

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 10, 2026

Dear President Trump:

I write today about rising gas prices in Nevada and across the country following strikes in Iran and the de-facto closure of the Strait of Hormuz. Over the last week, oil prices have at times hit 4-year highs, rising over 50 percent since the beginning of 2026 before entering a period of dramatic increases and decreases. As it appears, your Administration failed to plan for this very foreseeable outcome when launching Operation Epic Fury, and the American people are being forced to navigate one of the most volatile oil markets in history. Americans are rightly wary of an open-ended, protracted conflict that lacks clear objectives, and they are now dealing with the economic consequences that are a direct result of poor strategic planning. Given this, I urge you to take immediate action to release oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to lower out-of-pocket gas costs and provide much needed economic relief to Americans.

You recently claimed that gas prices have “gone up probably less than I thought they'd go up.” This blatant dismissal of hardworking families’ concerns when it comes to high gas prices is shameful. In Nevada, the average price of gas hit \$4.21 per gallon at one point this week. That’s nearly a dollar more than the national average, which has doubled since a week ago. Rising prices across the board are squeezing hardworking Nevada families who cannot simply wait for gas prices to go down and stay down. That’s why your Administration must take responsibility and immediate action to increase stability in the oil market and lower gas prices. This includes ordering a release from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to provide relief to families’ wallets. You have the authority to authorize an emergency release of oil from this reserve to respond to global disruptions, just like the one we are experiencing.

This is coming at a time when hardworking families are already being squeezed by high costs. Over the last year, families across the country paid \$310 more for groceries than they did in 2024. When gas prices go up even further, like we are currently seeing, the cost of other essentials – particularly groceries – rise even more. The pricing volatility in the oil market is making it impossible for Nevadans to budget for gas, groceries, energy, and other staples.

You campaigned on the promise that you were going to take action to lower costs for Americans. Now, you claim that the affordability crisis is “a hoax,” and your current actions show it. It’s time to act swiftly and address the affordability crisis you created that is being compounded by the conflict abroad. I urge you to use all methods at your disposal to lower gas prices and provide certainty to Nevada families, including initiating a release from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

Sincerely,



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator