The Honorable William Frist  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Capitol - S-230  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Pete Domenici  
Chairman  
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
364 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Frist and Chairman Domenici:

Skyrocketing oil prices have brought a renewed national focus on the problem of U.S. dependence on oil. Our exclusive dependence on the global oil market, which is dominated by foreign exporters, is sapping America's power and independence, while the steep rise in international demand for oil threatens to heighten international tensions and undermine global stability. Under these conditions, a well-orchestrated terrorist attack or political upheaval could place even greater strain on the oil supply chain, rattling the global economy and igniting a dangerous race to secure oil supplies.

Although there are immediate steps the Congress can take to ensure that consumers are not being taken advantage of at the pump, there is no magic wand the government can wave to make oil prices drop. The high gas prices we are facing today can only be addressed by a serious, long-term effort to reduce our dependence on oil.

According to news reports, you are currently working on legislation to address high oil prices. We urge you to include our bi-partisan legislation, that has been cosponsored by twenty-five Senators, S. 2025, the Vehicle and Fuel Choices for American Security Act, in its entirety as part of your legislative package. Our bill sets aggressive, yet achievable, targets to reduce U.S. dependence on oil. Senate bill 2025 provides tools to meet these targets by improving the efficiency of vehicles and increasing the production and use of biofuels. It includes new approaches for manufacturers, the federal government, scientists and consumers, all designed to encourage greater energy security.
Addressing our dependence on oil is a challenge that we can no longer ignore. It is time to set America free. Therefore, we intend to offer S. 2025 as an amendment and insist on a vote during the upcoming energy debate, if it is not included in the base bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Evan Bayh
Sam Brownback
Joe Lieberman
Norm Coleman
Ken Salazar
Dick Lugar
Barack Obama
Richard G. Lugar

Johnny Isakson
Daniel K. Akaka
Hillary Rodham Clinton
Christopher J. Dodd

Herb Kohl
Maria Cantwell