



JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
SENATOR CHARLES E. SCHUMER
CHAIRMAN



FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY
May 18, 2007

Contact: Israel Klein
202-224-0368

MEDIA ADVISORY:

**BREAKING UP THE OIL COMPANIES: IS A
RECONSIDERATION OF OIL CO. MERGERS IN
THE LAST TWO DECADES IN ORDER?**

*Congressional Joint Economic Cmte to Begin Overdue Debate on Consolidation in
U.S. Oil Industry and its Impact on Consumers and Energy Security*

*Competing Views of the GAO and FTC Raises the Question: Is U.S. Policy on
Mergers Protecting Oil Companies or Consumers?*

*JEC Chair Schumer: "Would More Competitors in the Oil Industry Lower Gas
Prices for Consumers?"*

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer (D-NY), Chairman of the Joint Economic Committee, will hold a hearing on the economic impact of consolidation in the oil industry entitled, *"Is Market Concentration in the U.S. Petroleum Industry Harming Consumers?"* on **Wednesday, May 23, 2007 at 10:00am** in **216 Hart Senate Office Building**. The JEC will examine the impacts of consolidation in the oil and gas industry on competition, gasoline prices, and consumers' energy choices. Specifically, the Committee will investigate whether oil industry mergers and increased market concentration have enabled firms to raise their prices above competitive levels and strategically withhold capacity to keep prices high; and investigate whether firms are preventing the entry of cheaper fuel alternatives for consumers at the pump.

**WHAT: JEC Hearing: "Is Market Concentration in the
U.S. Petroleum Industry Harming Consumers?"**

WHEN: Wednesday, May 23, 2007 at 10:00am

WHERE: 216 Hart Senate Office Building

First Panel Witnesses:

- Dr. Thomas McCool, Director, Center for Economics, Government Accountability Office
- Dr. Michael Salinger, Director of the Bureau of Economics, Federal Trade Commission

Second Panel Witnesses:

- Dr. Diana Moss, American Antitrust Institute, Vice President and Senior Research Fellow
- Dennis DeCota, Calif. Service Station and Automotive Repair Assn., Executive Director
- Dr. James Smith, Southern Methodist University, Chair of Oil and Gas Management

The Joint Economic Committee, established under the Employment Act of 1946, was created by Congress to review economic conditions and to analyze the effectiveness of economic policy.

www.jec.senate.gov

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