



Jean Schmidt

Member of Congress

Ohio

June 18, 2008

Mr. Tim Burke
Chairman of the Hamilton County Democrat Party
6109 Webbland Place
Cincinnati, Ohio 45213

Dear Mr. Burke:

While I have yet to receive a copy of your letter attacking me, I wanted to respond as soon as possible.

I always enjoy your loose relationship with the truth, but this one may well earn you a gold medal for hypocrisy.

A quick search of the Congressional Record would have yielded you some names of folks who said the same thing I did. I understand that research is not something you typically do when you have been faxed your talking points.

Had you taken a few minutes you would have found that Chairman Charlie Rangel, a man we both respect, had placed into the Congressional Record the same claim. He was joined by Senator Byron Dorgan (D-ND) and Representative Mike Ross (D-AR) who made the same claim.

Yet of the four of us, I was amazingly singled out for your venom. I imagine those names were not on your talking points. You may know Senator Dorgan; he is both Chairman of the Senate's Energy Sub-Committee and Chairman of the Democrat Policy Committee.

Further, I find it amazing that the Communists in Cuba have demonstrated a better understanding of the laws of supply and demand than your party.

I know that the extreme environment-wing of your party is pleased that gas prices continue to climb. But the working class families that you so boastfully claim to represent are footing the bill every time they go to the pump. They can afford your energy policy no more.

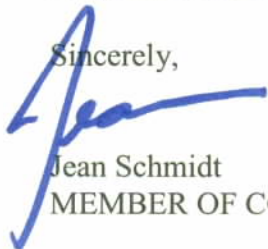
On the issue of my vote not to raise taxes by some \$13 billion on the oil companies, please allow me to explain. Taxes are a portion of the cost of manufacturing a product. When you increase taxes on a company you increase the manufacturing cost; thus, the price it charges for its products will increase. I will not vote for even higher gasoline prices like my opponent this fall has proposed. I will assume by your silence that you have endorsed her proposal to increase the gasoline tax by \$.50 per gallon.

Perhaps the communists might be able to provide both of you some counsel on this economic reality.

Please know that I will do everything in my power to increase the supply of gasoline in this country so that prices may return to a level nearer the price when the Democrat Majority came into office. A majority made possible, in part, by boasting of a "common sense plan" to lower gasoline prices.

If by chance you happen to have a copy of the so-called "common sense plan" would you be so kind as to forward a copy to Speaker Pelosi. She seems to have misplaced her copy.

Sincerely,



Jean Schmidt
MEMBER OF CONGRESS