



# PAIN AT THE PUMP

# PAIN AT THE POLLS

**"STOP THE WAR ON THE POOR"**  
**U.S. Capitol Rally and Press Conference**  
**Senate North Fountain Plaza**  
**July 15th, 2008 at 2pm**

My name is Jim Martin and I am here today as the newly elected Chairman of the National Defense Council Foundation. I'm more readily associated as Chairman of the 60 Plus Association, a group I started 15 years ago with three main goals. The first, to kill the death tax for the senior generation, the second to reform Social Security for the younger generation, and the third to promote energy security for all. It is that third goal that brings me here today. It is a privilege to represent the Foundation and 60 Plus on an issue that both groups are concerned with: the current energy crisis.

I refer you to our website ([www.ndcf.org](http://www.ndcf.org)) for numerous studies on the energy crisis and the fact that the Foundation has been ahead of this now arrived at "pain at the pump" dilemma that we find ourselves in today. This issue affects every day Americans and seniors in particular due to fixed incomes. Seniors on fixed incomes need additional money for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) this year. We would not have to be asking for LIHEAP funding year in and year out if we went ahead and did what one party supports and that's tapping our own U.S. resources. I'm frustrated by having to testify before Congress asking for annual LIHEAP funding.

President George W. Bush made it very clear in a speech at the White House yesterday that he has lifted the ban from the 1980's that prohibited drilling in the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). About a month ago he challenged Congress to lift its own ban and promised he would do the same. As the President said yesterday in the Rose Garden, a month has gone by and Congress has been silent about drilling.

I thank the President for upholding his end of the bargain. Congress should do the same.

As the late NDCF President Milt Copulos stated before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in March of 2006, "There is one final point I want to make sure is not forgotten. Some portion of every dollar we spend on imported oil finds its way into the hands of individuals who wish to do us harm."

I lay down a warning to those who will obstruct drilling. Republicans are on record in instance after instance and vote after vote in support of drilling. The politicians who do not support drilling, Democrats in this instance, may feel political pain at the polls come November.