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16TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SENIOR RANKING REPUBLICAN,  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
ASIA, THE PACIFIC,  
AND THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRORISM,  
NONPROLIFERATION, AND TRADE

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-1316

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES  
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INTERNATIONAL MONETARY POLICY,  
TRADE, AND TECHNOLOGY

REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE  
CHAIRMAN, TASK FORCE ON  
MANUFACTURING

May 20, 2008

His Excellency Adel Al-Judbeir  
Ambassador  
Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia  
601 New Hampshire Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20037-2405

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

As a senior Republican of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I value the relationship between the United States and Saudi Arabia. We have numerous ties that have stood the test of time, going back 75 years to when diplomatic relations were first established before oil was discovered and shortly after the unification of the modern-day Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The United States and Saudi Arabia share a common concern about regional security, oil exports and imports, and sustainable development. America aided your country's defense in 1990 with Operation Desert Shield when then Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait and threatened the territorial integrity of Saudi Arabia with a possible strike against the Hama oil fields. If Saddam Hussein was successful in this attack, he would have gained control of the majority of the world's oil reserves.

Several times in the past, emissaries from the United States requested an increase in oil production from Saudi Arabia in response to rapidly rising gas prices and the resulting economic trouble within the United States. Saudi Arabia graciously responded positively in the past, greatly increasing production to help ease the economic crises in many oil importing countries in order to prevent a deeper recession that only hurts everyone, including Saudi Arabia.

That is why I am perplexed at the most recent response of Saudi Arabia to a personal request from the President of the United States. According to media reports, Saudi Arabia agreed to increase production by only 300,000 barrels a day, which was a week-old response to commercial customers. This increase would bring Saudi Arabia's production to 9.4 million barrels a day but the Kingdom's production capacity is 11.3 million barrels.

I realize that we have our own political troubles in the United States. I have been trying for years to convince my colleagues to open up more of U.S. oil and gas resources

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to further exploration and extraction. Unfortunately, the votes in Congress are not there in either the House or the Senate to open up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) or the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) to oil and gas drilling. Yet, the constituents I represent in northern Illinois are facing record gas prices exceeding \$4 a gallon and need immediate relief before the summer starts or else our economic turmoil could spread more deeply around the world. As you may know, the price of crude oil comprises 72 percent of the cost of a gallon of gasoline in the United States. Thus, any change in the supply of crude oil becomes the overwhelming factor that affects the price of a gallon gas.

Mr. Ambassador, if our economy falters, it will only result in a decreased purchase of petroleum products by American consumers. I believe it is in the interests of both our countries for Saudi Arabia to increase production beyond the 300,000 barrels a day already promised to commercial customers. In addition, as more and more Americans grow increasingly frustrated with the price of gas, they will purchase alternative fueled vehicles. I predict that if current trends continue over the next 20 years, the majority of Americans will no longer care about the price of gas as they purchase plug-in hybrids, fuel-cell, or hydrogen powered vehicles. Once that happens, other aspects of the U.S.-Saudi relationship will emerge and Americans will remember the day when they were turned down in their hour of need. Thus, I respectfully request a re-evaluation of the decision to increase oil production by only 300,000 barrels a day.

Thank you for your kind and urgent attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Manzuolo", written in a cursive style.

Donald A. Manzuolo  
Member of Congress