

**DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

10TH DISTRICT, OHIO

2445 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-5871

14400 DETROIT AVENUE  
LAKEWOOD, OHIO 44107  
(216) 228-8850

PARMATOWN MALL  
7904 DAY DRIVE  
PARMA, OH 44129  
(440) 845-2707



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

[www.kucinich.house.gov](http://www.kucinich.house.gov)

RANKING MEMBER  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON REGULATORY AFFAIRS,  
STIMULUS OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT  
SPENDING

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND  
GOVERNMENT REFORM

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE  
WORKFORCE

March 4, 2011

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama:

I write to request that you authorize the release of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) in order to protect Americans and the economy from surges in gas prices.

The need to act now is clear. According to the Energy Information Administration, retail gas prices in the U.S. have risen from \$2.68 per gallon in the beginning of September, 2010 to \$3.19 on February 21, 2011. In the following week, they jumped to \$3.38 with disruption of supply from Libya. Other oil-supplying countries may await similar grassroots movements. The gas price spikes in 2008 helped precipitate the very economic recession we are currently fighting. Reaching those prices in 2011 will undermine our efforts at recovery.

The SPR, originally enacted to provide a buffer for high oil prices in the U.S, is effectively full. In fact, three million barrels of excess oil will need to be transferred or sold from the Bayou Choctaw Cavern 20 of the SPR because the cavern cannot hold the oil.

As we approach the time of year when gas prices historically increase due to seasonal demand, I urge you to act swiftly to protect jobs and American families.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. Kucinich  
Member of Congress