

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 1, 2008

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Senate Majority Leader  
S-221, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader Reid,

Sharp increases in food and energy prices over the last sixteen months have left millions of American families struggling to pay their bills. Since January 2007, the price of oil has increased 134 percent, the price of gasoline has increased 64 percent, and the price of food has increased 5 percent. Since putting food on the table or filling the fuel tank are not optional expenditures, families must simply absorb these higher prices.

We know you share our concern for those most severely impacted by these price spikes, especially those on fixed incomes, low and middle income families, and those who have to travel great distances to and from work.

While there are numerous factors affecting the prices of oil, gas, and food, the weakness of the dollar is clearly playing an important role. For example, since the beginning of the year oil priced in dollars has climbed 23 percent, while oil priced in euros is up 11 percent during that time. Moreover, because of low interest rates and a declining dollar, investors are increasingly investing in commodities to protect against the risk of inflation. This in turn drives up food and energy prices even more.

We believe Congress has a responsibility to protect the purchasing power of the American people's paychecks. We cannot stand idly by while the dollar's value continues to plummet, pushing up food and energy prices and lowering the American people's standard of living.

Specifically, we ask you to join us in declaring that it is our policy to support a strong dollar.

In addition, we request that the appropriate committees undertake hearings to examine some of the causes for the declining value of the dollar. We would suggest that the hearings at a minimum focus on the following:

1. the impact of the policies of the Federal Reserve, with a particular focus on reduction in the federal funds rate;

2. the threat that future tax increases, especially on investments, will reduce the return on U.S. investments thus making them less attractive in comparison to investments in other countries;
3. the threat that U.S. trade policy will no longer favor expanding access for the export of goods manufactured in the U.S., thus making U.S. exports more reliant on a weak dollar rather than expanded markets; and
4. the threat that federal policies will discourage bringing new supplies of oil online, thus eliminating increased supply as a counter-pressure to rising prices.

At the end of the 1970s, Americans similarly suffered under the effects of a weak dollar and high commodity prices. Ronald Reagan declared that his government would tackle inflation which he described as the "great thief" of the middle class. Today, American families similarly need a government that is willing to tackle this threat to American prosperity. We ask you to join us in this endeavor.

Sincerely,



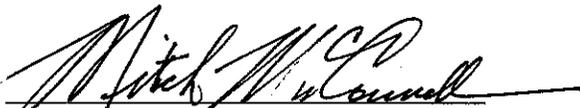
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John Boehner  
House Republican Leader



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Roy Blunt  
House Republican Whip



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Mitch McConnell  
Senate Republican Leader



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Jon Kyl  
Senate Republican Whip