

109TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4043

To provide for a report from the National Academy of Sciences on the feasibility and design of a national strategic gasoline reserve.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 7, 2005

Mr. ISSA (for himself, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mrs. BONO, and Mr. DOOLITTLE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To provide for a report from the National Academy of Sciences on the feasibility and design of a national strategic gasoline reserve.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Gasoline Assurance  
5       and Security Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress makes the following findings:

1           (1) The hurricanes of 2004 and 2005 heavily  
2           damaged domestic petroleum infrastructure critical  
3           to the United States economy.

4           (2) Releases from the Strategic Petroleum Re-  
5           serve have been effective in mitigating supply shocks  
6           of crude oil but have highlighted deficiencies in pe-  
7           troleum refining capacity.

8           (3) The average pump price for September 6,  
9           2005, was \$3.07 per gallon, up \$0.46 per gallon  
10          from the previous week—a record weekly increase.

11          (4) In the immediate aftermath of Hurricane  
12          Katrina, waivers of Clean Air Act requirements by  
13          the Environmental Protection Agency were necessary  
14          to bring gasoline to market.

15          (5) In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, to help  
16          meet demand and mitigate potentially disastrous  
17          economic effects, the United States had to rely on  
18          imports of gasoline from strategic gasoline reserves  
19          in Europe.

20          (6) Annual growth of domestic demand for gas-  
21          oline outstrips increases in United States refining  
22          capacity by 0.5 to 1.0 percent per year.

23          (7) Imports of gasoline have increased 195 per-  
24          cent since 1995, with 12 percent of United States

1 gasoline demand met by imports in the summer of  
2 2005.

3 (8) In times of crisis, the speed at which for-  
4 eign supplies can be provided to meet a shortfall in  
5 domestic refining production and the delivered price  
6 of imported supplies are of grave concern.

7 (9) No new domestic refineries are under con-  
8 struction, and the tremendous requirements for cap-  
9 ital investment, construction, and engineering design  
10 cause lead-times of up to 5 years for completion of  
11 a new refinery.

12 (10) It is necessary to find solutions for inad-  
13 equate supply of refined petroleum products during  
14 the aftermath of an Act of God or national emer-  
15 gency.

16 **SEC. 3. STUDY BY THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.**

17 The Secretary of Energy shall request the National  
18 Academy of Sciences to—

19 (1) conduct a study to—

20 (A) determine what Federal action would  
21 be necessary to improve the reserve supply of  
22 gasoline in situations of severe gasoline supply  
23 interruption;

1 (B) determine the configuration and feasi-  
2 bility of a Federal strategic national reserve for  
3 gasoline taking into account—

4 (i) the needs of different regions of  
5 the country;

6 (ii) the likelihood that Clean Air Act  
7 waivers similar to those described in sec-  
8 tion 2(4) would be issued with the release  
9 of gasoline from such a reserve; and

10 (iii) how such a reserve may affect the  
11 design and management of the Strategic  
12 Petroleum Reserve; and

13 (C) assess physical storage options on a  
14 scale appropriate for a national reserve for gas-  
15 oline, jet fuel, diesel fuel, and natural gas, spe-  
16 cifically comparing the storage options for these  
17 fuels to that of crude oil in the Strategic Petro-  
18 leum Reserve; and

19 (2) not later than 60 days after the date of en-  
20 actment of this Act, submit to Congress a report on  
21 the results of the study.

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