



Fueling Solutions for High Gas Prices

Why are my gas prices so high?

It's a great question and one I've asked myself recently as I watched the meter at the pump go up and up and up. There are a number of things that contribute to the price of gas, but here are the main culprits:

-Failure to utilize our own oil resources, creating a dependence on foreign oil - Some experts estimate that we could have enough oil for the next 60 years just off our own coasts. China and Cuba can drill closer to the Florida coast than we can.

-Limited refining capacity—Despite technological advances that have increased the capability of existing refineries more than 20%, we haven't built a new refinery in over 30 years!

-Increased demand from India and China has driven up the cost of crude oil. Booming economies overseas have increased the demand for oil around the world. As demand has risen, so has the price of oil.

So what's the solution?

Think gas prices are high now? Unless we take a comprehensive approach to the problem, they will go even higher.

Domestic Exploration:

- Allow exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR)
- Temporarily suspend putting oil in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve
- Explore alternative oil sources (oil sands, oil shale)

Reduce Tax Burden:

- Suspend the gas tax
- Redirect pork barrel spending into the Highway Trust Fund

Alternative Energy:

- Drive investments in alternative fuels infrastructure with tax credits
- Encourage American ingenuity and conservation
- Develop renewable resources like cellulosic ethanol, biodiesel, wind, and solar

I look forward to working hard in the weeks to come to alleviate this current fuel crisis and deliver a solution that will ease the strain of high gas prices on your wallet.