

## **GOP goes on Energy Offensive: Op/Eds and Media Coverage**

**Congressman Marsha Blackburn** wrote an op/ed for the Memphis Commercial Appeal detailing four solutions for Congress to help ease the pain that Americans are experiencing at the pump. *“The family budget is now a laboratory for a national energy experiment that is reducing the domestic supply of oil and increasing demand for foreign oil. A few of my colleagues and I have solutions that will reverse this course. Congress can take four simple actions to bring the price at the pump down. Some will show an immediate result, while others are long-term solutions, but they all rely on much-needed congressional action.”* Among the solutions that Rep. Blackburn offered were: 1) Temporarily lift the federal gas tax. 2) Promote production of American-made energy. 3) Cut red tape, expedite new refining capacity. 4) Conservation tax incentives.

**Congressman Bob Latta** visited gas stations throughout his Ohio District, where he pointed out that the U.S. is falling behind other countries in developing energy resources and said gasoline prices would start to fall if the United States would begin taking steps toward new drilling and refining of oil in this country. The Toledo Blade reported that Congressman Latta *“has introduced a resolution in Congress that calls for an energy policy that expands U.S. refining capacity, as part of a five-point plan. He also called for additional nuclear power plants and investment in coal gasification — converting coal to gas to generate electricity — as well as continued investment in wind and solar energy.”* *“If Congress would start to act right now, especially with oil, that would stop some of the speculation on the world market,”* Mr. Latta said, predicting that would have an immediate impact on the price of gasoline at the pump.

**Representative Marilyn Musgrave** visited gas stations in her district and helped constituents fill up their tanks while offering solutions to help lower prices at the pump. The Greeley Tribune reported about Rep. Musgrave’s efforts: *“Standing up after helping fill 15-year-old Doug Nale’s 1970 teal and rust Buick Skylark on Thursday morning, Musgrave looks at her hands. She’s a long way from the U.S. Capitol in Washington. By the time Doug is Musgrave’s age, Americans may not even use gas in their cars, though the Skylark will always run on gas, and a lot of it at that. But that doesn’t stop Doug, who will soon get his learner’s permit, from getting his car ready to hit the road, and it doesn’t stop the gas from spilling out of the nearly four-decade-old gas tank when it’s full onto Musgrave’s hands. In the back of a small central Greeley Safeway gas station store, where gas was \$3.87 per gallon Thursday morning, Musgrave washes her hands. Refreshed, she walks back outside, walking up to Andrea Truchses’ Subaru to ask her if she can help her pump gas. For now, Musgrave says she’s busy trying to figure out solutions to America’s gas price problem. Domestic exploration in Arctic national Wildlife Refuge is one solution as is a temporary suspension of filling the United States’ Strategic Petroleum Reserve, according to a flier Musgrave’s people are handing out to residents after she walks away from their cars. Musgrave said she also wants investment in alternative fuel technology, including ethanol.”*

**Congressman John Carter** wrote an op/ed for the Austin American Statesman about the need for Congress to act to encourage conservation and promote the research and innovation necessary to develop energy sources and technologies. *“For years, Republicans have brought forth common-sense, environmentally responsible energy policies that would provide our country with its own secure oil and gas supply, but those policies have been blocked by Democrats in Congress, the Senate and the White House.... Republicans in Congress recently unveiled an energy plan that will bring the much needed relief for American families by safely and responsibly increasing supplies. These reforms are the only way Americans are going to see lower prices at the pump. With 21st century technologies and the strictest standards in the world, America can and must produce more of its own energy and protect the environment at the same time. That is the change Americans deserve,”* wrote Carter.

### **Communicator of the Week**

**Rep. Mike Pence discusses increasing American Energy supply on Your World With Neil Cavuto (FNC)**

*“The American people should know that 90% of Republicans have always voted for more drilling, and 90% of Democrats have always voted against more drilling. But at \$3.99 per gallon, I think that is going to change.”*

**Congressman Buck McKeon** wrote an op/ed for the FlashReport, California's political news site, detailing the Republican solutions for America's energy problems. *"Last week, congressional Republicans unveiled an energy strategy designed to directly combat factors that are driving up fuel costs, offering a path to energy independence and economic improvement. The Republican plan will increase, in an environmentally-conscious manner, the production of American-made energy, which will bring down gas prices while creating jobs here at home. Republicans also know that by helping Americans to help themselves, we can produce small changes that will make a big difference. To that end, Republicans will encourage greater energy efficiency by offering conservation tax incentives to Americans who make their home, car, or business more energy efficient. We owe it to our students, teachers, workers, and small businesses to embrace an energy plan that will increase production, emphasize innovation, and promote conservation. While congressional Democrats stubbornly refuse to reveal their long-promised plan to bring down the price of gas, Republicans are offering concrete solutions that will make a real difference for our energy future, and our economic future,"* wrote McKeon.

**Congressman Jeb Hensarling** hosted a series of Town Hall meetings focused on gas prices and the need for real energy reform. The Kaufman Herald, in a story entitled "Hensarling Touts Energy Plan," wrote, *"Congressman Jeb Hensarling visited Kaufman County Commissioners Court on Wednesday to discuss the nation's energy policy.... "Our energy problems were not created overnight, and they will not be solved overnight," said Hensarling. "That is why it is critical that we start taking steps NOW to begin to address this problem. ... If we want prices to come down, we have to increase the supply of American energy. I want to see more signs that read, 'Made in the U.S.A.'" Hensarling supports expanding American energy exploration and production in Arctic Alaska and on the Outer Continental Shelf, expanding domestic refining capacity, reducing the number of boutique fuels, and cutting wasteful pork barrel spending to give Americans a gas tax holiday. "When I first started driving in the 1970s, the Arab oil embargo was stranding American drivers on the side of the road and creating lines at our nation's service stations. We can bring back the bell bottoms, disco balls, or eight track tapes, but I will fight to ensure Washington does not bring back the same ineffective energy policies of price controls and higher taxes."*

## **"One Minute" Participation**

On May 21 and 22nd, 10 RSC Members delivered one-minute speeches. Rep. Ted Poe spoke both days, first on free speech and second on Global Warming and energy. Rep. Mike Pence also spoke twice, first on the Troop funding DOD supplemental bill, where Democrats voted against providing funding for deployed servicemen and for pork and tax increases, and second on Republican efforts to increase American energy supplies. Reps. Gresham Barrett, Mike Conaway, and Sam Johnson also spoke about gas prices and Republican efforts to increase energy supplies. Rep. Paul Ryan spoke about the need to provide real solutions to America's oncoming entitlement crisis, and Rep. Lamar Smith spoke about unbalanced media coverage by NBC. Rep. Doug Lamborn spoke about Armenian Remembrance Day.

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