

Region 5

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INTERNATIONAL UNION, UNITED AUTOMOBILE, AEROSPACE & AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS OF AMERICA – UAW

Jim Wells

Director

(Member, International Executive Board)

Bob King
President

Dennis Williams
Secretary-Treasurer

April 13, 2011

Greetings:

Where is Congress? Gas prices have been spiking for weeks and \$4 gas is quickly becoming a reality across the nation. Prices haven't averaged \$4 a gallon nationwide since July 2008, but many economists are already predicting the national average will top that level during the peak driving months from April to August. Why aren't our elected representatives speaking out for us, the working poor? We need to let them know we're not happy!

Enough is Enough! Rising gasoline and energy prices are gauging our hard earned wages and threatening our livelihoods. In a recent survey, more than two-thirds of Americans reported that skyrocketing gas prices were causing financial hardship, with a full third saying the costs were having a "serious" impact on their families.

In addition to gasoline prices we are also faced with higher food costs. Food inflation spiked sharply in the first quarter, with grocery prices by late March up 6.5% versus prices in early January. This would translate into an annualized increase of 26%, the biggest in a generation according to a consumer inflation report.

Congress must act now! We need to make a concerted effort to have our active and retired members; their families and friends write, email or call their U.S. Senators and Representatives today, their contact information is listed below. (*The following bullets are examples of talking points that can be used when talking to your elected officials*).

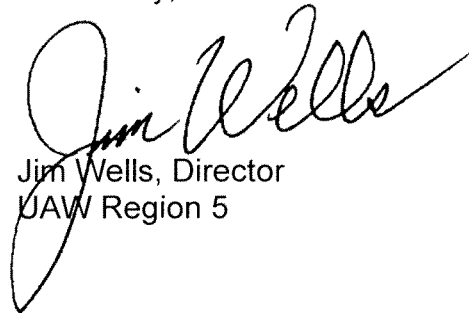
- Ask them, "*Why are you not speaking out for us on the high gas prices?*"
- Tell them the situation has gotten so bad that it is threatening our jobs and the well being of our families. The cost of gasoline and energy affects everything we do, from our daily commute to the price of our food and the plight of our family farms; from our leisure time activities and the local tourist industry to the very jobs in auto, aerospace, and manufacturing we need to survive.
- Ask them, "*Why haven't we heard from you on the high gas prices?*"
- Tell them, "*We are unhappy with your inaction on the high gas prices!*"
- Tell them that in this crisis, it is our government's responsibility to protect American workers... not the profits of big oil!

Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Washington

- Tell them, *"You and your colleagues in Congress must stand up for us! We are the hardworking middle class Americans who are the backbone of this economy!"*
- Tell them you are calling on Congress and the President to do their part and stand up to the big money corporate lobbyists and act now to protect American families.

We in organized labor must take the lead in fighting back against this onslaught of corporate greed. Please activate your worker to worker and retiree to retiree structures immediately to mobilize our members in opposition to skyrocketing gas prices. With our leadership, and the involvement of our active and retired members, we can move Congress to take action NOW!

Fraternally,



Jim Wells, Director
JAW Region 5

JW: jb/opeiu494

cc: Gary Jones
All Staff

Contact Your U.S. Senators and Representatives Today!

Capitol Switchboard – (866) 338-5720

Addresses:

Honorable _____
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable _____
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Email:

To locate an email address for your U.S. Representative or Senator, please go to www.house.gov or www.senate.gov.