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The Honorable Harry Reid
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-0001

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
361-A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-0001

Dear Senators Reid and McConnell,

I am writing to you regarding the ongoing energy crisis we face as a nation and what I see as an opportunity for Congress to act now to bring an end to the pain Americans feel each time they go to the pump.

Mississippians contact me every day to express their frustrations with the high cost of gas and to share stories of how it impacts their day-to-day lives. Due to the rural makeup of a majority of my state, people do not have the opportunity to park their vehicles and depend on public transportation. Given that reality, we are inching closer to a true emergency situation, and it is past time for real legislative steps to be taken to begin to bring an end to the energy crisis.

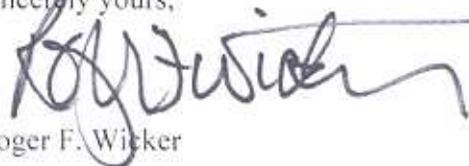
I am encouraged by recent reports of bipartisan discussions on energy legislation and believe we may be on a path to reach the consensus necessary to move forward. The time to act is now. Therefore, I request that the U.S. Senate not adjourn for the August district work period until we pass legislation that will make a true difference for the American people. At this critical time, there is not a more important debate we as elected officials can have.

Our long-term solution should address both supply and demand. Increased incentives for clean renewable and alternative energy should be included, as should measures to increase conservation. Our country is transitioning into an economy that is less reliant on fossil fuels, but that will not happen overnight. As this transition occurs, we must act now to increase domestic energy production in order to lower energy costs for consumers and ensure our economy remains competitive in the years ahead.

Due to the vast energy resources located off Mississippi's Gulf Coast, I have worked hard since first being elected to Congress to expand responsible and environmentally sound energy exploration in the deep waters of our nation's Outer Continental Shelf. I look forward to continuing to work with you and the rest of our Senate colleagues to use this opportunity to forge a bipartisan compromise on energy legislation that provides real, workable solutions for the American people.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,



Roger F. Wicker