



City of New Bedford

Scott W. Lang, Mayor

April 22, 2011

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As the mayor of the city of New Bedford, Massachusetts since 2006, I have witnessed the devastating consequences of the recession on ordinary citizens. Rising gas prices will cripple any economic recovery and disproportionately burden the very individuals who have already suffered the most.

Although I welcome your recent announcement of a task force to examine possible fraud in the oil markets, I ask that you take additional, immediate steps to prevent gas prices from rising further. Specifically, I request that you ask Congress to enact legislation to:

- (1) give you the authority to implement gas price controls;
- (2) provide tax credits to truckers, farmers, fisherman, and any other workers who pay for gas to travel 12,000 miles or more annually for business purposes; and
- (3) impose a windfall profits tax on oil and gas companies.

These measures would provide immediate relief to American workers and mitigate the regressive effect of rising gas prices. Moreover, any shortfall caused by the tax credits would be more than offset by the windfall profits tax.

While the proposed legislation is urgently needed to secure our nation's economic recovery, the city of New Bedford is also committed to the ultimate goal of reducing its dependence on fossil fuels. Living in the former whaling capital of the world, the citizens of New Bedford are keenly aware that a nation can completely change the sources of its energy consumption. As such, the city is aggressively seeking to support the development of renewable energy sources and was chosen last year to be the staging site for the Cape

Wind project. As New Bedford works to support a transformed energy policy, I ask that you work with Congress to ensure that our citizens do not bear the burden of rising gas prices.

Sincerely,

Scott W. Lang
Mayor

cc: Senator John Kerry
Senator Scott Brown
Congressman Barney Frank