TO: DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

ACTION REQUESTED: DIRECT REPLY W/COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:
ID: 483732
MEDIA: LETTER, DATED MAY 10, 2001
TO: PRESIDENT BUSH
FROM: THE HONORABLE JEFF BINGAMAN
UNITED STATES SENATE
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

SUBJECT: EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT GASOLINE PRICES AND OUTLINE 5 THINGS THE ADMINISTRATION CAN DO ABOUT GASOLINE PRICES AND WOULD LIKE TO KNOW THAT ACTIONS THE ADMINISTRATION IS PLANNING TO TAKE IN THE SHORT TERM TO ADDRESS RISING PRICES IN VARIOUS REGIONS OF THE CO

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE UNDERSIGNED AT 456-2590.

RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE (OR DRAFT) TO:
RECORDS MANAGEMENT, ROOM 72, THE WHITE HOUSE, 20500

OFFICE OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT - THE WHITE HOUSE

[Handwritten note: 10958]

DOE016-0710

Obtained and made public by the Natural Resources Defense Council, March/April 2002
NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE JEFF BINGAMAN

SUBJECT: EXPRESSES CONCERN ABOUT GASOLINE PRICES AND OUTLINE 5 THINGS THE ADMINISTRATION CAN DO ABOUT GASOLINE PRICES AND WOULD LIKE TO KNOW THAT ACTIONS THE ADMINISTRATION IS PLANNING TO TAKE IN THE SHORT TERM TO ADDRESS RISING PRICES IN VARIOUS REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY.

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<td>OFFICE/AGENCY</td>
<td>(STAFF NAME)</td>
<td>ACTION CODE</td>
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<td>LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS</td>
<td>NICK CALIO</td>
<td>ORG</td>
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ACTION COMMENTS: Please send a copy of your response to Leg Affair.

ACTION COMMENTS: VP's Domestic Policy (A. Landman) RC 06/15/01

ACTION COMMENTS: DOE 01/06/13

ACTION COMMENTS: 01/05/13

ACTION COMMENTS: 

COMMENTS

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: 0

MEDIA: LETTER

INDIVIDUAL CODES:

USER CODE: 24 SIGNEES

ACTION CODES:
A - APPROPRIATE ACTION
C - COMMENT/RECOMMENDATION
D - DRAFT RESPONSE
F - FURNISH FACT SHEET
I - INFO COPY/NO ACT NECESSARY
R - DIRECT REPWY W/COPY
S - FOR SIGNATURE
X - INTERIM REPLY

DISPOSITION CODES:
A - ANSWERED
B - NON-SEP-C-REFERRAL
C - COMPLETED
S - SUSPENDED

OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:
TYPE RESP = INITIALS OF SIGNER
CODE = A
COMPLETED = DATE OF OUTGOING

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO RECORDS MANAGEMENT (ROOM 72, 1006) EXT-02390
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS MANAGEMENT.

10959

DOE016-0711
May 23, 2001

Dear Senator Bingaman:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the price of gasoline and five steps you feel the Administration could take to reduce the price in the short term. The President certainly appreciates your concern and suggestions.

I have shared your letter with the President’s energy policy advisors and the Energy Task Force who are formulating policy recommendations in this area. Your comments are receiving their close and careful attention.

Thanks again for your letter on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Nicholas E. Calio
Assistant to the President and Director of Legislative Affairs

The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 10, 2001

President George W. Bush
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are concerned that with gasoline stocks at low levels and no end in sight for high crude oil prices, problems such as refinery outages or pipeline disruptions could cause extreme volatility in gasoline prices. The Administration has been aware of this problem since January, when a major Midwest refiner announced it would close, reducing gasoline production by two million gallons a day. Today, gasoline prices have already climbed to over $2.00 a gallon in certain areas of the Midwest.

It was not until April 27 that the Secretary of Energy wrote to members of Congress regarding the risk of price spikes in the gasoline market due to below-average levels of gasoline stocks. Unfortunately, the Secretary did not propose any actions that could avert or even ameliorate this potential crisis. While oil producers continue to experience record profits, the average American consumer will suffer from high prices at the gas pump.

In this light, it was particularly disturbing to hear Vice President Cheney indicate, once again, that he does not believe there is anything the Administration can do about gasoline prices this summer.

