

COALITION FOR AFFORDABLE AMERICAN ENERGY

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May 5, 2011

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE U.S. CONGRESS

The economy and – inextricably related – the unacceptably high number of Americans without jobs, have been the top concerns of Americans since the market collapse in the fall of 2008. These issues permeate the discussions at Board rooms and kitchen tables all across the country. In the last few months, the sharply rising cost of oil has exacerbated the concerns and put even further economic pressures on already-strained budgets.

We are writing on behalf of the Coalition for Affordable American Energy (CAAE), a coalition of trade associations which represent business consumers of energy. The millions of businesses small and large that CAAE represents are, like individual consumers, greatly and gravely impacted by the skyrocketing cost of gasoline and diesel fuel. These rising fuel costs threaten the very survival of many American businesses. If action is not taken to address this crisis, companies will be forced to cancel planned expansions and capital investments, curtail benefits and new hiring, and reduce their payroll expenses. The impact will be felt across the economy in higher consumer prices and job losses.

Moreover, serious proposals and real solutions are called for.

It is imperative that Congress act to facilitate the exploration for and production of domestically-produced energy of all kinds and from all sources – oil, gas and clean coal, as well as alternatives and renewable resources. There are no immediate remedies to our energy crisis, and development of new domestic resources will take time; but public policies which discourage or outright prevent the development of available domestic energy sources – oil and gas, coal, alternatives or renewables – are clearly ill-advised and counter-productive.

Moreover, we are very disappointed in the current proposals to increase taxes on U.S. oil companies. We fail to see – and have heard no one in Congress or the Administration explain – how increasing taxes on “Big Oil” will create a job or lower the cost of a gallon of gasoline. The more likely result of increased taxes is that the price of gasoline will increase in response to those higher taxes. The tax hike proposals are an unwelcome and unhelpful distraction from the very serious energy issues that demand solutions.

We urge Congress to address the skyrocketing gasoline prices with real proposals to increase the domestic supply of energy from all sources, and to do so as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

THE CAAE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

(see attached list)

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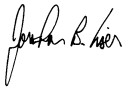
Geoffrey Burr, Vice President-Government Affairs, Associated Builders and Contractors



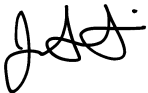
Stephen E. Sandherr, Chief Executive Officer, Associated General Contractors



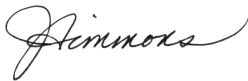
R. Bruce Josten, Executive Vice President-Government Affairs, Chamber of Commerce of the U.S.




Jon Eisen, Senior Vice President-Government Relations, International Foodservice Distributors Association



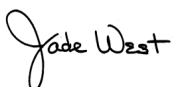
Jason Straczewski, Senior Director-Government Relations & Public Policy, International Franchise Association



Jay Timmons, President, National Association of Manufacturers



Dirk Van Dongen, President, National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors



Jade West, Senior Vice President-Government Relations, National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors
CAAE Executive Secretariat