

From: ngiann1@pitt.edu
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2010 11:54 AM
To: secretary <secretary@CFTC.gov>
Subject: Proposed Speculative Position Limits on Energy

Nick Giannoukakis
126 Herbst Road
Coraopolis, PA 15108-3622

April 16, 2010

David Stawick
Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission
Three Lafayette Centre
1155 21st Street, NW
Washington, DC 20581

Dear Mr. Stawick:

I am writing in support of the CFTC's Proposed Federal Speculative Position Limits that will reestablish speculative position limits on major energy commodities.

Furthermore, I am writing for you to support all efforts aimed at investigating the role and the dangers of untransparent over the counter trading of energy instruments and the use of black pools of liquidity and crossing networks to make these untransparent and possibly illegal trades. They add more to the volatility of energy instruments and hurt Americans and our country's financial stability.

Our tax dollars were used to bail out large Wall Street firms when they were on the brink of bankruptcy. It is these same institutions that pushed the price of gasoline well past \$4 per gallon in 2008 by gambling on oil and continue to profit at every American's expense.

Rampant oil speculation by large Wall Street trading firms has resulted in extreme volatility in energy markets and unwarranted price spikes in recent years. Given that supplies are at record highs and demand remains weak, fundamentals cannot explain recent price hikes and destructive price swings. Unless the CFTC adopts the proposed rule, markets will continue to fluctuate wildly.

Position limits existed in energy markets until 2001 and currently apply to agricultural commodities. CFTC should use its existing experience to regulate position limits of speculators and prevent excessive concentration in the energy markets, while ensuring that exemptions to these limits afforded to real physical players such as fuel cooperatives, public utilities, truckers and airlines are not exploited by big banks and billionaire investors.

Energy consumers desperately need stability in the marketplace. I encourage the CFTC to adopt the Proposed Federal Speculative Position Limits before volatile fuel prices further harm the country's already weakened economy.

Sincerely,

Nick Giannoukakis
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