

Stupak offers energy bill amendment to curb gas price gouging

Responding to constituent concerns and thousands of complaints to the Department of Energy (DOE), Congressman Stupak led an effort to amend House Bill 3893 to give the federal government oversight authority over “predatory pricing” of gas and energy resources.

The Federal Response to Energy Emergencies Act or the F.R.E.E. Act would empower the federal government to end price gouging, market manipulation and geographic pricing by oil companies and provide relief to consumers, farmers and small businesses paying skyrocketing gas and energy costs.

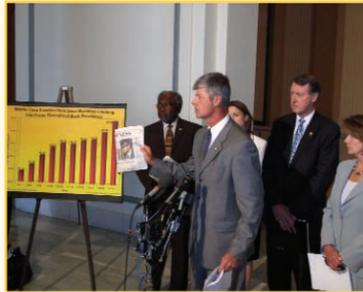
The amendment would give the President the authority to take immediate action in an energy crisis by declaring a national energy emergency and make it illegal to sell crude oil, gasoline, natural gas, propane or home heating oil at inexplicably high prices.

The proposal would also give the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) authority to prosecute oil companies down to gas stations and all energy suppliers who engage in price gouging with emphasis on those who profit most.

The F.R.E.E. Act would enable the FTC to prohibit practices that result in market manipulation, price gouging or geographic pricing and allow the federal government to impose tough civil and criminal penalties for those who manipulate or gouge prices. Some of the fines collected would go toward the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) which helps consumers to pay their heating bills.

It would also authorize State Attorneys General to bring civil actions against retailers in the appropriate U.S. district courts to enforce certain provisions.

On Friday, October 7, the House defeated the F.R.E.E. amendment on a vote of 199-222. Stupak has vowed to continue his fight against unconscionable excess profits of the big oil companies and fight to keep our winter energy cost low.



Rep. Bart Stupak explains the provisions of his Federal Response to Energy Emergencies Act (F.R.E.E.). He is joined by Representatives Jim Clyburn (NC), Stephanie Herseth (SD), Bob Etheridge (NC) and Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (CA).

Keep in touch: Email Updates and Town Hall Meetings



In order to serve you, I have a toll free number – 800/950-7371 – that you may call with your issues of concern. You may also stop by any of my 7 district offices located at:

- ALPENA**
111 E. Chisholm, Alpena, MI 49707 989/356-0690 • 989/356-0923 fax
- CRYSTAL FALLS**
Iron County Courthouse
2 South 6th St., Suite #3, Crystal Falls, MI 49920 906/875-3751 • 906/875-3889 fax
Part time: Mon. - Tue.
- ESCANABA**
902 Ludington St., Escanaba, MI 49829 906/786-4504 • 906/786-4534 fax
- HOUGHTON**
616 Sheldon Ave., Room 213, Houghton, MI 49931 906/482-1371 • 906/482-4855 fax
Part time: Mon.-Thu., 9am-1pm
- MARQUETTE**
1229 W. Washington St., Marquette, MI 49855 906/228-3700 • 906/228-2305 fax
- PETOSKEY**
Emmet County Building, 200 Division St., Petoskey, MI 49770 231/348-0657 • 231/348-0653 fax
- WEST BRANCH**
512 East Houghton Ave., West Branch, MI 48661 989/345-2258 • 989/345-2285 fax

We have periodic updates that are sent out via email and you may sign up for our email newsletters by visiting my website at: <http://www.house.gov/stupak/>. You can also find a listing of upcoming town hall meetings on the website and email me with your concerns. We are continually looking for better and more efficient ways to serve you!

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Hurricane Relief

For list of organizations providing assistance to victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, check

www.house.gov/stupak/hurricane_katrina_relief.htm

Congressman Bart Stupak's

FALL 2005 UPDATE

In this Edition:

Stupak Introduces Gas Price Gouging Legislation

Great Lakes Drilling Ban Becomes Reality

EPA Proposal to Allow Partially Treated Sewage into Lakes Blocked

Stupak Named Ranking Member on Oversight & Investigations

\$47.6 Million In Road Improvement Funding Coming to 1st District

Small Harbors Eligible for Dredging

Budget Discipline AND Constituent Service

Keeping in Touch: Email Updates and Town Hall Meetings



Stupak's Great Lakes Drilling Ban Signed by President



Seniority, Leadership, and Persistence Pay Off

Thanks to a decade's worth of work by Congressman Bart Stupak, we now have a permanent ban on any new oil and gas drilling in or under the Great Lakes. The ban is part of the comprehensive energy bill signed into law by President Bush on August 8th. The drilling ban will protect human health and the environment.

With oil and gas drilling comes the possibility of intentional or accidental release of potentially deadly hydrogen sulfide gas. Several years ago a number of people in the Manistee area became severely sick and permanently disabled after being exposed to hydrogen sulfide gas. We have a responsibility to our citizens to protect their health, safety, drinking water, and the one natural resource that we cherish the most – our Great Lakes.

