

**SCR 1603 – Written Proponent Testimony**  
**House Committee on Energy, Utilities, and**  
**Telecommunications**  
**Urging the Restoration of Energy Independence**  
**Michael Austin – Legislative Director**  
**March 16, 2023**



Chair Delperdang and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Americans for Prosperity Kansas Chapter, we appreciate this opportunity to submit testimony supporting SCR 1603. SCR 1603 urges the President of the United States to restore energy independence in the United States.

President Biden's refusal to pursue energy independence has created an energy war on the poor. Since taking office, President Biden has repeatedly stated to "work like the devil to bring energy prices down." But his actions are to tell Americans to buy electric vehicles while pleading to foreign governments, including Iran and Venezuela, to produce and export oil.

The impact of high gas prices on poor and middle-income Kansans is growing weekly. In the last 12 months, gas prices have exceeded \$5.00/gallon. <sup>1</sup> Higher gas prices devastate a family's budget for a place like Kansas, where personal vehicle transportation is essential to Americans.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the lowest 20% of income earners spend 8.4% of their gross pay just on motor vehicle fuel and 32% on all transportation costs..<sup>2</sup> To make matters worse, those statistics were reported in 2021 – when gas prices were lower than where they are today.

Free-market principles can lead us to a solution. When prices rise, businesses are encouraged to supply more goods and services. Not only does this eliminate any shortages, but prices then fall once the goods hit the market. This isn't a theory but a reality. During the Trump administration, Saudi Arabia cut oil production and exports, pushing high gas prices. In response, President Trump rollbacked energy regulations, leading to record production of 12.4 million barrels of crude oil daily.<sup>3</sup>

With this information, we urge the committee to support SCR 1603

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<sup>1</sup> Energy Information Administration, *Gasoline and Diesel Fuel Update*, <https://www.eia.gov/petroleum/gasdiesel/>

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Consumer Expenditure Surveys*, <https://www.bls.gov/cex/>

<sup>3</sup> Reuters, *Factbox: U.S. oil and gas regulatory rollbacks under Trump*, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-climate-regulations-factbox/factbox-u-s-oil-and-gas-regulatory-rollbacks-under-trump-idUSKCN1VI2BP>