

RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

8TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

2367 RAYBURN
HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

TELEPHONE: (202) 225-3711
FAX: (202) 225-7830

1701 EAST WOODFIELD ROAD, SUITE 704
SCHAUMBURG, IL 60173

TELEPHONE: (847) 413-1959
FAX: (847) 413-1965

www.krishnamoorthi.house.gov

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE STRATEGIC
COMPETITION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES
& CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY:
RANKING MEMBER

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT & ACCOUNTABILITY
SUBCOMMITTEE:
ECONOMIC GROWTH, ENERGY POLICY,
& REGULATORY AFFAIRS

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON
INTELLIGENCE

SUBCOMMITTEE:
THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

March 10, 2026

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
Office of the President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

I write to express profound concern regarding the human and economic costs of your decision to start a costly, open-ended war with Iran. As the conflict escalates, Americans are already facing higher gas prices, disrupted global markets, and billions of dollars in new military spending. This week, you said that you have “a plan for everything,”¹ but all Americans see is an unraveling economic fallout from an unauthorized war. Therefore, I urge you to immediately tap the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to help stabilize fuel markets and bring down the price of gasoline, in addition to outlining a clear strategy and conditions for ending this conflict.

The costs of your war are already hitting Americans at the pump. Gas prices have risen fifty cents per gallon on average, as Iran’s blockade of the Strait of Hormuz—a critical artery for global oil shipments—has disrupted exports and rattled energy markets.² Brent and U.S. crude prices have spiked to nearly \$120 a barrel, and Iran has warned it could soon reach \$200.³

In 2022, within a week of Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine, President Biden coordinated with our allies and partners to release oil from strategic petroleum reserves to help stabilize global energy markets.⁴ In contrast, now over a week into starting a war, you described the increase of gas prices as “a small price to pay” and said prices will fall once Iran’s nuclear threat is eliminated.⁵ For families already struggling to afford everything from groceries to health insurance, this is not a small price to pay—especially for a war many Americans do not want or see an end in sight. Releasing oil from our Strategic Petroleum Reserve, in coordination with allies and partners, would help provide Americans some relief.

¹ Sullivan, Kate and Josh Wingrove. “Iran War: Trump Insists ‘I Have a Plan’ as Oil Prices Surge.” *Bloomberg*, 9 March 2026, <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2026-03-09/trump-insists-i-have-a-plan-as-oil-prices-surge-on-iran-war>.

² Roeloffs, Mary. “Gas Prices Are Already Up 56 Cents Per Gallon—But The Spike Could Slow Soon.” *Forbes*, 10 March 2026, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/maryroeloffs/2026/03/09/gas-prices-are-already-up-50-cents-per-gallon-and-rising/>.

³ Faucon, Benoit. “Iran Warns of \$200 a Barrel Oil if Strikes on Its Infrastructure Don’t Stop.” *The Wall Street Journal*, 9 March 2026, https://www.wsj.com/livecoverage/iran-war-us-israel-trump-2026/card/iran-warns-200-a-barrel-oil-if-strikes-on-its-infrastructure-don-t-stop-kkvz6A5VbN4NbWLgQ0zo?gaa_at=eafs&gaa_n=AWetsqe6uDksFYg9RuVER_wtgkceC6a0lnSkIRge-JKaUbhduNlppGXiQ7VD&gaa_ts=69af214f&gaa_sig=mY-BN66GGowAF88ZankJ3w3m_U11eTXD8DPmgDN8sDmA-1VCudT0_AO8cFqEr6t-LlBnoGqZEm7k6DwrKddk1A%3D%3D.

⁴ “U.S. and 30 Countries Commit to Release 60 Million Barrels of Oil From Strategic Reserves to Stabilize Global Energy Markets.” *Department of Energy*, 1 March 2022, <https://www.energy.gov/articles/us-and-30-countries-commit-release-60-million-barrels-oil-strategic-reserves-stabilize>.

⁵ Fields, Ashleigh. “Oil prices soar past \$100 per barrel.” *The Hill*, 9 March 2026, <https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/5774602-oil-prices-soar-us-iran/>.

The economic damage is also spreading to America's farmers, who are preparing for spring planting. A third of the world's fertilizer transits the Strait of Hormuz, and the current blockade is delaying shipments.⁶ Farmers are already facing high production costs and tariff-related market losses, and additional supply disruptions could drive fertilizer prices even higher.⁷ If this conflict stretches on for months—as you have suggested it will—farmers could face yet another surge in costs during the most important part of their growing season.

At the same time, the direct cost of the war itself is mounting rapidly. Seven Americans have been killed, and some experts estimate the Department of Defense has already spent nearly \$11 billion related to operations against Iran.⁸ According to a Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) report, the first 100 hours of U.S. military operations cost roughly \$3.7 billion (about \$891 million per day), and additional expenses are increasing quickly.⁹ As one defense expert has noted, the United States is expending interceptor missiles that can cost \$9 million each to destroy Iranian drones that cost \$25,000.¹⁰ This spending, without even providing a clear reason for going to war, contradicts your stated goals to improve government spending and address our national debt. The American people should not be forced to carry the cost of your decision to go to war.

Reports indicate that the administration may soon submit a supplemental funding request to Congress to sustain operations in the Middle East. Before Congress is asked to approve tens of billions more in taxpayer funding, the American people deserve a clear explanation of what this war is intended to achieve. At this point, the administration has not articulated a clear end goal, a strategy for achieving it, or a consistent explanation for why the United States started the conflict.

Therefore, I urge your administration to provide a clear strategy for addressing the economic costs already being felt by American families, farmers, and businesses—including by immediately releasing oil from the Strategic Reserve— and to define specific objectives and conditions that would bring this war to an end. Without that clarity, the United States risks sliding into another prolonged conflict with mounting economic and human consequences.

Sincerely,



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress

⁶ "Hormuz shipping disruptions raise risks for energy, fertilizers and vulnerable economies." *UN Trade and Development*, 10 March 2026, <https://unctad.org/press-material/hormuz-shipping-disruptions-raise-risks-energy-fertilizers-and-vulnerable-economies>.

⁷ Clayton, Chris. "Fuel, Fertilizer Costs Rise on Iran War." *DTN*, 2 March 2026, <https://www.dtnpf.com/agriculture/web/ag/columns/washington-insider/article/2026/03/02/us-iran-escalation-drive-input-costs>.

⁸ Analysis by Elaine McCusker, cited in: Weisgerber, Marcus and Drew FitzGerald. "Pentagon Races to Secure Money for Iran Operations, Munitions." *The Wall Street Journal*, 5 March 2026, <https://www.wsj.com/politics/national-security/pentagon-races-to-secure-money-for-iran-operations-munitions-277d0293>.

⁹ "\$3.7 Billion: Estimated Cost of Epic Fury's First 100 Hours." *CSIS*, 5 March 2026, <https://www.csis.org/analysis/37-billion-estimated-cost-epic-furys-first-100-hours>.

¹⁰ Virginia Burger, a senior defense policy analyst at the Center for Defense Information at the Project on Government Oversight, as cited in POLITICO Pro's Morning Defense on March 9, 2026; Stockman, Farah. "Iran's Drones Cost a Fraction of the U.S. Weapons Shooting Them Down." *The New York Times*, 4 March 2026, <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/03/04/business/iran-shahed-drones-missiles-us-war.html>.