



JUN 20 2008

U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission
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Bart Chilton
Commissioner

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June 20, 2008

The Honorable John D. Dingell, Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
2328 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Bart Stupak, Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
2352 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Dingell and Stupak:

Thank you for your leadership in addressing critically important questions regarding energy markets. I appreciate your holding a hearing to question and analyze these issues, and I appreciate your efforts to provide additional transparency to America's commodity markets to protect consumers and businesses, and to ensure that these markets provide price discovery and risk management functions as intended by Congress.

As I have stated, I believe that there is a significant speculative presence in the oil futures market, and that this cannot help but have an effect on price. My concern is that there have as yet been no studies that accurately quantify the amount or extent of this effect. I believe this should be undertaken, by independent and neutral parties, as promptly as possible. I also believe that we need to study the effect of largely long "passive" speculative investors, along with a review of their classification under commodities laws and regulations, to ensure that their trading does not have a deleterious effect on the legitimate price discovery and risk management functions of the futures markets.

I also want to ensure that the Commission has the ability to identify the beneficial owners of all positions taken in commodities markets. To date, I do not believe that this issue has received adequate attention to any extent, and it may be desirable to direct that further study be undertaken to ensure that sovereign wealth funds are acting solely to benefit their market positions, and not for any geopolitical or other reason.

Again, I thank you for your leadership in this area, and I look forward to working with you on this and other issues of significance to American consumers and businesses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bart Chilton', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Bart Chilton
Commissioner

cc: Congressman Joe Barton
Congressman John Shimkus