



STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

JOHN D. CHERRY, JR.
LT. GOVERNOR

April 27, 2006

The Honorable John D. Dingell
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Dingell:

In the past five days, more than 156,000 of our fellow citizens have joined me in signing an online petition calling on President Bush to work with Congress to take immediate action on skyrocketing gasoline prices. The petition calls on the President to ask Congress to send him legislation before Memorial Day to cap profits and lower prices.

With Exxon-Mobil reporting another \$8.4 billion in profits this morning, it is clear that legislation is needed to provide gas price relief to Michigan families. I urge you to support two bills offered by your Michigan Delegation colleagues and ask that you contact Congressional leaders to schedule these bills for a vote so the President can truly fulfill his gas price relief strategy.

Congressman Bart Stupak has authored H.R. 3936, the ***Federal Response to Energy Emergencies Act***, that would provide an overdue strengthening of Federal Trade Commission (FTC) power to prosecute price gougers while cracking down on market manipulation and providing additional authority to states to enforce stronger federal laws in addition to state laws. I urge you to cosponsor this legislation, and sign House Discharge Petition #7 if needed to force consideration and approval by the full U.S. House of Representatives.

I also strongly support S. 2636, the ***Oil Company Accountability Act***, introduced this week by Senator Debbie Stabenow to provide an immediate one-time \$500 tax rebate to help middle class families pay for higher fuel costs. This legislation would be offset by repealing several tax benefits for the largest oil companies, consistent with the President's call for scaling back these tax subsidies at a time of continuous record-breaking industry profits.

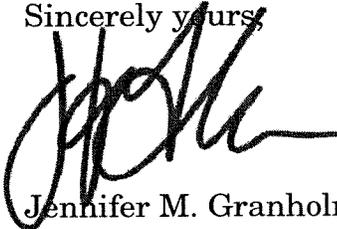
Since January 2001, profits of oil companies have risen by 240%, and with oil trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) at over \$75 per barrel last week for the first time in history, there appears to be no end in sight for these

companies. Meanwhile, the impact on Michigan citizens and businesses is devastating. The backbone of Michigan's economy – manufacturing, agriculture and tourism – all rely heavily on affordable gas prices.

Recently, regular unleaded gas prices have averaged just under \$3 per gallon, and have reached their highest level since just after Hurricane Katrina last summer. Meanwhile, the Congressional Research Service estimates that the rising cost of oil added \$70 billion to the US trade deficit in 2005 alone.

Michigan's citizens and businesses need and deserve swift federal action on a meaningful legislative package that provides them with immediate gas price relief. Both Senator Stabenow and Congressman Stupak have offered constructive legislation, and I hope you will support their efforts in responding to nationwide calls to lower gas prices and restrain soaring corporate oil profits.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Granholm', written over a horizontal line.

Jennifer M. Granholm
Governor