



Office of the Secretary

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20580

January 31, 2013

The Honorable Dean Heller  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Heller:

Thank you for your letter to the Federal Trade Commission – and to the Department of Energy and the Department of the Interior – concerning increases in gasoline prices in Nevada toward the end of last year. In your letter, you advise that these price increases appear to be attributable to a number of factors, including refinery disruptions and concerns about supply, but also note the need to make sure that producers and retailers are not manipulating prices. You therefore request that the Commission and the Departments take appropriate steps to prevent illegal market manipulation.

Your correspondence has been forwarded to the Commissioners and to appropriate members of the Commission staff for review, and I can assure you that the information you have provided and the concerns you have expressed continue to receive careful consideration. In view of the enormous importance of petroleum prices for consumers and the American economy, the Commission will continue its extensive efforts to identify and prevent practices in the petroleum industry that violate any statute or rule the agency enforces.

We appreciate your continued interest in this important area on behalf of consumers and competition. If you or your staff would like to forward any additional information, please call Ms. Jeanne Bumpus, the Director of our Office of Congressional Relations, at (202) 326-2195. Please also let us know whenever we can be of assistance with respect to any other matter.

Sincerely,  
  
Donald S. Clark  
Secretary of the Commission