

TIM MURPHY
18TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
COMMERCE, TRADE, AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
ENERGY AND AIR QUALITY
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
May 3, 2006

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The recent surge in the cost of gasoline is a great concern for my constituents. I know you share this concern, which is why I salute your recent order of a federal investigation into possible price gouging, manipulation or other illegal acts in gasoline markets. Waste, fraud, price gouging, and other abuse at any stage in the energy supply chain must be addressed and eliminated in order to protect consumers.

As you know, current high gas prices are akin to a tax on families in Southwestern Pennsylvania. Thus, consumers are forced to eliminate basic expenditures in order to spend more of their income on gas. This is an important reason why I supported the Science-State-Justice-Commerce Appropriations Act of 2006, which was enacted in November 2005. The bill directed the Federal Trade Commission to investigate gasoline prices following Hurricane Katrina. The agency's report is due later this month, and I look forward to applying its findings to prevent energy supply disruptions in the future.

Mr. President, I have long appreciated your commitment to leading America to achieve energy independence—an objective I strongly share. The Energy Policy Act of 2005, which I helped craft and that you signed into law last year, reflects this critical vision. The new law is a tremendous step forward for the future of the nation's economy and security. The benefits of the energy bill will help America become more self-reliant and lower overall energy costs for consumers and businesses.

Unfortunately, these benefits will take time to materialize. In the meantime, all Americans are dependent on gasoline for everyday tasks, and today's high prices significantly reduce their household income. That's why I ask for your continued urging that the Senate pass the Gasoline for America's Security Act, which will spur the creation of the first oil refineries in the U.S. in a generation. Greater investment in all aspects of our energy infrastructure here at home is long overdue.

Thank you for your leadership. In my role as a Member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, I remain eager to help you shape America's energy future in any way that I can.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Murphy".
Tim Murphy
Member of Congress