



Energy Policy Talking Points for Franchised Businesses

- In the U.S., there are more than 900,000 franchised businesses in over 85 diverse industries generating over 21 million jobs. The rising cost of energy is having a dramatic impact on these businesses, from increased transportation costs to higher food prices.
- Congress must take effective and immediate action to address the rising cost of energy. The skyrocketing cost of oil and gas is now impacting every industry sector, large and small businesses, and every American who relies on gasoline or diesel fuel for work and family needs.
- Congress must act now to increase American-made oil and natural gas production and to adopt policies which will reduce our dependence on foreign sources of oil.
- We support initiatives that encourage conservation and the development of alternative and renewable energy sources. Every option should be on the table for expanded production, including nuclear, clean coal, solar, and wind power.
- The most effective way to deal with speculation in oil prices would be for Congress to move decisively to ensure that future supplies of oil and natural gas will be available.
- Rising fuel costs have also dampened the effect of economic stimulus that was enacted earlier this year. Many services that franchise businesses provide rely on travel, tourism and retail sales. With Americans cutting back to manage increased fuel costs, franchised businesses have not been able to fully benefit from economic stimulus efforts.
- Care should be taken when examining the effects of renewable energy policies, such as biofuels, which can increase the price of food. The diversion of some crops for fuel production can reduce consumer supply and animal feed which contributes to food price inflation. Today, food prices in the U.S. are rising at twice the rate of inflation.
- Congress must respond to the need for affordable energy with stable prices by taking every possible step to encourage the environmentally sensitive development of domestic energy resources.