lombardi and Councilman Porter, Councilmen Allen, Butler, DeLuca,

IN CITY COUNCIL
SEP 1 5 2005
READ AND PASSED
[Signature] PRES.
Maire C. Butcher
Acting CLERK

APPROVED
[Signature]
MAYOR
9/26/05



JEB BUSH
GOVERNOR

STATE OF FLORIDA

Office of the Governor

THE CAPITOL
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0001

www.flgov.com
850-488-7146
850-487-0801 fax

October 21, 2005

Mr. Michael R. Clement
City Clerk, The City of Providence
City Hall
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Dear Mr. Clement:

I very much appreciate the Resolution of the City Council of The City of Providence supporting those whose lives have been devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

It is heartbreaking to know Floridians and many residents of our neighboring states suffered great tragedy. I am humbled by the tremendous outpouring of support our state and residents received from around the world and am committed to working with local, federal, and private partners to meet the needs of Florida families. Drawing on the resilience of our people and with support from our friends, I believe Florida will emerge from this challenge as a stronger community, bound together by this experience and better prepared for the challenges of our future.

Again, thank you for the support from the City of Providence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeb Bush".

Jeb Bush

JB/hmh



Governor's Mentoring Initiative

BE A MENTOR. BE A BIG HELP.

1-800-825-3786

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

BOB RILEY
GOVERNOR



STATE CAPITOL
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130

(334) 242-7100
FAX: (334) 242-0937

STATE OF ALABAMA

October 20, 2005

Mr. Michael R. Clement
City Clerk
State of Rhode Island
The City of Providence
City Hall
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Dear Mr. Clement:

I wish to thank you for the outpouring of sympathy and concern you have expressed for the people of Alabama.

Hurricane Katrina has been an unprecedented display of nature's power. Yet, Alabamians are strong and resourceful people, and we will prevail over this disaster.

Though Alabama was hard hit by Katrina, it is Mississippi and Louisiana that have received the unimaginable devastation. I ask that as you pray for us, please remember to keep them in your thoughts and prayers as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "BR", followed by a long, sweeping flourish that extends to the right.

BR/sl/sd

JACK REED

RHODE ISLAND

COMMITTEES

ARMED SERVICES

BANKING

HEALTH AND EDUCATION

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3903

December 7, 2005

PLEASE RESPOND TO:

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<http://reed.senate.gov>

Ms. Claire E. Bestwick
Acting City Clerk
City Of Providence
Department Of City Clerk City Hall
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Ms. Bestwick:

Thank you for sharing with me the City of Providence's Resolution regarding increases in gasoline prices.

I share your concern with regard to the rising cost of gasoline. Currently, private sector oil inventories are low, keeping gasoline prices in the United States high. By withholding deliveries to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) or releasing petroleum currently held in the SPR, more oil will be available for private inventories, thus decreasing costs to consumers. I began to press the Administration for changes as early as March 9, 2005, when I joined several of my colleagues in sending a letter to urge the President to defer deliveries of oil to the SPR and to release oil from the SPR through a swap.

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, I sent a letter to U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales urging him to immediately establish a task force within the Department of Justice (DOJ) to work with states to monitor gasoline prices across the nation and determine whether increases in these prices are due to the hurricane and not anti-consumer practices. I have also urged the DOJ to closely monitor the market and oil companies to ensure that there is no collusive activity in violation of anti-trust laws, and joined my colleagues in sending a letter to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) requesting that it investigate possible gasoline price gouging. I have also sent letters to the oil industry urging it to invest a portion of their earnings into energy assistance programs and to temporarily halt unnecessary exports of oil. I have enclosed copies of these letters for your review.

On November 9, 2005, the Senate Energy and Commerce Committees held a joint hearing to probe the Chief Executive Officers of five of the leading oil firms. In the face of rising prices and the fact that their combined third quarter profits totaled more than \$33 billion, I was disappointed in the CEOs' responses to questions and their warnings against windfall profit taxes.

