

GOVERNOR JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM

May 26, 2006

Hello, this is Governor Jennifer Granholm.

This Memorial Day weekend is the unofficial beginning of summer and the traditional start of the busy travel and tourism season in Michigan.

Literally millions of motorists will hit the road this holiday weekend. And before our families and travelers head out the door, they'll be filling up their tanks, and paying far too much to do so.

The cost of gas is too high. That's why I've been taking action at the state level to protect consumers – from hiring more gas pump inspectors, to instructing the Department of Agriculture to monitor the cost of fuel for signs of price gouging.

But we all know that this isn't a Michigan issue – it's a national issue. And the president needs to take action to bring down the cost of fuel.

Several weeks ago, I started an online petition drive to demand that President Bush call for a cap on windfall profits by the oil companies.

There was a phenomenal response to our petition. More than 275,000 people signed up – people from Michigan and also from states as far away as Texas and California.

It would take more than 10,000 sheets of paper to list all those names, not to mention hundreds of dollars to ship them to the White House. So the other day, I sent those 275,000 names to Washington on a computer disc.

It was a small package because it was a disc, but inside was a huge message from the people of Michigan: We've had enough, and it's time for the White House to take action. I want to thank all the thousands and thousands of people who helped to send that strong message to President Bush.

Of course, the real message of Memorial Day is something more important than the cost of fuel. It's about the cost of freedom – and it's a time to honor the service of the men and women who've worn our nation's uniform and made the ultimate sacrifice.

Just this week I visited with the families of the Michigan soldiers who have given their lives in service to our nation in Iraq and Afghanistan. I know that I'll be saying a prayer for them this weekend, and also for the safe return of the Michigan troops who are currently deployed overseas.

I hope you'll join me. And, most of all, I hope that everyone in Michigan has a safe holiday weekend.

Thank you for listening.