

**Wally
Herger**
Congressman

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Herger Appalled by Defeat of Bill that Addresses Rising Gas Prices

*Says vote further demonstrates power of radical environmentalists to block
much-needed increases in domestic energy supply*

(WASHINGTON D.C.) -- Congressman Herger today expressed dismay after the House failed to pass H.R. 5254, the Refinery Permit Process Schedule Act, which sought to streamline bureaucratic red tape involved in permitting new or expanded refineries, while still meeting our environmental goals. America has not built a new refinery since 1976, despite rising demand for gasoline. The text of Herger's floor remarks in favor of H.R. 5254, including a video and audio link, are below. Herger had the following reaction after the bill was defeated:

"Unfortunately, over \$3 per gallon gasoline isn't enough for radical environmentalists to get serious about addressing rising prices at the pump," Herger said. "The people of Northern California pay more for gas than just about anyone in our nation, and they are understandably outraged when commonsense measures to increase our domestic supply are defeated because of the influence of environmental special interests.

"Northern Californians should be outraged by the apparent determination of environmentalists to keep our nation dependent on foreign oil," continued Herger. "Whether it is cutting red tape to increase our refining capacity or energy exploration in remote regions of the ANWR, the environmental obstructionism seems to know no end."

Herger concluded, "21st Century technology will allow American companies to bring more energy resources to market, while still protecting the environment. But unfortunately, environmental special interests block every effort to increase domestic supplies, and the people of Northern California and the rest of America pay a heavy price because of it."

To expedite consideration of H.R. 5254, the measure was considered under "suspension of the rules," which required a two-thirds vote for it to pass. H.R. 5254 was defeated by a vote of 237 to 188. (285 votes were required to pass the bill.) 185 Democrats voted against it.

For more information, log on to <http://www.house.gov/herger> on the Internet!

Herger's Floor Remarks - In support of H.R. 5254

"Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5254 to streamline the permitting process of oil refineries.

"My constituents in rural Northern California are paying some of the highest gas prices in the nation.

"Red tape is stifling the construction of new, and expansion of existing, refineries and technology to make refineries cleaner and more efficient.

"In fact, America has not built a new refinery since the 1970s!

"I am reminded today of what President Reagan said in 1981: Government is not the solution; government is the problem.

"We need to streamline government regulation and start expanding our oil refinery capacity.

"Families and businesses throughout this country have to meet deadlines. The government should have to as well.

"I urge my colleagues to support this legislation."

To view or record his remarks, visit

www.house.gov/herger/images/CWHGasPrices-5-3-6.rm on the Internet.

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