In addition, the Senate has passed legislation regarding price gouging. First, on September 14, 2005, Senator Pryor offered an amendment that was agreed to and included in the final Commerce, Justice, and Science FY06 Appropriations bill to begin an investigation

into price gouging after Hurricane Katrina. In addition, Senator Cantwell offered an amendment to the Tax Reconciliation bill on November 17, 2005 to require the Federal Trade Commission to protect consumers during energy emergencies, but unfortunately it did not pass by a vote of 57 to 42. I am also a cosponsor of the Energy Emergency Consumer Protection Act of 2005, which would stop price gouging during emergencies. This bill has been referred to the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee.

Additionally, I am spearheading efforts with several of my colleagues to increase funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) to avoid a looming, but preventable, crisis for millions of Americans caused by the soaring cost and diminishing affordability of home heating fuel as winter approaches. In the last month, I have made four attempts to provide additional funding for the program this winter by offering amendments to a number of bills. One of these amendments would have placed a one-year windfall profit tax on large oil companies in order to provide funding for LIHEAP. While all of these amendments were supported by a majority of the Senate, unfortunately, none of them received the 60-vote supermajority required for passage. I will continue to work to increase LIHEAP funding.

Please be assured that I recognize the hardship for Rhode Islanders caused by high gasoline prices and home energy prices, and I will keep your thoughts in mind should further legislation regarding this issue be considered by the Senate.

It is a pleasure hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack Reed", written in a cursive style.

Jack Reed
United States Senator

Enclosures

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 9, 2005

The Honorable George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

With the price of crude oil having recently surged to near record levels and possibly reaching even higher in the near future, we urge you to act now to reduce skyrocketing prices at the gasoline pump by deferring oil deliveries and releasing a portion of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) through an oil swap. The rising price of gasoline is already beginning to place a financial strain on consumers that could threaten the nation's economic security. These increases are made even more troubling by the fact that the summer driving season, which is when demand and prices traditionally rise, has yet to arrive. If left unchecked this summer, these high gasoline prices will continue to burden our economy by taking desperately needed money out of the hands of working families and placing it into the pockets of OPEC.

On Friday, the price of crude oil on the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) closed at the nearly record setting level of \$53.78, and crude oil has been trading at above \$50 per barrel since February 22nd. This sustained and extremely high price of oil has already burdened families this winter by increasing the national retail price of heating oil by over 27% this winter. In addition, national average retail gasoline prices have increased over the last week by almost \$0.07 per gallon to reach \$2.00 and some analysts predict that prices could increase by \$0.24 per gallon before gasoline prices fully reflect the recent spike in crude oil prices. It has been projected that such an increase could cost our nation's consumers as much as \$90 million per day.

These recent, astronomical price increases have in large part been precipitated by OPEC's decisions to reduce oil production to 27 million barrels per day and to formally abandon its \$22-28 price target. These actions represent an attempt by OPEC to enhance profits by institutionalizing drastic oil price spikes. As a result of these higher prices, OPEC's members increased their profits last year by over \$86 billion. Recent reports indicate that some OPEC members, such as Venezuela, may be willing to support a new target price of between \$40-\$50 per barrel.

In spite of the economic threat created by OPEC's market manipulation, the Administration has continued to adhere to its policy of taking oil off of the market and placing it in the SPR. This policy, which further tightens oil markets by taking much needed supplies out of commerce, is slated to take over 7 million barrels of oil off of the market in March and an average of 92,000 barrels per day off of the market during the height of the driving season between April and the end of August, despite the fact that the SPR is currently over 97% full. Instead of exacerbating the economic burdens OPEC has created for working Americans, we

urge you to counteract the cartel's supply cuts and calm the markets by deferring deliveries of oil to the SPR and releasing oil from the SPR through a swap.

Initiating a swap of oil from the SPR to increase the supply of oil is a proven way to reduce the price of gasoline and heating oil. In the fall of 2000, the Clinton Administration announced a swap of 30 million barrels over 30 days, causing crude oil prices to quickly fall by over \$6 per barrel and wholesale gasoline prices to fall \$0.14 per gallon. Under a swap, the federal government could decide on a set quantity of oil to release from the SPR, and accepts bids from private companies for the rights to that oil. The companies would then bid on how much oil they are willing to return, in addition to the oil they would receive under the swap, to the SPR at a later date.

