

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 3, 2011

The Honorable Frank D. Lucas  
Chairman  
Committee on Agriculture  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable K. Michael Conaway  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on General Farm  
Commodities and Risk Management  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Lucas and Conaway:

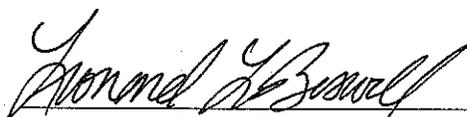
We are writing to request the Committee conduct a hearing to examine the recent rise in energy prices, particularly for oil and gasoline. The American public wants reassurance that these high prices are completely attributable to market forces and not due to speculation or manipulation in the futures or spot markets for energy.

The Agriculture Committee, which has jurisdiction over the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, has a long history of examining rises in energy prices and how they impact the agricultural sector. Since 2006, the Committee has held three hearings on this issue, under both Republican and Democrat majorities, which only further demonstrates the bipartisan commitment of the Committee to examine drastic price fluctuations in the price of oil.

In the last four months, oil prices have risen to date by 25% and we have not yet reached the summer peak season when oil and gasoline prices experience further increases. On March 31<sup>st</sup>, the House Committee on Natural Resources held its own hearing looking into rising gasoline prices. At that hearing, witnesses including Mr. William P. Graves on behalf of the American Trucking Association and Mr. Michael J. Fox, Executive Director of the Gasoline & Automotive Service Dealers of America raised concerns about continuing speculation in today's energy markets.

Given the increase in energy prices and continued concern about speculation in energy markets, we believe it is appropriate and imperative that our Committee conduct its own hearing into energy prices and bring in representatives from the CFTC and the Department of Energy who can give us their views regarding what is occurring in the energy markets. We look forward to working with you to bring such a hearing to fruition in the immediate future.

Sincerely



Leonard L. Boswell  
Member of Congress



Peter Welch  
Member of Congress



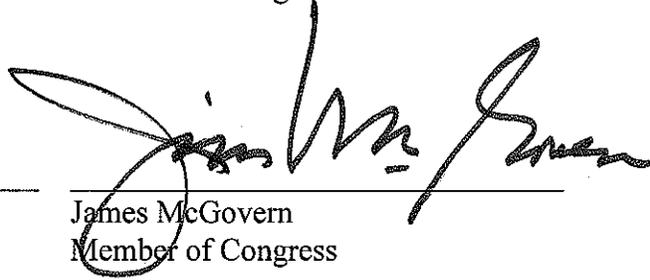
Tim Walz  
Member of Congress



Terri Sewell  
Member of Congress

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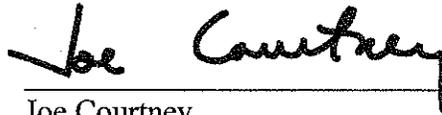
Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan  
Member of Congress



James McGovern  
Member of Congress



Bill Owens  
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



Larry Kissell  
Member of Congress