In our view, there are at least 5 things that the Administration can do right now:

- Develop a streamlined system of gasoline specifications to ensure flexibility in the market.
- Use Federal authority to ensure production at refineries is not curtailed during rolling blackouts.
- Require vehicles in the Federal fleet that can use alternative fuels to use those fuels.
- Insist that all segments of the gasoline supply chain maximize production and distribution of fuels of the needed quality.
- Ensure the Energy Information Administration has adequate resources to provide timely data on energy markets.
We would like to know what actions the Administration is planning to take, in the short term, to address rising gasoline prices in various regions of the country. Not only is it important that the Energy Department keep everyone informed about rising energy costs this summer, we believe it is the Administration's responsibility to proactively develop a strategy to alleviate this looming problem.

We look forward to hearing from you in the near future regarding your gasoline price strategy and would be pleased to work with you on its implementation.

Sincerely,

[Signatures]

10962

DOE016-0714

Obtained and made public by the Natural Resources Defense Council, March/April 2002
May 23, 2001

Dear Mr. Leader:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the price of gasoline and five steps you feel the Administration could take to reduce the price in the short term. The President certainly appreciates your concern and suggestions.

I have shared your letter with the President’s energy policy advisors and the Energy Task Force who are formulating policy recommendations in this area. Your comments are receiving their close and careful attention.

Thanks again for your letter on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Nicholas E. Calio
Assistant to the President and
Director of Legislative Affairs

The Honorable Thomas Daschle
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Obtained and made public by the Natural Resources Defense Council, March/April 2002
May 23, 2001

Dear Chuck:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the price of gasoline and five steps you feel the Administration could take to reduce the price in the short term. The President certainly appreciates your concern and suggestions.

I have shared your letter with the President's energy policy advisors and the Energy Task Force who are formulating policy recommendations in this area. Your comments are receiving their close and careful attention.

Thanks again for your letter on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Nicholas E. Calio
Assistant to the President and
Director of Legislative Affairs

The Honorable Charles Schumer
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
May 23, 2001

Dear Senator Reid:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the price of gasoline and five steps you feel the Administration could take to reduce the price in the short term. The President certainly appreciates your concern and suggestions.

I have shared your letter with the President's energy policy advisors and the Energy Task Force who are formulating policy recommendations in this area. Your comments are receiving their close and careful attention.

Thanks again for your letter on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Nicholas E. Calio
Assistant to the President and
Director of Legislative Affairs

The Honorable Harry Reid
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

010524

10966

DOE016-0718

Obtained and made public by the Natural Resources Defense Council, March/April 2002
May 23, 2001

Dear Evan:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the price of gasoline and five steps you feel the Administration could take to reduce the price in the short term. The President certainly appreciates your concern and suggestions.

I have shared your letter with the President’s energy policy advisors and the Energy Task Force who are formulating policy recommendations in this area. Your comments are receiving their close and careful attention.

Thanks again for your letter on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Nicholas E. Calio
Assistant to the President and
Director of Legislative Affairs

The Honorable Evan Bayh
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

010524

10967

DOE016-0719

Obtained and made public by the Natural Resources Defense Council, March/April 2002
May 23, 2001

Dear Senator Nelson:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the price of gasoline and five steps you feel the Administration could take to reduce the price in the short term. The President certainly appreciates your concern and suggestions.

I have shared your letter with the President’s energy policy advisors and the Energy Task Force who are formulating policy recommendations in this area. Your comments are receiving their close and careful attention.

Thanks again for your letter on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Nicholas E. Calio
Assistant to the President and
Director of Legislative Affairs

The Honorable Ben Nelson
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

010524

10968

DOE016-0720

Obtained and made public by the Natural Resources Defense Council, March/April 2002
May 23, 2001

Dear Senator Kerry:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the price of gasoline and five steps you feel the Administration could take to reduce the price in the short term. The President certainly appreciates your concern and suggestions.

I have shared your letter with the President's energy policy advisors and the Energy Task Force who are formulating policy recommendations in this area. Your comments are receiving their close and careful attention.

Thanks again for your letter on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Nicholas E. Calio
Assistant to the President and
Director of Legislative Affairs

The Honorable John Kerry
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
May 23, 2001

Dear Senator Feinstein:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the price of gasoline and five steps you feel the Administration could take to reduce the price in the short term. The President certainly appreciates your concern and suggestions.

I have shared your letter with the President’s energy policy advisors and the Energy Task Force who are formulating policy recommendations in this area. Your comments are receiving their close and careful attention.

Thanks again for your letter on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Nicholas E. Calio
Assistant to the President and
Director of Legislative Affairs

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
May 23, 2001

Dear Senator Graham:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the price of gasoline and five steps you feel the Administration could take to reduce the price in the short term. The President certainly appreciates your concern and suggestions.

I have shared your letter with the President’s energy policy advisors and the Energy Task Force who are formulating policy recommendations in this area. Your comments are receiving their close and careful attention.

