

State of the Economy II

2008 FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

In my last weekly newsletter I indicated that the main ingredient needed to successfully achieve goals of lowering fuel prices and a steady supply of oil, is a well-defined plan. I defined that plan as an opportunity to pressure Congress to pass legislation to expand oil capacity and make it easier to build refineries and nuclear power plants. I suggested that we start a grass roots movement telling every congressman and senator that if they don't support the movement, they will be voted out of the office. Now, those are big words and they almost sound like a politician. The real issue is how do you take your thoughts and turn them into actions?

There are several things that can be used to educate people. The first would be a newsletter given to everyone in the industry that explains in brief and simple terms the truth about the US oil and fuel situation. Included in the letter would be a web address to a website that would explain in detail what is causing our fuel crisis and give steps towards the remedy of the situation. For people who don't have access to the internet, a toll free number could be given so the information could be mailed. Newsletters and posters could also be left at truck stops, across the nation, in prominent places to draw attention to the effort.

The simplest way for people to take action after they read the information is to include letters to their congressmen and to their senators. These letters would explain that any congressman or senator that does not support the effort to expand the US energy supply and lower prices, will be voted out of office. The letters would include addressed and stamped or metered envelopes or they would be sealable in a way that could just be signed, folded and mailed. Phone numbers for Congress, both in Washington and at their home office, would also be included. In order to help all people get involved, the website would also have the letters to Congress so that anyone can print them. The website would also have the names, addresses and phone numbers of every senator and congressman so the letters could be easily sent.

While the newsletters are being sent out, a bill would be written that covers everything needed to expand the US energy supply.

This could be drafted by the American Trucking Association in conjunction with the Truckload Carriers Association.

Some of the things needed on this bill would be:

- Opening the US coast line;
- Opening ANWR to exploration and drilling and allow work to begin on extracting oil from the oil shale;
- Changing the endangered species act so that while endangered species may not be hunted or wantonly killed, those species could not be used to hold the entire country hostage by bringing business to a stop, especially on private land.

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Such a plan like this may seem daunting. However, the average American in the US business sector is looking for someone to take the lead and start a movement they can support.

What I am talking about is public involvement. I can tell you that politicians do not like receiving hundreds of thousands of letters accusing them of not doing their job;

- They represent “the” people, and;
- If “the” people are upset;
- The congressmen become upset.

In closing, it’s important for you to recognize that when I started Part I of this newsletter, I stated that these were the comments of a fellow that parks my car, everyday at lunch time. His name is Shawn and his income and his lifestyle have been directly affected. His income, his lifestyle and the restaurants income has been directly affected by the issues that have been discussed above. Shawn is an average American. **He is one of those individuals that is constantly getting monetarily “squeezed” because of the political situation and Shawn would be the first to tell you that he would rather feed his family and take care of himself instead of protecting the “spotted” owl.**