



THE
AMERICAN
CONSERVATIVE
UNION

Dear Representative Ryan:

The time has come to cut through the rhetoric to the truth.

Later this week, Speaker Pelosi's Democrats are poised to introduce as many as four "energy" bills that deal with everything but the crisis we now face. They are so intent on blaming the problem on oil companies, speculators and Republicans that they haven't even bothered to address the problem itself.

What's more, they are hoping that Republicans will join them in diverting attention from what needs to be done to support for "feel good" solutions that won't produce one more drop of oil or one pint of gasoline.

Gasoline and energy prices have skyrocketed for very real reasons. Demand is up and supplies are down. For the last twenty years at least Speaker Pelosi and her party have done everything in their power to discourage domestic exploration, production and refining. The result is that we are more dependent than ever before on foreign suppliers and are competing in a global energy marketplace with emerging developing nations like China and India that are hungry for oil, gas and refined products.

America is the only country on earth refusing to develop its own energy resources: England, Canada, Mexico and others seem to find a way to responsibly produce energy, but Congress has thus far refused to allow us to join them. Instead, we have managed to cripple energy production in this country by banning or discouraging domestic drilling while discouraging the development of nuclear power and imposing regulations on the production of coal. As a result, we are more dependent on petroleum than ever before.

The bottom-line is that the crisis we face is man-made and in fact made right here in the United States by politicians who just don't get it.

The American people, however, do get it and while they may not like oil company executives, Arab Oil ministers or anyone else associated with the oil industry, they know the real problem is with a Congress that by its own actions created the problems we face today. We are all for wind and solar power, as well what we now call biomass as energy sources. However, anyone who thinks the immediate problem or our long term demands can be adequately addressed by these alternative energy sources alone, simply—does not know what they are talking about. And the American people know it.

So, do not play into Speaker Pelosi's hands by joining her in deflecting blame from those who are responsible for the policies that have led to high gas prices. The answer is not in diverting blame or in press releases, but in drilling, producing and refining petroleum products; building nuclear reactors and unleashing the energy in the coal reserves found throughout the United States.

Focus on the real answers and America's families will thank you.

Sincerely,

David A. Keene
Chairman
The American Conservative Union

The above letter was sent on June 24, 2008 to all of the Republican U.S. House members.