

109TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1629

To provide the President with authority to temporarily freeze the price of gasoline and other refined products.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 7, 2005

Mr. LEVIN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

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## A BILL

To provide the President with authority to temporarily freeze the price of gasoline and other refined products.

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 “Hurricane Katrina  
5 Emergency Temporary Energy Price Freeze Act of 2005”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 (a) The Congress hereby finds that—

8 (1) Hurricane Katrina has caused extensive  
9 damage to petroleum production, refining and trans-  
10 portation facilities, and extensive damage to port fa-

1 cilities and electricity generation facilities, causing  
2 additional shutdowns of refineries and loss of trans-  
3 portation capacity for petroleum products;

4 (2) the shutdown of refineries and reduction in  
5 transportation capacity for petroleum products  
6 caused by Hurricane Katrina has led to massive  
7 price increases for petroleum products throughout  
8 the United States;

9 (3) these massive price increases have caused  
10 severe hardships for millions of Americans who de-  
11 pend upon affordable and adequate supplies of gaso-  
12 line and petroleum products for transportation and  
13 other daily necessities; and

14 (4) these massive price increases threaten the  
15 availability and affordability of many products in  
16 interstate commerce.

17 (b) To address these problems caused by Hurricane  
18 Katrina, the President should temporarily freeze the price  
19 of gasoline and other petroleum products to reduce the  
20 burden on millions of Americans and interstate commerce  
21 from rapidly increasing prices of gasoline and other petro-  
22 leum products.

23 **SEC. 3. PRESIDENTIAL AUTHORITY TO FREEZE PRICES.**

24 (a) The President is authorized to issue such orders  
25 and regulations to temporarily freeze wholesale and retail

1 prices of gasoline and other petroleum products at or  
2 below the levels prevailing on August 27, 2005. Such or-  
3 ders and regulations may provide for the making of such  
4 adjustments as may be necessary to prevent any gross in-  
5 equities.

6 (b) The President may delegate the performance of  
7 any function under this Act to such officers, departments,  
8 and agencies of the United States as he deems appro-  
9 priate.

10 **SEC. 4. ENFORCEMENT.**

11 (a) Whoever willfully violates any order or regulation  
12 under this section shall be fined an amount up to three  
13 times the amount of the gain from such violation.

14 (b) The President, or any person delegated authority  
15 under this Act by the President, shall have authority to  
16 seek a temporary or permanent injunction in the proper  
17 United States district court to prevent or halt violations  
18 of orders or regulations issued under this Act.

19 **SEC. 5. TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.**

20 The authority under this Act shall terminate upon a  
21 finding by the President that the domestic supply of petro-  
22 leum products meets or exceeds the level of domestic sup-  
23 ply as of August 27, 2005.

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