An oil swap would result in a win-win situation where gasoline prices are lowered and long-term contributions to the SPR are augmented at no additional cost to the taxpayer. The SPR is intended to provide relief at times when working families are struggling to make ends meet. That time is now. The summer driving months are just around the corner. We ask that you use the SPR and safeguard America's economic recovery.

Sincerely,

Charles Schumer

Susan Collins

Barack B. Rostenkowski

Carl Levin

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Chris Dodd

Patrick Leahy

Jack Reed

Russell D. Feingold

Byron L. Long

Robert A. Menendez

Tom Wyden

Nellie Stenow

Dick Dault

John
Hanna Epstein

Frank R. Lankenberg

JACK REED
RHODE ISLAND
COMMITTEES
ARMED SERVICES
BANKING
HEALTH AND EDUCATION
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3903

September 1, 2005

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(401) 528-5200

1-(800) 284-4200

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1-(800) 745-5655

<http://reed.senate.gov>

The Honorable Alberto R. Gonzales
Attorney General
Department of Justice
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Gonzales:

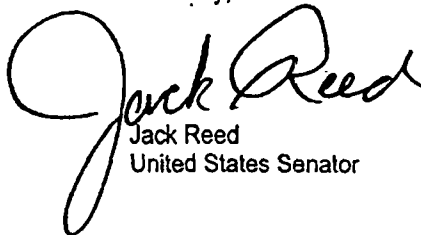
Hurricane Katrina upset the lives of millions, displacing families from their homes and inflicting severe economic damage in the Gulf region. The effects of Hurricane Katrina are being felt by Americans outside of the Gulf Region as gasoline, heating oil, and natural gas prices rise in the wake of this disaster. Gasoline prices rose as much as 60 cents yesterday in Rhode Island. Some stations were selling gas for as much as \$3.32 cents a gallon. Limited supplies of gasoline are raising concerns with many Rhode Islanders that they may face price gouging.

Hurricane Katrina damaged platforms and ports and curtailed production at refineries in the Gulf of Mexico, the source of almost a third of U.S. oil output. The severe damage to our nation's energy infrastructure is undoubtedly raising energy costs; however, we need to ensure that Americans are protected from businesses that may choose to take advantage of this tragedy. I urge you to immediately establish a task force within the Department of Justice to work with states to monitor gasoline prices across the nation and determine if increases in gasoline prices that are affecting consumers and businesses are due to the hurricane and not anti-consumer practices. I also urge you to closely monitor the market and oil companies to ensure there is no collusive activity in violation of anti-trust laws.

Gasoline futures rose more than 9 percent after Hurricane Katrina. This week's increases come atop a 40 percent price rise in the last year. Unfortunately, the Administration's failure to promote meaningful energy policy to reduce our dependency on oil is at the heart of this economic hardship on American families. The Administration must take action to ensure that Americans are protected from unprincipled practices that may take advantage of the disaster created by Hurricane Katrina.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Jack Reed
United States Senator

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 19, 2005

The Honorable Deborah Platt Majoras
Chairwoman
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Room 440
Washington, DC 20580

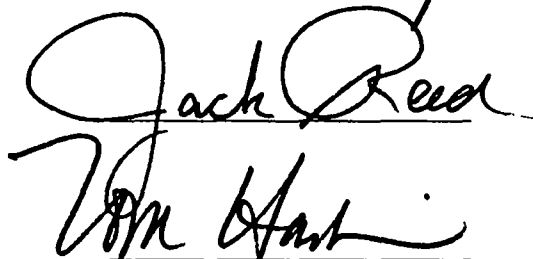
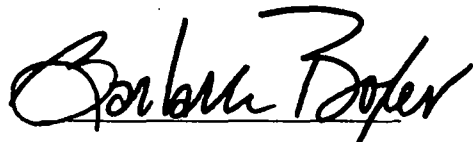
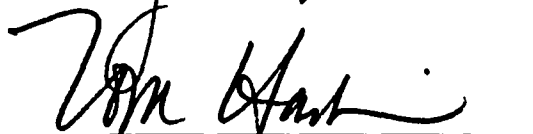
Dear Chairwoman Majoras:

