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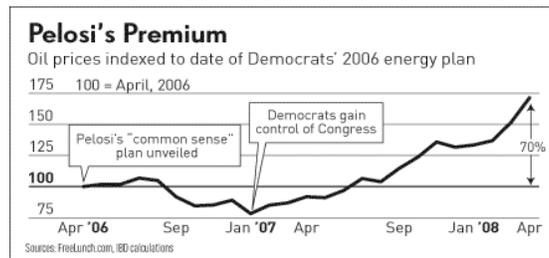
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## It's Been Two Years and Still no "Commonsense" Plan on Gas Prices from the Democrats

### *Shuster Calls on speaker Pelosi to Disclose her Long Promised Plan to Lower Gas Prices*



Source: *Investors Business Daily* (4/23/08)

*Washington, D.C.* – Today marks the two year anniversary of Speaker Pelosi’s announcement that the Democrats have a “commonsense plan” to lower gas prices. With 15 months in the majority under the Democrats’ belt and record gas prices sweeping the nation, **Congressman Bill Shuster** and his Republican colleagues wonder: What’s become of the Democrats’ “commonsense” plan on gas prices?

“Speaker Pelosi and her colleagues have had two years to develop a plan to lower gas prices and the American people would like to see what they have,” Shuster said. “Every day, my constituents are forced to pay high gas prices just to get to work and back. Their patience is wearing thin and if the Democrats have a plan, there’s no better time than now to make it public.”

On the eve of the 2006 elections, Speaker Pelosi made a grand campaign promise to enact a “commonsense plan” to lower rising gas prices if the Democrats won the majority. Since her pronouncement, gas prices have soared nationally by \$1.20. Over that time, Pennsylvania experienced a \$1.13 increase in the price of gas. Today, on the eve of the two year anniversary of the promised “commonsense” plan, nothing has been revealed.

“I’m beginning to feel that there is no plan,” Shuster added. “If they had one, they would have offered alternatives instead of simply blocking Republican efforts to increase domestic oil production and explore new alternatives like coal to liquid fuels. I support these policies and the only response I hear from the Democrats is no.”

Since taking power, the Democrats in Congress have done nothing to lower the price of gas. Instead, they continue to block Republican attempts to invest in clean coal technology, coal to liquid fuels, and domestic oil exploration. The Democrats have voted four times to raise energy taxes this Congress\* and have advocated appropriating oil companies profits. Neither of these policies would lower fuel prices. In reality, they would drive up the price of fuel past the \$3.55 per gallon average consumers now pay.

Yesterday, House Republicans attempted to force the Democrats to disclose their secret plan to lower gas prices. The Republican proposal would have compelled Speaker Pelosi to unveil her “commonsense” plan within 5 days for debate in the House of Representatives. The Democrats defeated the attempt, favoring instead to keep their plan under lock and key.

“It’s time for Republicans to stand up for the American people and call on the Democrats to lay their cards on the table. Either there is a plan or there isn’t. If not, it’s time to put politics aside and get to the heart of our broken energy policy,” Shuster added.

\*January 18, 2007 (HR 6, [Roll Call 37](#)); August 4, 2007 (HR 2776, [Roll Call 835](#)); December 6, 2007 (HR 6, [Roll Call 1140](#)); February 27, 2008 (HR 5351, [Roll Call 84](#)).

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