



U.S. Congressman

Mark Steven Kirk

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U.S. Congressman Mark Steven Kirk, 10th District of Illinois

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Gas prices in Illinois

From 8/14/06 - 9/14/06



As gas prices continue to decline, here are some things I am working on in Congress to help maintain this favorable trend:

E85 Fuel Deployment

Alternative fuels are critical to reducing our dependency on foreign oil while protecting the environment. One alternative is E85, a fuel that combines 85% ethanol with 15% gasoline. A gallon of E85 is selling 20 cents cheaper than regular unleaded gasoline in Illinois. In states that heavily promote the fuel, like Minnesota and North Dakota, a gallon of E85 is up to 60 cents cheaper. As more cars become E85 compatible, demand for this fuel will rise and consumers can reap the benefits. I am a cosponsor of H.R. 4774, introduced by Rep. Fred Upton (R-MI). This bill would require all gasoline sold in the U.S. for motor vehicles to contain ten percent renewable fuel by 2012.

Increasing CAFE Standards

We should increase the Corporate Average Fuel Exogamy (CAFE) standards for all cars and trucks from 20.7 miles per gallon to 33 miles

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per gallon by 2014. Increasing fuel economy would save the average family \$2,000 per year. Raising these standards would also lower our need for foreign oil. I am an original cosponsor of H.R. 3762, a bill introduced by Rep. Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY), that would reduce the amount of oil used in fuel for automobiles by ten percent starting in 2016.

Ending the Moratorium on Building New Refineries

The United States has not built a new refinery since 1976. On May 2, 2006, I became an original cosponsor of an important piece of legislation introduced by Rep. Charlie Bass (R-NH), the Refinery Permit Process Schedule Act. This bill would create a streamlined, efficient process through which entities can apply for a refinery permit, without weakening any environmental standards. On June 7, 2006, H.R. 5254 passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 238-179. I encourage the Senate to pass this legislation because we must increase our refinery capacity in order to maintain our gas supply.

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