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W. E. WILLIAMSON, CLERK

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

November 27, 1972

(ALSO SEE: CAMPAIGN: CONGRATS. & TU - UPSHUR)

Mr. Alan Sturm  
13 Park Street  
Buckhannon, West Virginia

Dear Alan:

Thank you very much for your letter of recent date. I am very grateful for your personal congratulations on behalf of my re-election. As I said before, I am deeply appreciative to you and my other good and loyal friends in Upshur County who helped make this possible.

Alan, I also want to thank you for your mighty nice note of November 19. You may be assured it was a pleasure to have sent you the McGovern-Eagleton pin for your collection.

I have read with much interest your comments pertaining to the regulation of the natural gas industry. Our Committee is planning to look into the shortage of gas throughout the Nation. I believe you have set forth some very good points and am bringing your letter to the attention of the Committee staff.

Again, thanks a million!

Mary and the children join me in sending along our best wishes for the Holiday Season.

Sincerely yours,

HARLEY O. STAGGERS  
Chairman

*no file on  
this sly.*

13 Park Street  
Buckhannon, W. Va.  
Nov. 14, 1972

NOV 16 1972

Hon. Harley O. Staggers, M. C.  
Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D. C..

Dear Congressman,

*(1) refer to  
2nd - 1/10/73  
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Let me begin by congratulating you on your stunning victory last Tuesday. We finally carried Upshur County; I was beginning to think that day would never come. When 1974 comes around, don't hesitate to call on us. We're ready to try for a repeat performance.

I am writing to you in your capacity as chairman of the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee of the House, primarily because I'm just plain mad. I assume that your committee is one which has some power in the regulation of the natural gas industry. If not, I would greatly appreciate it if you would forward this to the proper committee chairman.

For the past several months I have heard much about the energy crisis that the nation faces. In our area, as you probably are aware, much of the publicity of despair has aired by the Columbia Gas Company by way of TV, full page newspaper adds, etc. They have dwelled at great lengths on the shortage of available reserves, the prohibitive federal regulations which hinder new development, etc. I have been urged to write my Congressman. In W. Va., the state public service commission has granted them the right to refuse new customers as of last Oct. 1.

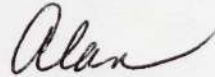
I have rambled enough, now I will come to the point. I just saw a gas company commercial on local TV (WDTV, Weston), Columbia Gas I might add. This commercial, far from stressing the energy crisis, pointed out the numerous advantages of clean gas heat, of gas air conditioning, of gas clothes dryers, of the economy of natural gas, etc. If we are indeed in the midst of the great energy crisis, if there is currently not enough natural gas to go around, why in blazes are the gas companies permitted to try and sell even more of their product. Why are not some of the millions spent nationwide on advertising used to develop new sources of supply. I

I am all for the free enterprise system, but I do not feel that a company should be permitted to try to continue to sell more of a product when, by its own admission, it cannot now meet the demand. I realize that there is a very real danger of a power shortage in America, but I also feel that in many cases the utilities are using our problem as a scare tactic to demand higher rates.

One short story which perhaps will illustrate the fact that management of utilities is not always in the best of the public interest. We heat with gas. Last year we were budgeted for \$17 per month, and at the end of the year we came out ahead. We had used a good deal less gas than the budgeted amount. We got our bill for August and behold, our budget was up to \$18 per month. My wife went down to ask why. She was told that their projections forecast the hardest winter in 50 years, so they increased the budget to protect us. That's one heck of a way to run a business which is supposed to serve the public. What they are in fact doing is benefiting from the use of my money without paying interest. Well, enough said.

Again, congratulations on your victory. Rest assured that you have our support.

Yours truly,



Alan Sturm