

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 14, 1974

Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Hull
P. O. Box 1077
Weston, West Virginia 26452

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Hull:

Thank you very much for your letter of recent date. I appreciate your writing me and want to assure you of my desire to be of service whenever possible.

From your communication, I have noted with much interest your comments relative to the present "energy crisis" and especially your opposition to the gasoline rationing recommendations.

As you no doubt know, 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 next week. You may be assured I will continue my efforts toward the passage of fair and equitable legislation for all.

With best wishes and kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

HARLEY O. STAGGERS

January 1, 1974.

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Hon. Harley O. Staggers,
Congressman - 2nd District of West Va.,
2366 Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, D. C. 20515.

Dear Sir:

I, along with my wife, am writing to oppose the recently proposed system of possible gasoline rationing.

The last proposal for gasoline rationing by Energy Chief William E. Simon would allow each driver over 18 years of age only 35 gallons of gasoline per month. I live in Weston, West Va. and have worked for the U.S. Postal Service for the past 13 years. I worked at the Weston Post Office for 12 years and was involuntarily transferred to Clarksburg on September 2, 1972, under the new area mail processing system. I have my home in Weston, so I have been driving back and forth to work since my transfer. I drive about 52 miles per day round trip to work, and about 20 gallons of gasoline per week is required for me to get to and from work alone. There is no regular bus service between Weston and Clarksburg, and it is impossible to ride with anyone else, since I am the only Postal Employee from Weston working in Clarksburg, and I know of no one who works at other jobs in Clarksburg that works the same hours that I do. I have the option of transferring back to Weston if an opening occurs, so for that reason, I do not wish to sell my home and move to Clarksburg. It will probably be 2 or 3 years or even longer before I have the opportunity to transfer back to Weston, but if gasoline rationing is set at 35 gallons per month per individual, with no exceptions, it will be necessary for me to relocate if I am to keep my job.

I am willing to give up pleasure driving and long
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vacation trips to conserve gasoline, but I believe that every working man and woman should be allowed enough gasoline to get to and from work, plus a reasonable amount of extra gasoline to do grocery shopping, get medical care, and for emergencies, should they arise. I don't think the "energy crisis" is so serious that it should cause hardships upon the working class of people in this country, such as having to give up their present homes and relocating. I am sure that I speak for all of the working people who must travel long distances to work by automobile.

I do not think that the President of the United States or his "Energy Chief" should have the authority to impose unreasonable systems of gasoline rationing. A rationing system should be set up by an act of Congress alone, and the amount of gasoline allowed for each person should be tailored to the individual's actual needs. Under the proposed system, people such as elderly retired persons, people who live within walking distance of their work, and others would be able to use their gasoline allowance for pleasure driving or profit from the sale of ration coupons to others who must have extra gasoline to get to work. There would be much discrimination in this type of rationing system.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Robert S. Hull,
Joann S. Hull.

MR. & MRS. ROBERT S. HULL,
P. O. BOX 1077,

WESTON, WEST VA. 26452.