
(September 30, 2005) Congressman Lipinski Joins Effort To Fight Gas Price Gouging

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WASHINGTON, DC - Congressman Dan Lipinski (IL-03) has taken action to tackle gas price gouging.

"I have joined Rep. Bart Stupak (MI-01) and several of my colleagues in introducing The Federal Response to Energy Emergencies Act of 2005 (H.R. 3936)," said Congressman Lipinski. "This legislation will help protect consumers from gas price gouging."

H.R. 3936 will give the President the authority to take immediate action in the face of an energy crisis by declaring a national energy emergency. It will provide the Federal Trade Commission with the authority to investigate and prosecute those that engage in predatory pricing - from oil companies on down to local gas stations - with an emphasis on those who profit most. The bill will also increase transparency in the wholesale petroleum market to prevent anticompetitive pricing practices.

Following Hurricane Katrina, gas prices in the Chicago area spiked to an average high of almost \$3.25 per gallon. Just in the past year, gas prices have increased by almost a dollar per gallon and Hurricane Katrina has added another 40 cents onto that cost.

"Although gas prices have declined since the beginning of September, the rapid increase was devastating to working families already facing high gas prices," added Congressman Lipinski.

"We rely on gas and other petroleum products every day to fuel our cars and our economy - oil companies should not be able to take advantage of this need during times of national emergency just to increase their profits. Currently, there is no federal oversight to protect consumers from price gouging and H.R. 3936 would fix that problem," stated Congressman Lipinski. "I will work in Congress to ensure that consumers are charged a fair price at the pump, especially when the nation is faced with an energy crisis."

H.R. 3936 was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on Education and the Workforce.