



# REPUBLICAN HOUSE ENERGY ACTION TEAM

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[www.house.gov/shuster](http://www.house.gov/shuster)

Contact: Jeff Urbanchuk, Press Secretary (Shuster)

(202) 225-2431

(202) 593-1040 cell

[jg.urbanchuk@mail.house.gov](mailto:jg.urbanchuk@mail.house.gov)

## **Congressman Bill Shuster Joins HEAT Members to Host Home Heating Fuel Forum**

*Washington, D.C.* –Today, **Congressman Bill Shuster, (R-PA09)** hosted the final of a four part series of forums organized by the Republican House Energy Action Team to take a close look at domestic energy production and the challenges America faces in creating a sustainable long term energy policy.

Today's forum focused on Home Heating Fuels and the expected hike in prices that will take place as we enter the cold winter months. Special consideration was given to Home Heating Fuel's price volatility and its impact on seniors and low income groups.

"Home heating oil is extremely important to people throughout the Northeast. My own state of Pennsylvania ranks second only to New York in total heating oil consumption and will be disproportionately hit by a spike in prices," Shuster said.

"It is imperative that Congress tackle the problem of high home heating oil prices. Unfortunately, the Democrats missed a golden opportunity to do something in their energy bill," Shuster added. "I thank Representative Blunt for the opportunity to host today's forum. It shows that House Republicans are doing more than making empty promises about confronting the volatility of home heating oil prices."

"The surge in crude oil prices, coupled with the majority's flat unwillingness to access new energy resources at home, will make this winter especially difficult for the nearly eight million American families that rely on home heating oil.. And for that basic right to stay warm, these families will be forced to pay more than \$1,000 this winter – double what they shelled out just four short years ago," said Republican Whip Roy Blunt.

"But even as the price of energy continues to spiral out of control, Democrats continue to work furiously to lock away our own abundant supplies of it. And quite simply: the longer they're able to do that, the higher we should expect the price of energy to go."

Over the last year, the price of oil has climbed by 70%, reflecting a 25% increase in the cost of Home Heating Oil. This rapid increase disproportionately affects those in the Northeast, where 70% of the nation's Home Heating Oil consumers are located. Those on fixed and limited incomes will have a hard time absorbing these costs in their family budgets.

The Members at today's forum heard testimony from a panel of experts including; Margot Anderson, Director, Energy Markets and End Use, U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration; Dan Gilligan, President, Petroleum Marketing Association of America; Chris Cafarella, President, United Propane of Millerville, Maryland; and Jim Martin, President, The 60 Plus Association.

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