Thanks again for your letter on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Nicholas E. Calio
Assistant to the President and
Director of Legislative Affairs

The Honorable Bob Graham
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

010524

10971

DOE016-0723

Obtained and made public by the Natural Resources Defense Council, March/April 2002
May 23, 2001

Dear Senator Cantwell:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the price of gasoline and five steps you feel the Administration could take to reduce the price in the short term. The President certainly appreciates your concern and suggestions.

I have shared your letter with the President’s energy policy advisors and the Energy Task Force who are formulating policy recommendations in this area. Your comments are receiving their close and careful attention.

Thanks again for your letter on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Nicholas E. Calio
Assistant to the President and
Director of Legislative Affairs

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
May 23, 2001

Dear Senator Murray:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the price of gasoline and five steps you feel the Administration could take to reduce the price in the short term. The President certainly appreciates your concern and suggestions.

I have shared your letter with the President’s energy policy advisors and the Energy Task Force who are formulating policy recommendations in this area. Your comments are receiving their close and careful attention.

Thanks again for your letter on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Nicholas E. Calio
Assistant to the President and
Director of Legislative Affairs

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

10973

DOE016-0725

Obtained and made public by the Natural Resources Defense Council, March/April 2002
May 23, 2001

Dear Senator Dayton:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the price of gasoline and five steps you feel the Administration could take to reduce the price in the short term. The President certainly appreciates your concern and suggestions.

I have shared your letter with the President's energy policy advisors and the Energy Task Force who are formulating policy recommendations in this area. Your comments are receiving their close and careful attention.

Thanks again for your letter on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Nicholas E. Calio
Assistant to the President and
Director of Legislative Affairs

The Honorable Mark Dayton
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
May 23, 2001

Dear Tom:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the price of gasoline and five steps you feel the Administration could take to reduce the price in the short term. The President certainly appreciates your concern and suggestions.

I have shared your letter with the President's energy policy advisors and the Energy Task Force who are formulating policy recommendations in this area. Your comments are receiving their close and careful attention.

Thanks again for your letter on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Nicholas E. Calio
Assistant to the President and Director of Legislative Affairs

The Honorable Thomas Carper
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

010524

10975

DOE016-0727

Obtained and made public by the Natural Resources Defense Council, March/April 2002
TO: DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

ACTION REQUESTED: APPROPRIATE ACTION

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:
ID: 488582
MEDIA: LETTER, DATED JUN 05, 2001
TO: PRESIDENT BUSH
FROM: THE HONORABLE OLYMPIA SNOWE
UNITED STATES SENATE
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIDENT NOT TO REPEAL THE MORATORIUM ON OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION ON THE GEORGES BANK

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL — IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE UNDERSIGNED AT 458-2390.

RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE (OR DRAFT) TO:
RECORDS MANAGEMENT, ROOM 72, THE WHITE HOUSE, 20500

OFFICE OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT - THE WHITE HOUSE
DATE RECEIVED: 06/11/2001

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE OLYMPIA SNOWE

SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIDENT NOT TO REPEAL THE MORATORIUM ON OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION ON THE GEORGES BANK

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ACTION COMMENTS

VP Domestic Policy

ACTION COMMENTS:

Dept. of Energy

ACTION COMMENTS:

CEQ

ACTION COMMENTS:

COMMENTS

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: 0

MEDIA: LETTER

INDIVIDUAL CODES:

REPORT CODES:

USER CODE: 4 SIGNERS

ACTION CODES:
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DISPOSITION CODES:
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C - COMPLETED
S - SUSPENDED

OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:
TYPE RESP = INITIALS OF SIGNER
CODE = A
COMPLETED = DATE OF OUTGOING

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO RECORDS MANAGEMENT (ROOM 72, DEO2) EXT-62590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS MANAGEMENT.

Obtained and made public by the Natural Resources Defense Council, March/April 2002
June 18, 2001

Dear Olympia:

Thank you for your recent letter expressing your opposition to a proposal that would lift the moratorium on oil and natural gas exploration off of the Georges Bank in the North Atlantic Ocean. The President certainly appreciates your concern and suggestions.

I have shared your letter with the President's energy policy advisors and the Energy Task Force who are formulating policy recommendations in this area. Your comments are receiving their close and careful attention.

Thanks again for your letter on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Nicholas E. Calio
Assistant to the President and
Director of Legislative Affairs

The Honorable Olympia Snowe
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Bcc w/ copy for appropriate action: VPTF
For Information: CEQ, DoE

10978

Obtained and made public by the Natural Resources Defense Council, March/April 2002
June 18, 2001

Dear Susan:

Thank you for your recent letter expressing your opposition to a proposal that would lift the moratorium on oil and natural gas exploration off of the Georges Bank in the North Atlantic Ocean. The President certainly appreciates your concern and suggestions.

