

News release — from the office of *Libe*

Congressman Harley O. Staggers

2366 RAYBURN
HOUSE OFFICE BLDG.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
PHONE (202) 225-4331



SECOND DISTRICT
WEST VIRGINIA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rep. Harley Staggers (D-W.Va.), Chairman of the House Interstate & Foreign Commerce Committee, today introduced a resolution which would put Congress on record as against any increases in the price of natural gas during the rest of 1973.

Staggers said he hoped the "sense of Congress" resolution would, if passed, convince the Federal Power Commission to postpone consideration of a nationwide increase in the price of natural gas which Staggers charged, "would result in higher heating bills for millions of American families this winter."

Pointing to a recent decision by the FPC which allowed three companies to raise their prices by 73%, Staggers said, "The FPC now has under consideration a new national pricing policy which gives every indication of imposing similiar increases on a nationwide basis."

Staggers said that although the companies were granted the rate hike partly because they pointed to a scarcity of gas reserves, two of the firms have refused to earmark their added profits to seek new reserves.

"The scarcity of natural gas may not be as great as some would have the nation believe," Staggers remarked, "investigations now underway will reveal the truth regarding a scarcity. There should be no price increase until all the facts are in," he declared.

Rep. Torbert MacDonald (D-Mass.) Chairman of the Subcommittee on Communications and Power, joined with Staggers in introducing the resolution. Sen. Frank Moss (D-Utah) is introducing a similiar measure in the Senate.

District + National ### release