



Thomas A. Schatz
President

May 5, 2011

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative,

Rep. Bob Latta (R-Ohio) will soon introduce the Immediate Consumer Relief for Pain at the Pump Act, which aims to increase domestic production of natural resources and drive down the price of oil and gas. On behalf of the more than one million members and supporters of the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste (CCAGW), I urge you to support this legislation.

When President Obama first took office in January 2009, gas prices nationwide averaged \$1.83. The average retail price of gasoline today stands at a record high of \$3.94. Elevated gas prices are one major consequence of the Obama Administration's permissiveness, which has led to the backlog of more than 100 deepwater drilling permit applications in the Gulf. Furthermore, the Energy Information Administration has predicted that oil production in the Gulf will decrease by 220,000 barrels a day in 2011. More than 13 drilling rigs have already moved their operations from the Gulf as a result of the permissiveness, with even more expected to follow.

Rep. Latta's bill seeks to increase domestic oil production, drive down gas prices, repeal onerous energy development policies and mandates, and reduce bureaucratic delays that obstruct the refining and permitting process. The legislation would overturn the Obama Administration's permissiveness on America's outer continental shelf lands and open approximately 2,000 acres of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to exploration and production. Additionally, the bill would expedite current laws to develop alternative, unconventional fuels within the U.S., such as oil shale and tar sands resources. Burdensome regulatory provisions, including a \$4,000 fee on new applications for drilling permits, would be repealed.

It is imperative that Congress move toward decreasing energy costs and lowering gas prices to affordable levels for consumers. I strongly urge you to support this important legislation. All votes on the Immediate Consumer Relief for Pain at the Pump Act will be among those considered in CCAGW's *2011 Congressional Ratings*.

Sincerely,