



## DEMAND REAL SOLUTIONS TO HIGH GAS PRICES USING YOUR VOICE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE THIS AUGUST

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Americans are in real pain paying record high prices at the pump. Meanwhile, Big Oil has banked record profits of \$44 billion (that's with a b) in just three months and has spent \$80 million on lobbyists to call for more drilling access and to oppose real solution to high gas prices that would end our addiction to oil. Hmmmm, wonder why?

Corporate welfare for the oil companies is the energy policy of the Bush Administration. But it has done nothing for Americans and it is time for a change. The last eight years of more domestic drilling have not led to lower prices. We need to stop rehashing old rhetoric and instead implement real solutions today to lower prices while building a better economy with new jobs for Americans, and creating a cleaner environment.

### **Using Your Voice to Demand Faster, Cheaper, Better Energy Solutions**

Knowing what their constituents are thinking is incredibly important to elected officials. One tool they use to be able to stay in touch with their constituents is town hall meetings. These can be large public forums or small intimate gatherings, sometimes they are even phone conference calls. Whatever the venue, the most important thing is that people show up.

These opportunities are the perfect time to show your concern over today's current energy costs and the attempts by Big Oil to convince us more access for drilling somehow a good option. Your elected officials need to know that you demand real leadership to help us today in the face of sky-rocking prices and to address our nation's dependence on oil, its effects on our economy and environment, and its contribution to global warming.

### **Going to a town hall meeting in your community**

Congressional Representatives periodically host free constituent events in their local communities such as town hall meetings or open houses. These events are your opportunity as a constituent to make it clear what is important to you. Remember, members of congress are there to hear from those, like you, who hire them to do a job in Washington DC. You have every right to make it clear that you are not fooled by Big Oil's lies and manipulations and that you want real action.

When you learn of an event – whether through Defenders or another source – it is always a good idea to call your senator or representatives local office and confirm the date and time. Some events may require an RSVP. Before the event sketch out the key points you wish to make. Feel free to add your personal touch from your own experience. Remember, the best way to be memorable is to be clear and concise – you may not have a lot of time. And always be respectful of the elected official, their staff, and the others in attendance. Don't forget to let us know that you took action.

On the flip side of this sheet are a few sample talking points to help you, but don't forget it is your voice and your point of view that matters most. You can also learn more facts by visiting [www.defenders.org/energy](http://www.defenders.org/energy).

## Sample Talking Points

- My name is NAME from CITY
- I'm sick of paying high prices at the pump and worried about heating bills this coming winter, but I want real solutions, not rhetoric or lies.
- More drilling will not lower gas prices today, or for years to come, it will only continue our dependence on Big Oil and threaten our coastal communities, our fishing industries and our wildlife with oil spills. ENOUGH with drilling! We need real solutions.
- We have faster, cheaper, and better options available now to lower prices. Options which won't threaten our economy or our wildlife like drilling does; options which also build our economy with new jobs for Americans, and new domestic energy sources.
- We need faster results like rebates and incentives for consumers from cutting the billions of dollars of subsidies currently going to Big Oil. Congress should also rein in out of control speculation that is artificially inflating gas prices.
- We need to create clean energy solutions by investing in new technologies and increased energy efficiencies.
- We need policies that will make a better today and tomorrow.
- Only real solutions will help us achieve independence from Big Oil and lower our energy costs.
- Oil companies already have access to drilling on 68 million acres of public land that they haven't started to drill on yet. Let's not also sacrifice our last protected areas for what amounts to a **non-solution** to our energy problems!