

**From:** nicholas.m.schwendeman@delta.com  
**Sent:** Friday, April 23, 2010 12:21 PM  
**To:** secretary <secretary@CFTC.gov>  
**Subject:** Proposed Speculative Position Limits on Energy

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April 23, 2010

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

Dear Mr. Stawick:

Oil is too vital a resource for our economy to allow speculation to so dramatically fluctuate its price. Speculation in other commodities is less harmful, as the effect is much smaller. But speculation on oil affects us all very dramatically. Like our dependence on oil or not, the reality today is every small change in crude oil prices touches each and every American. Gas prices are just the first thing seen. It affects the price of food, the price of travel, the price to heat our homes, the price of just about everything we buy or consume.

I support the free market in general, and I don't think speculation itself is a bad thing. But in the case of oil, the cost is just too high, and affects too many people.

I am writing in support of the CFTC's Proposed Federal Speculative Position Limits that will reestablish speculative position limits on major energy commodities. This rule will provide stability to the marketplace and help prevent future price bubbles. The CFTC must quickly approve a strong rule to protect America's struggling economy. Wall Street's speculative trading in oil not only hurts the economy, but hurts every American who pays excessive prices at the pump, for groceries, home heating oil and everything related to transportation.

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,

Nicholas Schwendeman  
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