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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce
Room 2125, Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

January 25, 1974

The Honorable
Peter W. Rodino, Jr.
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Peter:

This will acknowledge your letter of January 17, with reference to the proposed Emergency Energy Act.

I agree with your comments about the necessity for taking action on this legislation. Just as soon as the Senate votes on it, I feel sure we will take up the conference report. In all probability, this will be some time next week.

With best wishes and kind personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

HARLEY O. STAGGERS

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Congress of the United States
Committee on the Judiciary
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

January 17, 1974

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Honorable Harley O. Staggers
Chairman, House Committee on Interstate
and Foreign Commerce
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Harley:

Upon the reconvening of Congress on January 21, 1974, difficult decisions will confront the managers on the part of the House relating to the very important proposed Energy Emergency Act. (X) As I understand it, the conference agreement (Report No. 93-663), can be returned to conference or it can be placed before the House for a vote. For a host of reasons, including my view that the former option is illusory; the nature and importance of the legislation; the events occurring since I addressed the conferees in my letter of December 18th; and, a concern for the efficacy of the Congress' conference system; I urge that the conference agreement be put up for a vote.

As Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee and of its Subcommittee on Monopolies and Commercial Law, I became concerned about the need to avoid obstructing necessary legislation while preserving competitive and public interest safeguards. The antitrust amendments which I introduced and which are contained in Section 114 of your report achieve that objective. If enacted, we can know that the public interest and our free enterprise system have equally been well served.

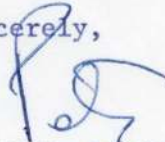
A number of events and developments have occurred since the beginning of the recess that I believe lend greater urgency to the current need. No one at this time knows, or can accurately predict, the extent of our oil shortage or the extent of the impact on the public. Widespread public consternation, skepticism, and criticism has resulted from this deplorable situation alone. But, businesses of all sizes and the consuming public are, undeniably, being injured, perhaps, permanently.

Hon. Harley O. Staggers
January 17, 1974
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Finally, the recent publication of fourth quarter per share earnings of domestic oil companies have compounded public outcries and emphasized the need for immediate remedial action as contemplated by the Energy Emergency Act. Compared with per share earnings for the fourth quarter of 1972, for example, Gulf's profits have increased by 138.6%; Standard of Indiana, 75.4%; Standard of California, 39.5%; Mobil, 25.8%; Exxon by 19.2%. Moreover, there are widespread reports of price gouging and of large expenditures by many States already seeking to cope with the crisis and its causes.

The Energy Emergency Act is a wholesome start in the right direction and ought to be enacted without undue delay. The vast amount of concern, thought, and work already invested in that legislation by the Congress and by the Conferees, particularly, assure enactment is in the public interest.

Sincerely,



PETER W. RODINO, JR.
Chairman

PWR:fg

cc: Hon. Torbert H. Macdonald
Hon. John D. Dingell
Hon. Paul G. Rogers
Hon. James T. Broyhill
Hon. J. F. Hastings