

CONGRESSMAN RON KLEIN'S

DECLARATION

OF

ENERGY

INDEPENDENCE



“We are thinking big and passing bold, innovative solutions to end our dependence on oil. Today must be Day One in our move towards clean, affordable renewable energy.” – Congressman Ron Klein

To lower gas prices now:

- **Demand the oil companies Drill It or Lose It**
 - Oil companies currently control 68,000,000 acres of public land that are environmentally permitted and ready for drilling today, but are simply sitting vacant
 - Congressman Klein strongly supported legislation, the Responsible Federal Oil and Gas Lease Act (H.R. 6251), known as the “use it or lose it” bill. This legislation compels oil companies to start drilling land they already control before they can lease any new federal land.
 - Unfortunately, the Bush Administration and some House Republicans blocked this common-sense bill, but Congressman Klein is committed to fighting to see the bill passed.
 - Compelling oil companies to “drill it or lose it” will ease the burden on American families and businesses struggling with high gas prices without ending the 25-year-old, bipartisan ban on oil drilling off Florida’s coasts.
- **Impose criminal penalties for gas price gougers**
 - One major factor contributing to high gas prices is various forms of price gouging in the oil industry.
 - Price gouging is a serious problem, as evidenced this month in New Jersey, where officials surveyed 1,000 gas stations and found 350 cases of price gouging.
 - To crack down on price gougers, Congressman Klein strongly supported legislation, the Federal Price Gouging Prevention Act (H.R. 6346), instituting criminal penalties for anyone caught charging more than fair market price for gas.
 - This legislation was also blocked by the Bush Administration and some House Republicans, and American families are stuck with the bill at the pump. Congressman Klein will continue fighting to pass this bill and bring prices down.
- **Stop the speculation that is driving up oil prices**
 - Unregulated speculation in the oil markets is another huge factor causing our high gas prices. Experts tell us that by ending unregulated speculation in the markets, we could cut the price of oil by up to 50 percent.

- This week, the House passed tough legislation, the Energy Markets Emergency Act (H.R. 6377), to crack down on these speculators and close loopholes opened up for overseas energy traders. This legislation could have a real, practical effect on bringing gas prices down, and Congressman Klein strongly advocated for its passage.

To end our oil addiction:

- **Expand clean energy tax credits for businesses and families**

- Congressman Klein strongly supported bold legislation passed by the House this year, the Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act (H.R. 5351), which extends tax credits to consumers buying energy efficient products, from hybrid cars to new appliances, and to businesses producing these new technologies.
- These tax credits provide important incentives for Americans to change their energy habits. The credits also put more money in the hands of small businesses owners taking a risk in this new field, helping them keep the doors open and create new jobs in our community.
- Congressman Klein strongly supports paying for these tax credits by ending huge subsidies to oil companies. He believes it is time to stop subsidizing oil companies and start investing in clean energy businesses.

- **Invest in cutting edge research to develop affordable energy**

- Congressman Klein believes it is long past time for the President and Congress to show some real leadership on alternative energy. Instead of continuing to feed our national addiction to oil, he says that we must support scientists and entrepreneurs as they develop new energy technologies.
- He strongly supports real investment in scientists and businesses who are developing and commercializing the next generation of energy sources, including wind, wave, solar and other renewable energy technologies.