

**Wally
Herger**
Congressman

2nd District - California

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Herger Praises House Passage of Bill Addressing Rising Gas Prices

(WASHINGTON D.C.) -- Congressman Herger today voted for H.R. 5254, the "Refinery Permit Process Schedule Act," which the House passed by a vote of 238 to 179. The bill would streamline the permitting process for new or expanded refineries, without changing any of our environmental laws. The text of Herger's floor remarks in favor of H.R. 5254, including a video and audio link, are below. Herger had the following reaction after House passage of the bill:

"The people of Northern California pay more for gas than just about everyone in America," Herger stated. "Part of the reason gas prices have skyrocketed is that America has not built a new refinery since 1976. As a result, our nation's energy infrastructure today cannot meet our growing demand for gasoline--which has required us to import more and more of this product.

"The Refinery Permit Process Schedule Act represents an important step toward reducing our dependence on foreign energy, and will help secure more affordable and stable gas prices in the future," continued Herger. "It would make it easier for American companies to expand or build new refineries, thereby increasing our domestic ability to refine crude oil.

"Importantly, 21st Century technology allows our nation to make refineries cleaner and more efficient. In contrast to the claims of environmental special interests, expanding America's refinery capacity and protecting our environment is not an 'either-or' proposition. I urge the Senate to promptly pass this common sense legislation," concluded Herger.

About 21 million barrels of refined gasoline are consumed in the United States every day. Our domestic refinery capacity is less than 17 million barrels per day. Thus, there is a shortage of 4 million barrels a day in refining capacity for domestic demand for refined products from oil.

The text of Congressman Herger's floor remarks are below. To view or record them, visit www.house.gov/herger/images/CWHGasPrices-6-7-6.rm on the Internet.

For more information, log on to <http://www.house.gov/herger> on the Internet!

Herger's Floor Remarks - In support of H.R. 5254

Mr. Speaker, gas prices are at records highs in my Northern California congressional district. Part of the reason is that America's refining capacity is stretched to the limit.

Yet efforts to expand our refining capacity face up to 10-years of bureaucratic red tape. At that pace, it's no wonder America has not built a new refinery in 30 years.

This legislation cuts through some of that red tape by simply requiring that the federal agencies work together and stay on schedule when refinery projects are being considered. I don't think it's too much to ask that federal bureaucracies work more efficiently.

Families and businesses throughout this country have to meet deadlines. Mr. Speaker, the government should have to as well. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.