



# Putting Michigan Families *FIRST*

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## Protecting Consumers and Holding Government Accountable



As Chairman of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, Congressman Stupak is committed to ensuring food and prescription drugs are safe for families. Over the past 18 months, he's held 16 hearings focused on the Food & Drug Administration's (FDA's) inability to adequately protect Americans from tainted food and drugs.

Outbreaks, including melamine-laced wheat gluten from China that killed countless pets; the E.coli-tainted spinach from California that sickened scores of people; and the recent salmonella outbreak which the FDA attributed to tomatoes and jalapeño peppers, are unacceptable. The hearings Congressman Stupak held will help determine how to prevent them.

Congressman Stupak and the Subcommittee also held hearings on drug safety concerns, including the contaminated blood thinner, Heparin, where more than 150 people have died as a result of allergic reactions.

To learn more about Chairman Stupak's Oversight and Investigations, visit <http://energycommerce.house.gov/subcommittees/ovin.shtml>



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Congressman Stupak is Working to Help Lower Gas Prices, Fighting for America's Veterans and Protecting Consumers

For more information, please visit my website at: [www.house.gov/stupak](http://www.house.gov/stupak)

# Congressman Stupak is Working to Help Lower Gas Prices, Fighting for America's Veterans and Protecting Consumers



"I know from my travels throughout the district that rising gas prices are putting a real strain on household budgets. That's why I'm working to help provide real relief at the pump, so families can afford the gas they need now and in the future. I'm also fighting for America's veterans and working to protect consumers. As always, I want to hear from you, so please don't hesitate to contact my office."

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bart Stupak".

## Working to Lower Gas Prices

Gas prices are causing hardworking families real financial hardship. Congress must act now to reduce the nation's dependence on foreign oil and provide needed relief—now and for the long term. That's why Congressman Bart Stupak:

- ◆ **Introduced the Prevent Unfair Manipulation of Prices (PUMP) Act to stop excessive market speculation** that's driving up gas prices. This legislation will also close loopholes that energy speculators use to avoid government oversight.
- ◆ **Introduced legislation to crack down on oil companies and gas stations who artificially inflate the cost of gas.**
- ◆ **Voted to suspend the government's purchase of oil for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve** until oil prices fall below \$75 per barrel. This keeps an additional 75,000 barrels of oil on the market daily, which could reduce gas prices by 5 to 24 cents a gallon.
- ◆ **Supports drilling in Alaska's National Petroleum Reserve Area (NPRA).** We know that there are 22.6 million acres available in the NPRA containing 10.6 billion barrels of oil.
- ◆ **Supports protecting the Great Lakes.** The Great Lakes are the region's economic engine, and we must protect them from drilling. In fact, in its 30 year history, the 13 directionally drilled wells under the U.S. side of the Great Lakes have only produced enough natural gas to fuel the U.S. for 9 hours and enough crude oil for 35 minutes. This small amount is only a drop in the energy bucket and not worth risking the Great Lakes.



*Congressman Bart Stupak—joined by MI Reps. Dale Kildee (Flint) and Vern Ehlers (Grand Rapids)—talks about his opposition to drilling in the Great Lakes.*

## Fighting for Michigan Veterans

Congressman Stupak is committed to serving the men and women who have put their lives in harm's way to protect America and its freedoms.

### ◆ Giving America's Vets the Educational Opportunities They Deserve

Congressman Stupak voted for the **Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act**, which increases education benefits for all those who have served at least three months on active duty since 9/11. Those who served for at least 36 months, not necessarily consecutively, would qualify for the full benefit—the cost of a four-year education at an in-state public college.

### ◆ Honoring America's Fallen Soldiers

Congressman Stupak introduced two bills that honor fallen soldiers and pay respect to their grieving families. The first requires the Department of Defense (DoD) to transport a fallen service member's remains to the airport closest to his or her family. DoD was forcing some rural military families to drive hundreds of miles to meet the remains of their fallen loved one. America's military families deserve better. This bill was enacted into law in January 2008.

He also authored the **Army Specialist Joseph P. Micks Federal Flag Code Amendment Act** of 2007, named after a soldier from Rapid River, Michigan who was killed in Iraq. This legislation ensures that when a fallen soldier, marine, airman or sailor is laid to rest, all federal agencies in the state must fly the American flag at half-staff upon a governor's proclamation. This bill was signed into law last year.

### ◆ Ensuring Veterans Receive the Benefits They Deserve

Congressman Stupak is a proud co-sponsor of the **Veterans Guaranteed Bonus Act** which ensures all outstanding bonuses are paid to service members who are severely injured in combat and cannot return to duty. Previously, the DoD had been unfairly prorating a soldier's bonus based on the number of months the soldier served before their medical discharge.



*Congressman Bart Stupak meets with Ogemaw County veterans to discuss his work in Congress on behalf of veterans.*

**For more information, please visit my website at: [www.house.gov/stupak](http://www.house.gov/stupak)**