

[The date goes here (e.g., September 22, 2005)]

[Your official's name and mailing address go here ([read how to address properly an elected official](#)); e.g.,]

The Honorable Jim DeMint  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear [Mr. President, Senator, Governor, Mr.]:

There is no market-based reason for the historically high price of gasoline.

[If necessary, identify yourself as a consistent or representative of a local business or organization. Read more advice on writing your officials at <http://www.congress.org/congressorg/issues/basics/?style=comm.>]

The March 2001 U.S. Federal Trade Commission investigation proved that big oil companies have intentionally withheld gasoline supply from the market in order to drive up the price of gasoline. A **Congressional Investigation** discovered internal memos documenting big oil's strategy to force independent refineries out of business **to reduce refining capacity** in order to raise the price of gas at the pump.

As a result of the influence of big oil on the White House, the government has allowed mega-merges of the largest oil companies. These mergers have caused big oil to pursue anti-competitive action which has killed competition, leading to higher gas prices.

There are seven positive steps that Congress should demand, which will lower gas prices at the pump. I am asking you as my representative to make sure these seven steps are put into action immediately.

1. Release some oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to provide a surplus in the domestic supply, which will have the effect of immediately lowering the price of gas at the pump. Or stop pumping excess gas into the SPR.
2. Enforce anti-trust laws making it illegal for companies to intentionally withhold crude oil or gas from the market, which obviously creates artificial supply shortages and drives up the price.
3. Evaluate how recent mergers that created five mega oil companies have made it easier for these companies to engage in anti-competitive practices and take legal action to require the sale of some assets to smaller companies.
4. In order to address the extensive control over market share of production and refining capacity by the largest companies, Congress should order oil companies to

increase the size of storage capacities, require them to hold significant amounts in storage, and establish the right to require these surplus supplies to be released in order to address supply and demand fluctuations.

5. Reduce America's oil consumption by implementing strong fuel economy standards for combustion engines. Improving fuel economy standards progressively for all "passenger vehicles" from 27.5 to 40 miles per gallon and for light trucks (including SUV's and vans) from 20.7 to 27.5 miles per gallon by 2015 would save the U.S. an estimated 54 billion gallons of oil between 2005 and 2012. Combining cars and light trucks to increase the fuel economy standards of the combined fleet to 34 miles per gallon by 2015 would save an additional 33 billion gallons.
6. Restore transparency (accountability) to energy future markets by asking Congress to re-regulate trading exchanges that were exploited by Enron and are continued to be abused by Exxon-Mobil, Goldman-Sachs and other energy traders.
7. Prepare anti-trust lawsuits against oil companies. Recent mergers have created uncompetitive markets. Over the past few years, mergers between giant oil companies have resulted in just a few mega companies controlling a significant amount of the U.S. gas market, so as to eliminate competition. As a result, consumers are paying more at the pump than would be the case if we had a free market, competitive system for production and distribution of gas.

Polls show that 90 percent of the American people are outraged by the historically and unprecedentedly high price of gas.

Sincerely for lower gas prices,

[Name]