The Great Lakes are one of our nation's greatest natural resources. They are home to 20% of the world's fresh water and 95% of the United States' surface fresh water. Drilling in the Great Lakes won't make a dent in America's energy needs. From 1979, when directional drilling began in Michigan, until 2004, the amount of oil and gas drawn from Great Lakes wells produced only enough natural gas to fuel the U.S. energy needs for 9 hours and only enough crude oil to fuel the US for a mere 35 minutes.

The ban permanently prevents any state or federal government agency from issuing a permit or lease for oil or gas drilling in or under our Great Lakes and will protect them for countless generations to come.



Congressman Stupak speaks at the Energy Bill drilling ban news conference. He is joined by Michigan Congressmen Dale Kildee and Vernon Ehlers.

Small Harbors Eligible For Dredging

Thanks to an amendment authored by Congressman Stupak, dozens of harbors throughout the Great Lakes will be eligible for dredging next year. Many harbors experience significant silting, which fills in the harbor and makes it unusable for recreation and commercial shipping. In previous years, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) would dredge the harbors to help keep them open for boaters and shipping.

The problem was that in Fiscal Year 2005 the Bush Administration implemented a new formula for calculating which harbors would be eligible for dredging through the USACE. The new regulation required a harbor to have a minimum of 1 million tons of shipping in order to receive federal assistance with dredging. This meant that many harbors, like the Ontonagon Harbor and other 1st District harbors, would not be dredged and would face serious economic and infrastructure damage.

In response, Congressman Stupak authored and passed the amendment to the Water Resources Development Act directing the USACE to make budget requests for dredging projects based upon guidelines used in Fiscal Year (FY) 2004, thus dropping the 1 million ton requirement. The provision must now be passed by the Senate and signed into law by the President for the amendment to become law.

Budget Discipline AND Constituent Service

For the 12th straight year, Rep. Bart Stupak did not spend all funds allotted to him for operating his D.C. and seven District offices. Since taking office, nearly \$400,000 in unused funds have been returned to the U.S. Treasury to be applied to debt reduction.

While demonstrating budget discipline, constituent service efforts have continued to post solid numbers.

For 2004, the Congressman and his staff did the following:

- Constituent cases completed = 1,393
- Constituent letters answered = 35,756
- Town Hall Meetings held between January–December 2004 = 17

First District Roads To See \$47.6 Million In Improvements



The final version of the Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, also known as TEA-LU, provides \$286.4 billion in funding for transportation programs and projects from Fiscal Years 2005-2009. Michigan's First Congressional District will receive \$47.6 million in earmarks for more than 30 road projects.

The drastic seasonal changes and harsh weather conditions take a toll on Michigan roads. Many of the projects included in this year's final Transportation Bill are long overdue, so the additional funding will help expedite these needed improvements.

Congressman Stupak fought hard to have the projects included in the bill. For every \$1 billion in highway funding, 47,500 new jobs and \$6.2 billion in economic activity are created. These improvements will bring more than better roads. They will bring jobs and economic development from Houghton to Bay County.

Stupak, Leader on Oversight & Investigations Subcommittee

Earlier this year Congressman Stupak was elected to serve as the ranking Democrat on the Energy and Commerce Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee. As a former Escanaba City police officer and a Michigan State Police Trooper, Bart acquired many investigative skills that will be an asset in solving issues that come before the committee.

In recent years, the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee has held hearings on such significant issues as the fraudulent accounting at Enron, the insider trading scandal involving ImClone and Martha Stewart, the investigation of Firestone tires, the financial fraud of Health South, and the harmful effects of the prescription drug Accutane.

The ranking Member holds the top position on the Committee on behalf of the Democratic Members. Stupak has served on the Oversight and Investigation Subcommittee for most of his tenure in Congress. This year the committee has had investigations and hearings into the efforts to assure we have a safe and ample flu vaccine, Hurricane Katrina relief efforts, nuclear security at Los Alamos National Laboratory, corruption in the Oil For Food program in Iraq, and the global warning system to alert nations about possible tsunamis.



Stupak Blocks EPA From Allowing More Human Sewage In Great Lakes

During times of high rains or flooding, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) allows partially treated human sewage to be mixed with fully treated water and discharged into Great Lakes waterways. This is to be allowed in only the most extreme of conditions when treatment facilities cannot physically process all of the water entering the system. In November 2003, the EPA proposed to relax those regulations and allow more frequent discharges of partially treated waste into our waterways.

In May, Congressman Stupak was successful in amending the House version of the Interior Appropriations bill to block the EPA from enacting their sewage blending guidelines. That same day, the

EPA released a statement that they would not move forward in finalizing their proposal. Despite the EPA's decision to not move forward with their proposed changes, Stupak pushed to have the amendment included in the final Interior Appropriations bill to make sure EPA appointees didn't change their mind and try again to implement the proposed changes.

After almost two years of aggressively moving this issue to the forefront, Congressman Stupak's amendment to stop this harmful policy to dump partially treated human sewage in our waterways became law in the final Interior bill.