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Proposed Rules

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Dear Sirs:

Instead of forcing position limits in the energy futures markets, the CFTC should be working with the industry to develop effective tools for the general public to "lock in" energy prices like the big end users can do by using futures, options, and other derivatives.

The use of these tools over the years has helped the food industry limit the impact of basic commodity volatility on retail food prices.

I've often asked why the general public isn't offered products to help them mitigate the volatility of energy prices on the price they pay "at the pump." Futures, options, and other derivatives are designed to help people manage their risk, but yet no one has done anything for the individual consumer.

That in my opinion would be a more effective solution than limiting the role of speculative trading, especially when it can be shown that speculative trading was not largely responsible for 2008's rise in energy prices. Limiting speculation will do little to contain commodity inflation when forces outside of the U.S. are having an increasingly larger impact on our commodity prices, energy in particular.

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