

HARLEY O. STAGGERS  
2D DISTRICT, WEST VIRGINIA

CHAIRMAN:  
COMMITTEE ON  
INTERSTATE AND FOREIGN  
COMMERCE

HOME ADDRESS:  
KEYSER, WEST VIRGINIA

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

December 6, 1973

Mrs. Natalie M. Austin  
Marlinton Motor Inn  
3 Miles North on Route 219  
Marlinton, West Virginia 24954

Dear Mrs. Austin:

Thank you very much for your letter of November 28. I deeply appreciate your writing me and want to assure you of my desire to be of service whenever possible.

It goes without saying, I share your concern with many aspects involving your business and our Nation today -- and especially the energy crisis.

The House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee has been holding hearings all this week. We are doing our utmost to see that a most fair and equitable bill will be reported to the House for consideration. I know how important this is to our whole Nation and will continue doing my very best.

Again, thanking you for writing. It is certainly good hearing from well-thinking citizens such as yourself.

With every good wish and kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

HARLEY O. STAGGERS

# MARLINTON MOTOR INN

3 MILES NORTH ON ROUTE 219

MARLINTON, W. VA. 24954

DEC 3 1973

28 November 73

Congressman Harley O. Staggers  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

STAGGERS;

Dear Congressman Staggers;

I am the owner of the MARLINTON MOTOR INN, Marlinton, West Virginia a combination Motel and Restaurant which is a one hundred percent service business serving the general public.

I have a natural and grave concern at the moment, as to what I can expect in the near future. Hard work in this location has produced a decided increase in business after it was necessary to relocate from Beckley, West Virginia and operate my business on a personal basis. The outlook has been most gratifying until the month of November 1973, at which time, Watergate, stock market, the energy crisis and now the gasoline shortage seemingly has produce a scare and a tightening of travel creating a drastic effect on our business.

I expect a natural decrease during the winter months and prepared for it. However, recently both of my utilities produced and increase, all my products a decided increase; and my employee's a pay increase with a perpetrated one in January. This does not include of course the increase in Social Security benefits and taxes and the ones to come the first of 1974. All of the recent governmental crisis is taking the business needed to pay these increase expenses. Is it going to be impossible for the independent person to stay in business?

I did not lay off any of my personell last winter, only gave them requested time off. However this month, it has been necessary to cut drastically and still use a tremendous amount of reserve, of course my great concern.

I need your help and reassurance for myself and others in the Marlinton area and Pocahontas county, what can we expect? What must we plan and prepare towards.

I am sure you do not have all the answers for our future, as much of this is in our own hands and a tremendous amount of Faith, but perhaps you can enlighten me in your position as to future expectations.

Looking forward to hearing from you very soon, I am

Sincerely,

*Natalie M. Austin*  
Natalie M. Austin