Record high gasoline prices and widespread concern about pricing practices compelled Congress to direct the Federal Trade Commission to investigate possible gasoline price gouging. The Stabenow-Dorgan-Boxer provision, included in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-58), allows the Commission 90 days to begin its investigation.

We wrote to you in July, when gas prices were already on the rise, to request the FTC to begin that investigation immediately. Now, in light of severe impacts that Hurricane Katrina continues to have on national petroleum supplies and refining capacity, we again strongly urge you to immediately undertake this investigation and submit it to Congress it as soon as possible. Further delay on your part will only contribute to the current uncertainty of the gasoline supply and that is unacceptable.

As our nation works to help communities in Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi recover from the storm, American consumers need assurance that they are not being preyed upon by unfair and potentially illegal pricing.

Sincerely,

Ken Salazar

Murrell D. Feigold

Chen D. M.

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 27, 2005

An Open Letter to Oil Companies:

Energy companies are earning record profits this quarter, therefore, we urge you to act as good corporate citizens and invest earning profits into programs, such as fuel funds, that will provide energy assistance to low-income Americans.

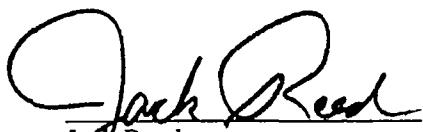
Rising energy prices threaten to financially overwhelm low-income families and seniors this winter. These households will face impossible choices this winter: to heat or to eat. A study by the RAND Corporation found that low-income households reduced food expenditures by roughly the same amount as their increase in fuel expenditures. The Mortgage Bankers Association expects steep energy costs could increase the number of missed payments and lost homes beginning later this year.


Approximately 8.1 million households in the United States use oil for heating. Since the winter heating season of 2001-2002, heating oil prices rose 98 percent for the average family. This winter, prices are expected to rise over 30 percent. Natural gas prices are also expected to soar. This winter, the average family will face a \$1500 natural gas bill, an increase of over \$600 from just last year. For families using propane, prices are projected to hit \$1,427, an increase of \$325. These price increases are overcoming workers' salaries and seniors' Social Security checks. American families need economic relief from high energy prices. They need the security to know they will not have to decide between heating their homes or feeding their families, and paying the energy bill or buying life-saving medicines.

For years, natural gas utilities and their customers have contributed to fuel funds to help reduce the energy burden of low-income families. In 2003, contributions to fuel funds totaled \$68 million. U.S. oil companies' profits for the first nine months of this year increased by more than 35 percent over last year. Contributing just 10-percent of your company's profits to assist low-income families faced with high energy burdens will have a substantial impact this winter.

To keep American households safe and warm this winter, we urge you to invest
earning profits into energy assistance programs.

