

JOHN BARRASSO M.D.
WYOMING

307 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
202-224-6441

United States Senate

March 3, 2011

COMMITTEES:
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
FOREIGN RELATIONS
INDIAN AFFAIRS
RANKING

The Honorable Barack H. Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

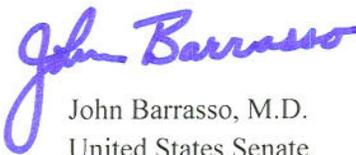
Yesterday, when asked about the Administration's plan to stop rising gas prices, White House Press Secretary Jay Carney repeatedly said "we are monitoring the situation closely." Oil prices have been increasing for months. In addition to monitoring the situation, I hope your Administration has a plan in place to address the problem. It is an issue that hits every family's pocketbook and threatens to undercut the economic recovery.

On Christmas Day 2010, the average nationwide price for regular gasoline set a record for that day. Instability in Northern Africa and the Middle East are making the situation worse. At the same time, your Administration has put a virtual freeze on offshore oil and natural gas exploration. Not surprisingly, the Energy Information Administration estimates that American offshore production will decrease 15 percent this year because of the shutdown. Depending on OPEC for additional production hurts our economic security, and national security.

When it comes to energy policy, this Administration is picking winners and losers. In addition to cutting offshore exploration, this Administration has restricted access to onshore oil and natural gas on public lands. It has slowed progress on oil shale, even though the Western United States has the largest known oil shale deposits in the world. It is also pursuing regulations that – according to the Administration's own analysis – will cause the loss of 2,100 to 29,000 coal mining jobs.

We need a comprehensive, all-of-the-above strategy for American energy – that includes oil and natural gas, coal, nuclear, and renewable sources like wind and solar. Rather than blocking selected energy sources, Washington should promote responsible development of all forms of American energy. The American people deserve a commonsense plan for addressing rising gas prices. "Monitoring the situation" is not a viable option.

Sincerely,


John Barrasso, M.D.
United States Senate

100 EAST B STREET
SUITE 2201
CASPER, WY 82602
307-261-6413

2120 CAPITOL AVENUE
SUITE 2013
CHEYENNE, WY 82001
307-772-2451

324 EAST WASHINGTON AVENUE
RIVERTON, WY 82501
307-856-6642

1575 DEWAR DRIVE
SUITE 218
ROCK SPRINGS, WY 82901
307-362-5012

2 NORTH MAIN STREET
SUITE 206
SHERIDAN, WY 82801
307-672-6456

WYOMING
TOLL FREE
1-866-235-9553
WWW.BARRASSO.SENATE.GOV