

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**

March 11, 1974

Mrs. Betty J. Matthew  
Box 246  
Mill Creek, West Virginia

Dear Mrs. Matthew:

Thank you very much for sending me copy of your recent letter to our mutual friend, Senator Jennings Randolph.

From your communication, I have noted with much interest your comments relative to the gasoline situation in Randolph County and other areas of our State.

Needless to say, the "fuel crisis" is and has been of extreme concern to me as well. In fact, almost daily I have been in contact with the Federal Energy officials here in Washington, the Regional Office in Philadelphia, and the West Virginia Office in Charleston urging that action be taken to alleviate the situation.

As you no doubt know, S. 2589, the Emergency Energy Act, was recently passed by the Congress. However, last week this legislation was vetoed by the President; and the veto was sustained by the Senate.

I am still hopeful that energy legislation will be passed to help solve this great problem facing West Virginia and the Nation, and you may depend on my continued efforts and support.

With best wishes and kind personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

HARLEY O. STAGGERS

FEB 7 1974

Box 246

February 5, 1974  
Mill Creek,  
West Virginia

Honorable Jennings Randolph  
Room 5121  
New Senate Building,  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Randolph:

In light of the emergency that exists in Randolph County, West Virginia, as well as the surrounding counties, I am asking you help in alleviating the situation through national levels.

As you well know, Randolph County is almost entirely without public transportation and the present gasoline shortage is hendering all citizens in getting to work and providing grocery stores with needed food supplies.

As you also know, I am employed by the Prosecuting Attorney of Randolph County, Mr. James F. Cain, and in my daily travel from Mill Creek to Elkins, I have become aware that all of the gasoline stations between Mill Creek and Elkins have posted a "No Gas" sign on their doors. Saturday night while doing some shopping in Elkins, I went to many supermarkets trying to find a 25 lb. bag of flour but all of the shelves in every store were empty.

This is only a sample of the seriousness of the situation here in West Virginia. Randolph County Schools have only a 10 day supply of fuel for school buses on hand, but is more fortunate than surrounding counties which have been forced to close because of shortages.

Americans are strong and ready to abide by any crisis to which they may be subject to if the time comes when they are called upon to do so but the thinking of several citizens is that the Executive Branch of our Government has been very slow to act in cases of emergencies.

The coal industry of this area is being affected by the fuel shortage and this will bring about shortages providing the electric companies with the necessary fuel for electric power.

While most people agree with the independant truckers concerning the price of fuel and the low freight rate, we do not agree with the violence and the harrashment to which nearly everyone is subject to.

If this situation is allowed to continue, I am afraid that all Americans will suffer without sacrificing and lose patience, therefore creating many problems for all concerned.

Thanking you for taking the time to listen to one of your most loyal constituents, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Betty J. Matthew

CC: Sen. Robert C. Byrd  
Con. Harley O. Staggers