

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0906

September 5, 2008

Florida Taxpayers Union
C/O President John Hallman
3200 N. Federal Hwy., Ste. 130
Boca Raton, Florida 33431

Dear Mr. Hallman:

Members of the Florida Taxpayers Union,

Thank you for your ongoing work to drive down taxes and control government spending. Now more than ever, proposals are surfacing in Washington that would increase taxes on every working American. The recent energy debate highlights the willingness among some to raise taxes and we must remain vigilant against these attempts.

The most egregious proposal was the so-called "windfall profits tax" brought up during the energy debate. This proposal would have raised taxes by 21 billion dollars through tax increases on oil and gas companies. I voted against that proposal because those taxes would have been borne by you and me and every other working American through higher gas prices. According to a recent study, by the year 2016 this provision would have raised gas prices in Florida by two dollars a gallon over today's prices. During an energy crisis, the last thing working Americans need is higher prices at the pump.

The tax increase was also misguided because it would only have impacted U.S. companies, giving another advantage to foreign oil companies such as those in Venezuela and China. Raising taxes as a way of addressing the energy crisis is not sound policy. There are likely to be more attempts to take America down this path in the near future and I hope I can count on your support to defeat these proposals.

Thank you again for the work that you do. Please know you have my support as you continue working for lower taxes and smaller government.

Sincerely,



Mel Martinez
United States Senator

MM/jpc