

EDWARD J. MARKEY
7TH DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

RANKING MEMBER
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND
THE INTERNET

SELECT COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY

RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2108 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-2107
(202) 225-2836

DISTRICT OFFICES:

5 HIGH STREET, SUITE 101
MEDFORD, MA 02155
(781) 396-2900

188 CONCORD STREET, SUITE 102
FRAMINGHAM, MA 01702
(508) 875-2900
www.house.gov/markey

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2107

April 28, 2005

The Honorable George W. Bush
President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

Tonight you will be addressing the American people on the issue of national energy policy. As you finalize your address, I hope you will address five specific questions that you have thus far failed to answer in your remarks last week on energy policy, in your joint appearance on Monday with Saudi Prince Abdullah, or in the energy speech you delivered yesterday.

In each of these appearances, you have not offered Congress or the American people answers to questions that need to be addressed by your Administration in order to bring down high gasoline prices as our nation heads into the summer peak driving season, or reduce and our nation's increasing dependence on imported oil. I hope tonight that when you address the nation tonight you will be frank with the American people and tell them the truth: that the impact of the grab bag of proposals in the Republican Energy Bill will be, according to the expert analysis of the bill done by your own Department of energy, "negligible." What is the impact on rising gasoline prices? "Negligible." What is the impact on rising oil imports? "Negligible." The American people need to be told, honestly, that the proposals your Administration has come up with so far would do virtually nothing to reduce the price of gas for citizens who are being gouged by extortionate gas prices across the country.

The true test of whether the your Administration is really serious about high gas prices and our dangerous imported oil dependency lies in whether or not your are ready to provide answers to the following questions:

First, will you act immediately to instruct the Secretary of Transportation to increase fuel efficiency standards for cars and SUVs?

Second, will you announce that you are instructing the Secretary of Energy to suspend further purchases of oil for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and that he is instructing the Secretary to begin releasing oil from the Reserve in order to drive down prices?

Third, will you announce that you are directing the Justice Department and the Federal Trade Commission to move immediately to block anticompetitive oil company mergers

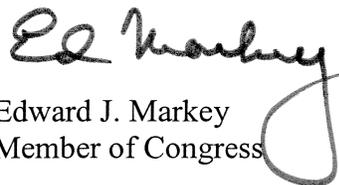
and to investigate the current over-concentration of market power in the oil industry that has allowed the big oil companies to gouge consumers?

Fourth, will you announce that you are calling on Congress to eliminate the existing \$35,000 tax deductions for purchasing gas guzzling behemoths such as the Hummer H2? We are standing a sound energy policy on its head when the incentives we give for the purchase of gas guzzlers are orders of magnitude higher than the incentives we give for the purchase of energy efficient hybrids and SUVs. Fifth, will you announce an Apollo plan to harness the best scientific and technical minds in the nation to develop and deploy clean alternative energy generation sources such as solar, wind and other renewables and to mandate tough new energy efficiency standards for consumer and commercial appliances? America is ready. We are not, after all, trying to put a man on the Moon – we are just trying to put a man or a woman in an energy efficient Saturn or Mercury.

Americans want lower gas prices and less dependency on imported oil from unstable regions such as the Middle East. So far, your Administration has offered no real plan for addressing the crunch that Americans feel on their pocket books right now from high gasoline prices at the pump and no real plan for harnessing American invention and industry to set us on the path to engaging new technologies and ending our dangerous dependence on foreign oil.

Making land from old military bases available to oil companies to build new refineries doesn't address our nation's dependence on imported oil, and building more liquefied natural gas (LNG) importation terminals only suggests that we are moving to become as dependent on imported natural gas as we are on imported oil. With only 3% of the world's known oil reserves, America cannot drill our way out of our current crisis. That is why America needs to hear you announce tonight that you are willing to call for the type of dramatic measures needed to affirmatively address each of the questions outlined above. If your Administration is not willing to take such actions, you will need to explain why.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey
Member of Congress