I have shared your letter with the President's energy policy advisors and the Energy Task Force who are formulating policy recommendations in this area. Your comments are receiving their close and careful attention.

Thanks again for your letter on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Nicholas E. Calio
Assistant to the President and
Director of Legislative Affairs

The Honorable Susan Collins
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Bcc w/ copy for appropriate action: VPTF
For Information: CEQ, DoE

10979

DOE016-0731

Obtained and made public by the Natural Resources Defense Council, March/April 2002
June 18, 2001

Dear Line:

Thank you for your recent letter expressing your opposition to a proposal that would lift the moratorium on oil and natural gas exploration off of the Georges Bank in the North Atlantic Ocean. The President certainly appreciates your concern and suggestions.

I have shared your letter with the President's energy policy advisors and the Energy Task Force who are formulating policy recommendations in this area. Your comments are receiving their close and careful attention.

Thanks again for your letter on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Nicholas E. Calio
Assistant to the President and
Director of Legislative Affairs

The Honorable Lincoln Chafee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Bcc w/ copy for appropriate action: VPTF
For Information: CEQ, DoE
June 18, 2001

Dear Judd:

Thank you for your recent letter expressing your opposition to a proposal that would lift the moratorium on oil and natural gas exploration off of the Georges Bank in the North Atlantic Ocean. The President certainly appreciates your concern and suggestions.

I have shared your letter with the President’s energy policy advisors and the Energy Task Force who are formulating policy recommendations in this area. Your comments are receiving their close and careful attention.

Thanks again for your letter on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Nicholas E. Calio
Assistant to the President and
Director of Legislative Affairs

The Honorable Judd Gregg
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Bcc w/ copy for appropriate action: VPTF
For Information: CEQ, DoE
June 18, 2001

Dear Bob:

Thank you for your recent letter expressing your opposition to a proposal that would lift the moratorium on oil and natural gas exploration off of the Georges Bank in the North Atlantic Ocean. The President certainly appreciates your concern and suggestions.

I have shared your letter with the President's energy policy advisors and the Energy Task Force who are formulating policy recommendations in this area. Your comments are receiving their close and careful attention.

Thanks again for your letter on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Nicholas E. Calio
Assistant to the President and
Director of Legislative Affairs

The Honorable Bob Smith
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Bcc w/ copy for appropriate action: VPTF
For Information: CEQ, DoE

10982

DOE016-0734
The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We would like you to be aware of the grave concerns we would have if a proposal were put forth by your Administration to consider lifting the current moratorium on oil and natural gas exploration off of the Georges Bank in the North Atlantic Ocean. Our concern stems from a recent recommendation from a federal advisory panel, the Natural Gas Subcommittee of the Outer Continental Shelf Policy Committee, that, if approved, would direct the Minerals Management Service to collect seismic data to determine the five best prospects for natural gas reserves. The Georges Bank is reported to be one of these prospects.

As you are aware, both the United States and Canada have moratoria on oil and gas exploration until 2012 for the ecologically sensitive Georges Bank. We heartily agree with the moratoria and strongly believe that the moratoria should not be lifted on this 185-mile-long bank that stretches from Nova Scotia to Cape Cod - five-sixths of which is owned by the U.S. This broad, shallow fishing ground is one of the world's most productive, and current available natural gas reserves in the U.S. dwarf those which are projected to be available on the Georges Bank.

Of note, 89 percent of proven gas reserves, both on and offshore, in the United States are in areas with no restrictions on natural gas drilling. Of onshore reserves alone, 90.7 percent are completely open to drilling and 84 percent of estimated reserves on the Outer Continental Shelf are also unrestricted. We, therefore, do not believe that it is necessary to revisit the moratorium on drilling for natural gas or oil on Georges Bank.

In light of the importance of the Georges Bank fisheries to our commercial and recreational fishermen, and realizing the potentially negative environmental impacts that ocean oil and gas drilling could have on the tourist economies of our coastal communities, we strongly urge you not to repeal the moratorium on oil and gas exploration on the Georges Bank. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

OLYMPIA J. JENKINS
United States Senator

SUSAN M. COLLINS
United States Senator

10983

DOE016-0735

Obtained and made public by the Natural Resources Defense Council, March/April 2002
The President
June 5, 2001
Page two

LINCOLN D. CHAFEE
United States Senator

JUDD GREGG
United States Senator

BOB SMITH
United States Senator

10984

DOE016-0736

Obtained and made public by the Natural Resources Defense Council, March/April 2002