

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

Dr. and Mrs. Robert L. Church
308 Milford Street
Morgantown, West Virginia

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Church:

Thank you very much for your letter of recent date. I appreciate your taking the time to write me.

From your communication, I note your opposition to raising prices of gasoline as a means of conserving our national energy. Needless to say, I agree with you wholeheartedly. In fact, I think this is the wrong way to accomplish anything and especially to bring about a solution to our present energy crisis.

It is also good to have the benefit of your views relative to gasoline rationing. As you know, of course, the House and Senate did take action on the Energy Emergency Act during the last days of the First Session. In all probability, it will be one of the first items to be considered when the Second Session of the 93rd Congress convenes.

You may be assured I will continue my efforts toward the passage of fair and equitable legislation for all.

Again, thanking you for writing me and with best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

HARLEY O. STAGGERS

508 Milford
Morgantown, W. Va.
Dec. 13, 1973

The Honorable Harley O. Staggers
2366 Rayburn Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

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Dear Representative Staggers,

We urge you to seriously consider a system of gasoline rationing, and to quash the suggestion by the President's advisors of exorbitant taxes to reduce demand for gasoline.

In our opinion, high taxes will:

- 1) further enrich an already too powerful central government;
- 2) continue to let oil companies make high profits at the expense of the consumer;
- 3) hurt low- and middle-income people who need fuel to get to and from work;
- 4) not seriously hamper the more affluent who will simply reallocate their resources to meet the new costs;
- 5) push up prices on consumer goods, which again will hurt the low- and middle-income people.

We suggest that you consider instead a system of rationing if the shortage calls for emergency measures. Each family should be given an allocation, and holders should be able to transfer coupons in order to avoid a black market.

Finally, we urge you to investigate the oil companies. They seem to control someone high in the executive branch. They must be made to give up their control of other energy sources--notably coal.

We now feel that only our personal representatives, and the President has far removed himself from that description, can save us from dictatorial control over our lives.

We are loyal Americans who believe in our system as it can work. We beg you to act quickly and decisively on the question of fair allocation of fuel resources.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Church
Amy B. Church

Dr. Robert L. Church
Mrs. Amy B. Church