



ARIZONA



DELAWARE



ILLINOIS



IOWA



KANSAS



MAINE



MICHIGAN



NEW JERSEY



NEW MEXICO



OREGON



PENNSYLVANIA



PUERTO RICO



TENNESSEE



WASHINGTON



WEST VIRGINIA



WISCONSIN

April 26, 2006

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

When Democratic Governors first wrote you about high gasoline prices in April 2004, prices were nearing \$2.00 per gallon. Today, prices are over \$3.00 per gallon and only going higher. While we were pleased to see in yesterday's announcement that you are now prepared to respond to these skyrocketing gas prices, we note that this comes over two years since we first wrote you on this issue.

Investigating price gouging, promoting alternative energy, rolling back oil and gas subsidies, and halting deposits into the strategic oil reserve are sound ideas that we have been promoting for years. But talking about solutions is easy; having the will to make real change is much more difficult.

We are skeptical of your Administration's commitment to this issue and are concerned about your willingness to implement this plan in a meaningful way. Over the past five years, the federal government has done little to encourage conservation and has allowed consumption to rise to ever higher levels. At the same time, while you have spent considerable time and tax dollars on oil industry efforts to boost supply, domestic production has dropped each year and no new refineries have been built. Your longtime resistance to investigating high gas prices, releasing oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, and assisting in the development of a real alternative energy industry are also cause for great concern.

We therefore urge you to follow up your announcement with immediate actions demonstrating your resolve on this issue. First, we urge you to take additional steps to restrain soaring corporate oil profits that harm consumers but do nothing to invest in alternative energy sources or oil capacity. We support corporate profitability – but not on the backs of working Americans and not at the obscene levels we've seen in the recent past.

Second, while the rollback of \$2 billion in oil subsidies is a good start, we urge you to also rollback or divert to alternative energy investments more of the additional \$10 billion in oil and gas subsidies that exist under current law. Tax dollars should support the public interest, not the special interests. Third, while we support an investigation of illegal price gouging, we urge you to address the real problem: federal laws, merger policies and enforcement deficiencies that continue to allow companies to manipulate oil supplies and merge without any regard to the public interest.

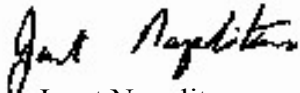
While we are dubious of your proposal for a Governors task force on boutique fuels, we appreciate your interest in hearing from the States. As you know, federal law vests the majority of authority over oil with the President and Administration, leaving only

very narrow power to the States. Despite this impediment, we have been working hard and have had tremendous success in developing a diverse range of alternative energy technologies, reducing energy consumption by state government, and providing economic relief to our citizens. We would be more than happy to meet with you or your Administration to discuss our experiences.

Above all, it is imperative that you set and commit your Administration to a much more aggressive program for the immediate deployment of alternative fuels, fuel efficiency, and conservation. More oil doesn't cure our Nation's "addiction." As the leader of our country, you can be the strong, consistent voice for a new energy policy that sharply reduces our dependence on foreign oil – a voice that has thus far been lacking. Unfortunately, instead of using yesterday's announcement to bring our nation together to address this issue in a way that would protect our economy, environment, and national security, you gave us a litany of weak measures that could take decades to implement.

We hope that your recent announcement signals a sincere interest in addressing our nation's energy policy and the dramatic rise in gas prices. This is a real issue that affects real Americans, and we stand ready and willing to work with you to provide Americans with immediate relief and put our nation on a path to energy independence.

Respectfully,



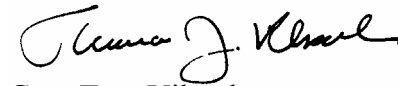
Gov. Janet Napolitano
Arizona



Gov. Ruth Ann Minner
Delaware



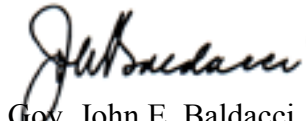
Gov. Rod Blagojevich
Illinois



Gov. Tom Vilsack
Iowa



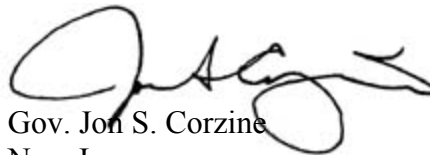
Gov. Kathleen Sebelius
Kansas



Gov. John E. Baldacci
Maine



Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm
Michigan



Gov. Jon S. Corzine
New Jersey



Gov. Bill Richardson
New Mexico



Gov. Ted Kulongoski
Oregon

Edmund G. Rendell

Gov. Ed Rendell
Pennsylvania

Anibal Acevedo-Vila

Gov. Anibal Acevedo-Vila
Puerto Rico

Phil Bredesen

Gov. Phil Bredesen
Tennessee

Christine Gregoire

Gov. Chris Gregoire
Washington

Joe Manchin

Gov. Joe Manchin
West Virginia

Jim Doyle

Gov. Jim Doyle
Wisconsin