

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0530

HENRY A. WAXMAN
30TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

September 8, 2004

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing in regard to your statements about the energy bill and the nation's dependence on foreign oil.

In a recent interview with the magazine *American Gas*, you stated:

I will continue to press Congress to pass comprehensive energy legislation and continue to talk to the American people about the importance of establishing a long-term energy strategy that lessens dependence on foreign oil, creates jobs and keeps the economy growing.¹

Unfortunately, the energy bill that you support and the House passed (H.R. 6) will not lessen our nation's dependence on foreign oil. This bill was analyzed by expert analysts in the Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration (EIA). These experts concluded that if H.R. 6 is enacted, U.S. imports of foreign oil and petroleum products will increase by nearly 85%. At the same time, domestic oil production would decrease by nearly 20%.²

This analysis is unrefuted. In fact, on April 1, 2004, Energy Secretary Abraham testified before Congress, "I do not dispute the EIA analyses."³

¹ *President George W. Bush on Supply, Demand and His Energy Plan*, *American Gas* (July 2004). See also, Remarks by the President After Cabinet Meeting (May 19, 2004) (online at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2004/05/20040519-4.html>) ("I asked my team to put together a strategy to make us less dependent upon foreign sources of energy. I submitted that plan to the United States Congress. . . . They won't take action. Congress needs to pass the energy plan"); President's Radio Address (May 22, 2004) (online at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2004/05/20040522.html>) ("This national strategy would help make our country less dependent on foreign sources of energy").

² Energy Information Administration, "Summary Impacts of Modeled Provisions of the 2003 Conference Energy Bill" (Feb. 2004) (online at [http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/servicerpt/pceb/pdf/sroiaf\(2004\)02.pdf](http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/servicerpt/pceb/pdf/sroiaf(2004)02.pdf)).


³ Testimony of Spencer Abraham, Energy Secretary, before the House Committee on Energy and Commerce (April 1, 2004).

For your convenience, I am enclosing a recent report prepared by my staff that is based on the EIA analysis. This report finds that projections of the need for crude oil imports have reached an all-time high, and your Administration's proposals for future action will be ineffective in addressing U.S. dependence on foreign oil.

You have spoken repeatedly about the need to address the problem of dependence on foreign oil. In your first address to Congress, you stated, "America must become more energy-independent, and we will."⁴ In the 2002 State of the Union Address, you stated, "This Congress must act . . . so America is less dependent on foreign oil."⁵ In the 2003 State of the Union Address, you stated that your "goal is to promote energy independence for our country" and that your energy plan to boost fuel cell vehicles would make "our country much less dependent on foreign sources of energy."⁶ In the 2004 State of the Union address, you stated, "I urge [Congress] to pass legislation to . . . make America less dependent on foreign sources of energy."⁷

This is a worthy goal, but it won't be achieved if Congress enacts H.R. 6. I urge you to call upon the congressional Republicans to work with Democrats to develop energy legislation that actually reduces our nation's dependence on foreign oil.

Sincerely,



Henry A. Waxman
Member of Congress

⁴ Address of the President to the Joint Session of Congress (Feb. 27, 2001) (online at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2001/02/20010228.html>).

⁵ President George W. Bush, State of the Union Address (Jan. 20, 2002)(online at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/01/20020129-11.html>).

⁶ President George W. Bush, State of the Union Address (Jan. 28, 2003)(online at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/01/20030128-19.html>).

⁷ President George W. Bush, State of the Union Address (Jan. 20, 2004)(online at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2004/01/20040120-7.html>).