

OPEC, nations to the U.S. antitrust laws, prohibit oil and gas companies from unilaterally withholding supply with the intent of raising prices or creating a shortage and would protect consumers from price gouging of gasoline.

You do not have to look very hard to see that the American consumer is hurting. And if you ask people on the street what worries them most, the majority will tell you that it is the price of gasoline. American families and businesses are yet again paying record prices for gasoline. The retail price of gasoline has jumped and is now in the range of \$4 per gallon. Driving should not have to be a luxury. Americans today are spending far too much of their paychecks at the pump.

In my home State of Michigan, gas prices earlier this month reached their highest levels ever at \$4.22 per gallon. Figures released by the AAA Michigan show that the \$4.22 per gallon state average surpassed the previous record of \$4.21 per gallon set in July 2008.

My bill, once and for all, will crack down on foreign oil cartels. Currently, based on the sovereign immunity doctrine, foreign nations and businesses they control may avoid accountability under U.S. antitrust law. This bill would eliminate the doctrine and allow antitrust law to apply to anticompetitive cartels.

This legislation, the "Oil Consumer Protection Act of 2011" would:

Exempt OPEC and other nations from the provisions of the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act to the extent those governments are engaged in price-fixing and other anticompetitive activities with regard to pricing, production and distribution of petroleum products. (OPEC currently claims sovereign immunity by saying its actions are "governmental activity," which is protected, rather than "commercial activity," which is not.)

Make clear that the so-called "Act of State" doctrine does not prevent courts from ruling on antitrust charges brought against foreign governments and that foreign governments are "persons" subject to suit under the antitrust laws.

Authorize lawsuits in U.S. federal court against oil cartel members by the Justice Department and the Federal Trade Commission.

Amend the Clayton Act to prohibit oil and gas companies from unilaterally withholding supply with the intent of raising prices or creating a shortage.

Direct several studies, including a Justice Department/Federal Trade Commission study of mergers in the oil and gas industry, and a GAO study of whether government consent decrees in oil mergers have been effective.

Direct the Attorney General and Federal Trade Commission Chairman to establish a joint federal/state task force with state attorneys general to investigate information sharing among oil companies.

Would empower the Federal Trade Commission and state attorneys general to institute civil and criminal penalties for fuel price gouging during periods proclaimed by the President as an international crisis affecting oil markets.

It is time someone did something about our outrageous gas prices. I hope Congress has the sense to act on this legislation immediately.

CELEBRATING THE OUTSTANDING SERVICE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF CROWN OF LIFE LUTHERAN SCHOOL'S EIGHTH GRADE CLASS

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 13, 2011*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, Dr. BURGESS and I rise today to celebrate the outstanding service and accomplishments of Crown of Life Lutheran School's eighth grade class. This group of nine students demonstrates a level of commitment and philanthropy positioning them heads and shoulders above their peers. Their dedication to anticipating and seeing to the needs of their community provides me with great hope for the future of America. Today's students are tomorrow's C.E.O.s, Chief Surgeons, and Presidents. These eighth graders will one day make decisions that will determine what this nation looks like in the years to come. We have every confidence that we are in good hands. They have already learned the most valuable lesson—leadership starts with service.

Throughout the 2011 school year, the eighth grade class proved themselves to be extraordinary leaders through their service to the students at Crown of Life Lutheran School. Every day, they cleaned the lunchroom and assisted in the school's weekly assemblies. Monthly, they helped the school set up for Colleyville Chamber of Commerce Luncheons. This Spring, the girls basketball team helped their school to win a second place at the State tournament. The boys made an impressive showing as well, placing fourth in their tournament.

These remarkable students have participated in numerous community projects as well. They helped to organize a bingo night for Finley Elliot, a three year-old who just completed a successful kidney transplant in April of 2011. The \$5,000 earnings from the event provided Finley and his family a much needed reprieve from the extensive medical costs. They also volunteered a day to clean up Lakeview Park in Grapevine in order to encourage the maintenance of public parks for the use of the community. The class also assembled care packages and wrote dozens of notes by hand to send to our soldiers overseas.

We know that Crown of Life Lutheran School is proud to claim these star eighth graders as their own, and we are proud to offer our sincerest congratulations to Hannah Andersson, Zachary Dayley, Jacob Diamond, Sarah Hall, Justin Hawes, Austin Shone, Heide Stufflebeme, John Sandfort and Christian Scherff on their graduation from middle school. We wish you all the best.

HONORING THE RIVERDALE Y'S TEEN THEATER PROGRAM

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 13, 2011*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the Riverdale Y's Teen Theater program was established in

1990 to provide education, entertainment and enrichment to teens across my district in the Bronx. The program gives kids age 13–18 a chance to study musical theater, to learn through music and to perform for their community. This year, they celebrate their 20th season of performances.

The Teen Theater program has long produced entertainment for residents of the Bronx, who come to see high-level productions worthy of praise in any context, but especially so considering that the performers are our community's young people. This talented troupe of performers recently broke their own attendance record during productions of *Rent* and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and they plan more productions in the coming months.

Children who take part in the program learn music, dance, dramatic and literary skills and get the chance to perform for their friends, family and community. They are enriched through the arts, they learn important skills through the arduous rehearsal process, they build self-esteem and they make lifelong friends. The program has received numerous National Youth Theater Awards in recognition of their talented performers, including most recently for *Rent*, which won awards for Best Ensemble Performance, Best Lead Actor in a Musical and Best Lead Actress in a Musical.

On behalf of the many alumni of the program, the residents of the Bronx and the entire Seventeenth District, I want to recognize and honor the Riverdale Y's Teen Theater and their director, Laurie Walton, to thank them for their contributions to our community and to wish them the best of luck in the future.

APPLAUDING THE UPPER MERION SCHOOL DISTRICT

**HON. PATRICK MEEHAN**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 13, 2011*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the Upper Merion School District of Pennsylvania for winning an Environmental Achievement Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Upper Merion was recognized for being a 2010 ENERGY STAR leader and for reducing its energy consumption by more than 30 percent, an achievement reached by only about a dozen of the Nation's 15,000 school districts. All six of Upper Merion's schools have earned the ENERGY STAR rating and several buildings have energy reductions near 50 percent. The district has also embarked on an aggressive recycling program that has resulted in about 50 percent of its solid waste being recycled instead of going to the landfill. I am proud to represent the citizens of Upper Merion in Congress, and their example of stewardship—of a community taking local initiative to reduce their environmental impact—is a model of bottom-up sustainability that municipalities across America should strive to emulate.