

HARLEY O. STAGGERS  
2D DISTRICT, WEST VIRGINIA

HOME ADDRESS:  
KEYSER, WEST VIRGINIA

CHAIRMAN:  
COMMITTEE ON  
INTERSTATE AND FOREIGN  
COMMERCE

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515**

January 7, 1974

Mr. T. B. Bickel  
Bickel Insurance Agency  
P. O. Box 586  
Webster Springs, West Virginia 26288

Dear Tom:

Thank you so much for your letter of recent date advising of your opposition to the proposed Energy Emergency Act.

It was good hearing from you again, Tom. I do hope everything is going along well and that you and yours had a most pleasant Holiday Season.

It was certainly good of you to take the time to write me and I appreciate more than I can say having the benefit of your views on S. 2589. I agree with you wholeheartedly concerning the separation of power between the Legislative and Executive Branches of our Government. I, too, am very much concerned about this and will continue my efforts toward curtailing this abuse.

Tom, we did have quite a "battle" during the last days of the First Session. Many of my colleagues joined me in expressing our opposition to various facets of the Senate bill. For this reason, we did not give House approval.

Again, thanks a million for your thought-provoking letter. You may be assured I will continue doing my very best toward the passage of fair and equitable legislation for all.

With very best wishes and kind personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

HARLEY O. STAGGERS



DEC 28 1973

December 21, 1973  
Webster Springs, W. Va.

Rep. Harley Staggers  
Room 2366  
Rayburn House Office Bldg.,  
Washington, D. C. 20515

*Dear Tom*

Dear Congressman Staggers:

I take this means of expressing my opposition to Senate Bill #2589, which I believe is called Energy Emergency Act, and to ask that you and members of the House of Representative oppose this legislation.

I do not believe that too much power should be placed in our executive branch which has already proven to be irresponsible and has abused power delegated to it.

This administration has sought more and more power with a flagrant disregard for the Legislature and Judicial branches of government.

Now, Congress, especially the Senate, seems to be in a mood to give virtually complete control, over energy sources and energy uses, into the hands of the Executive. If this is done the lives and independence of every phase of our society is placed in the hands of a picked group who have already endeavored to usurp to themselves full control of our society, by any means available to them.

Controls may be necessary but why not form a joint commission from all three branches of government along with private involvement to establish controls over energy uses and allocations.

We must remember, that, the light of freedom is always deminished and can be lost in its entirety by granting too much power to any one individual or segment of government.

I have just heard a recommendation from Sec.-Treasury that prices on gasoline and oil be increased as a means of cutting back on consumption. I am sure that this would be an effective way to control the amount of gasoline used. It would also discriminate against every citizen of our country who is not in a high income bracket.

It makes little difference to one who has \$40,000. or \$50,000. annual income what prices are, but it certainly does make a difference to the majority of our people. The people are not interested in returning to serfdom.

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Rep. Harley Staggers

December 21, 1973

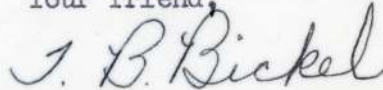
Sec. Shultz suggested the increase in price be plowed back into exploration and production of more energy fuels. We have no guarantee that would be done. If more money is needed by the industry let it be done by subsidizing them and then only those corporations who actually make an effort should receive additional aid.

The important emphasis here is, however, if prices get out of reach of the low income people they will be stranded in their homes without means of transportation to and from jobs, market, church even to medical assistance.

I do not believe this administration can be depended on to make a clear decision that will be favorable to the majority of people. I think Congress will need to set the pace by formulating a plan for an equitable distribution of the energy we have.

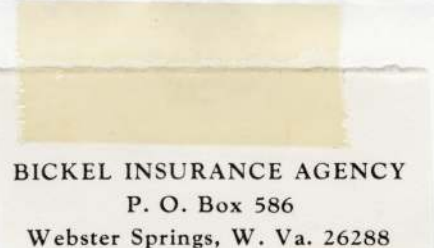
With kindest personal regards, I am

Your friend,



T. B. Bickel

TB/dqh



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