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July 28, 2008

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Bush,

Sixty years ago this month, President Truman convened the last special session of Congress of modern times. "The urgent needs of the American people require our presence here today," implored the President before a joint session of Congress which grappled with rising inflation, a shortage of electrical power and concern about commodity speculation.

Mr. President, America is now engulfed in a full-blown and deepening energy crisis which is causing irreparable harm to American families, workers, businesses, communities and the economy – and worse lies ahead.

We must find solutions to our energy problem – but each day of delay worsens the problem. T. Boone Pickens, Al Gore and others have proposed ways to harness existing and new technologies. But national leadership – your leadership – is needed to translate aspirations to reality and transform fear into hope.

We urge you to call a special session of Congress beginning August 11, 2008 for the sole purpose of debating our energy alternatives and enacting a coherent national energy policy.

Members of Congress should welcome such an initiative. The public knows we are now importing 70% of our petroleum and that continuing as we have is impossible. In the absence of a sound, long-term energy policy, the fear now taking its toll on businesses and jobs will spread. In such an environment, no Congressional seat will or should be safe this November.

Many in Congress believe that speculation lies at the root of the problem. Our view is that some steps to curb speculation may be necessary; however, simply curbing speculation will not solve our long-term energy problem. Congress' focus on some meaningful short-term solutions is laudable, but we do not want to squander an unprecedented opportunity to focus our citizens' concerns and create a critically needed long-term plan.

Many of us in the travel industry – which is being decimated by rapidly rising fuel prices and uncertainty about the future -- believe that curbing speculation may have merit, but know it is not the whole answer. And we, like other citizens, are weary of partisan posturing, which pits one against another, i.e. those seeking more intensive drilling against those who advocate limiting speculation or those urging use of the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve or those supporting other solutions. Our view is that we need to do all we can on every front, but that optimizing our efforts requires an integrated, comprehensive, well thought out national energy policy.

Our central problem is confidence – confidence now eroded by the perception that the most powerful country in the world, a country consuming 24% of the world's output and spending \$700 billion annually to continue doing so, lacks the political will to address the problem.

We believe that speculation is a symptom of our problem, and not its cause. Speculation would be less virulent were it not for the expectation that oil prices will increase and the dollar will weaken because the United States has neither energy nor fiscal policies adequate to the challenges ahead.

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A coherent, long-term national energy policy framed and supported by a bipartisan majority of the Congress, before the Democratic and Republican conventions, would reverse the perception that America can no longer deal with her problems.

Truman once said, "Men make history, and not the other way around. In periods where there is no leadership, society stands still. Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better."

Mr. President, the time for leadership is now!

Sincerely,

American Society of Travel Agents
Arizona Business Travel Association
Association of Corporate Travel Executives
Business Travel Coalition
Cruise Lines International Association
International Airline Passengers Association
International Association of Exhibitions and Events
National Costumers Association
Society of Government Travel Professionals
American Board of Psychiatry & Neurology
American Society for Quality
Assurant
AT&T Services, Inc.
Atlas Van Lines, Inc.
AWG, Inc.
BearingPoint
BlueScope Steel North America
Bucyrus International
Cargotec Corporation
Catalent Pharma Solutions
Center for Creative Leadership
Citigroup
COBUS Industries LP
Colgate-Palmolive Company
Conference Resources, Inc.
CWS-Consulting, LLC
D. Lawrence Planners, LLC
Dillard's
ETS
Exelon
FLO Corporation
Freeman
Freudenerg-NOK
FSL Global
Fujitsu Consulting
Global Crew Logistics
Global Knowledge
Global Marketing Services, Inc.
HBCU-HM Consortium
HealthCare California
IBM
Inspired Data Solutions
Intermountain Healthcare
International Capital
Jazz Technologies, Inc.
JELD-WEN

JohnsonDiversey
KBR
Kerrigan & Associates, Inc.
Management Science Associates
MH-Global Communications Network
Moog, Inc.
NAED
National City Bank
Open-Ended Response
Orbital Sciences Corporation
Perot Systems
PLATINUM TRAVEL
P&V Enterprises
Praxair, Inc.
Prime Numbers Technology, LLC
Pro-Tec Fire Services, Ltd
R. J. Reynolds
RMIC Corporation
Safety, Security and Environmental
Teradyne, Inc.
The DND Group, Inc
The Linde Group
The SEC Institute
Thermo Fisher Scientific
ThyssenKrupp USA, Inc.
Tokyo Electron US Holdings, Inc.
Ulteig
US Franchise Systems
Virginia Escape, Ltd.
WD Schock Company, Inc.
Brigham Young University
Hawaii Pacific University
Howard University
Ohio State University Aviation Department
Oxford Aviation Academy
Saint Louis Science Center
Texas Tech University
Texas Woman's University
Trondent Development Corp.
Richland College
University of Alaska
University of Nevada Las Vegas
University of Texas at Austin
Western Carolina University
Asheville Regional Airport Authority



North Texas Regional Airport
Tri-Cities Regional Airport, TN/VA
American Airlines
Continental Airlines
Delta Air Lines
MaxJet Airways
Mesa Air Group
Midwest Airlines
Northwest Airlines
Japan Airlines
United Airlines
US Airways
B.F.Saul Company Hotel Division
Carlson Hotels Worldwide
Embassy Suites
Hawthorn Suites & Microtel Inns & Suites
Hilton Garden Inn Hotel
Keauhou Beach Resort
Marriott International, Inc.
Millennium Hotels and Resorts
Morgans Hotel Group
Outrigger Hotels & Resorts
Sedona Resorts
American Express
American Express Global Travel Services Division
All Seasons Travel Agency, Inc.
A & I Travel Service, Inc.
Alaska Travel Source
Balboa Travel Management
BCD Travel
Best Travel & Tours, Inc.
BTI The Travel Consultants
Carlson Wagonlit Travel
Central Travel
Collette Vacations
Conference & Travel
Country Place Travel, Inc.
Cresta World Travel Ltd.
Diplomat Travel
Dnata Travel Services
Donovan Travel
Eton Travel
Fox World Travel

Globetrotter Travel Management Services, Inc.
Guardian Travel
Gateway Travel Management
HG Worldwide
Hobson Travel Ltd.
Horizon Travel, Inc.
HOST Meetings & Events Management
HRG Worldwide
LasVegasConventionTravel.com Inc.
Linden Travel Bureau
MTS Travel
NEW DEAL TRAVEL
Oneworld Management Company
Rodgers Travel, Inc.
Sprayberry Travel
The Travel Team, Inc.
Tigerlily Event Services. Inc.
TMS Advisors
TourScan, Inc.
Travel Career Network
Travel Consultants Group
TravelCell, LLC
Travelocity
Travel Incorporated
Tri-Pen Management
Tripquote.com
World Travel Service
World Travel, Inc.
Worldwide Travel Marketing, Inc.
A Briggs Passport & Visa Expeditors
AirlineForecasts, LLC
Conference Resources, Inc.
Global Hospitality Advisors, LLC
ITA Software
John Stow Consulting LLC
Luggage Forward
Meeting Strategies Austin
OAG
Park 'N Fly
PAR Travel Tech, Inc.
Prime Findings
PRISM Group, Inc.
Rutherford & Associates, LLC
Sabre Holdings