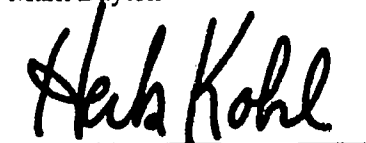
Sincerely,

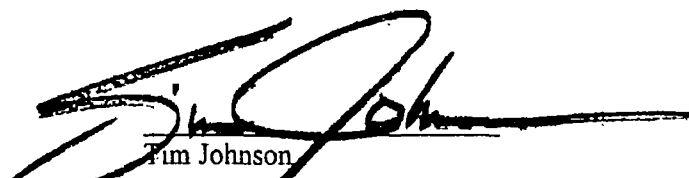

Jack Reed


Maria Cantwell


Mark Dayton



Barbara A. Mikulski

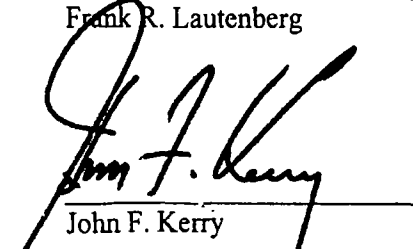

Herb Kohl

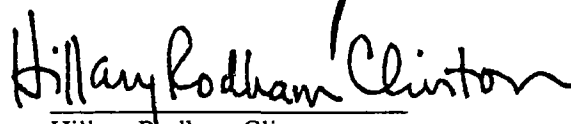

Tim Johnson


Debbie Stabenow


Frank R. Lautenberg


Edward M. Kennedy


John F. Kerry


Hillary Rodham Clinton


Harry Reid

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 4, 2005

Mr. David J. O'Reilly
Chairman and CEO
Chevron Corporation

Mr. Clarence P. Cazalot Jr.
President and CEO
Marathon Oil Corporation

Mr. John B. Hess
Chairman and CEO
Amerada Hess Corporation

Mr. James J. Mulva
Chairman and CEO
ConocoPhillips

Mr. Bruce A. Smith
Chairman, President and CEO
Tesoro Corporation

Mr. John G. Drosdick
Chairman, President and CEO
Sunoco, Inc.

Mr. Felix Rodriguez
President and CEO
CITGO Petroleum Corporation

Mr. William E. Greehey
Chairman and CEO
Valero Energy Corporation.

Dear Sirs:

In anticipation of the upcoming Senate Energy Committee hearing on high energy prices on November 9, we ask for your pledge to temporarily halt unnecessary exports of any home heating oil products that your company is currently sending abroad. We believe that by halting such exports, your companies could significantly ease the expected burden of skyrocketing home heating prices for the coming winter.

According to the Energy Information Administration (EIA), between January and August of this year U.S. companies exported more than 48 million barrels, or approximately 2 billion gallons, of home heating products. This amount is 24 times the size of what is stored in the Northeast Heating Oil Reserve. While some of this went to both Canada and Mexico, large quantities were also sent to Argentina, Chile, France and Peru.

The EIA has also forecasted significantly increased home heating costs across the country. According to EIA's recently released Winter Fuels Outlook, the average U.S. household can expect to pay about \$260 more for heating this winter. For households primarily using home heating oil, that estimate increases to \$380 or 32 percent more than last winter, while those using propane can expect to pay an average of \$325. We need not remind you that this is merely an average: for states in the Northeast and Midwest, the actual prices will be significantly higher. While these increased costs will place an undue burden on all sectors of the economy, the heaviest toll will clearly be on middle and low-income families.

Given the forecasted spikes in home heating costs, we believe your companies should ease the burden on American consumers by halting exports to all nations other than Canada, as well as temporarily interrupting the creation of products designed for the express purpose of exportation. This is a common sense approach -- how can we ask American citizens to expect to pay an additional \$121 to heat their homes when U.S. companies are companies exporting billions of gallons of refined heating oil and propane?

It is important to note that this request is not without precedent. In 2000, in response to a request from then U.S. Energy Secretary Bill Richardson, some refiners agreed to temporarily halt heating oil exports. As many as four refiners voluntarily suspended exports, citing "market conditions" and the desire to ensure adequate supplies of home heating oil for the winter.

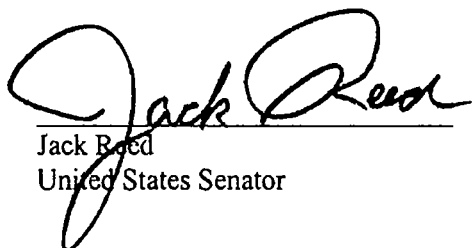
Americans across the country could face potentially life-threatening conditions this winter, when temperatures drop and home heating prices soar. We believe this is a unique opportunity to prevent such a crisis, and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Herb Kohl
United States Senator

Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator

Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator

Joseph I. Lieberman
United States Senator

Evan Bayh
United States Senator

Mark Dayton
United States Senator

John F. Kerry
United States Senator

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

Christopher J. Dodd
United States Senator