

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-4402

September 8, 2005

The Honorable Deborah Platt Majoras  
Chairman  
Federal Trade Commission  
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Room 404  
Washington, DC 20580

Dear Chairman Majoras:

I am writing to request that your agency conduct an immediate investigation into the widespread reports of unreasonably high gasoline prices. In recent weeks, I have heard from numerous constituents across my home state of Utah regarding the increasingly high cost of gasoline. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, I have heard from many Utahns who have experienced price increases of several cents per gallon in the course of days and even hours.

I would appreciate the Federal Trade Commission conducting an immediate investigation into gasoline prices in this country and including information regarding the status of our nation's oil producers, refiners, and retailers. I recognize that the devastation of Hurricane Katrina has damaged distribution and production facilities in the Gulf region; however, many of my constituents are concerned that other factors have lead to the increasingly unaffordable cost of gasoline this summer.

I believe that if there is evidence of price gouging, any companies who have engaged in such activities should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. If federal law needs to be amended in order to prevent incidences of price gouging, I would appreciate any recommendations your agency may have in this regard.

In closing, I want to thank you for your attention to this serious matter. The price of gasoline has become an increasing burden for many families in my state and across the nation. I look forward to your agency's prompt response to this inquiry so that we might take any actions necessary to ease this burden.

Sincerely,



Jim Matheson  
Member of Congress