

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

August 14, 2015

Robert Dudley  
Chief Executive Officer  
British Petroleum  
501 Westlake Park Boulevard  
Houston, TX 77079

Dear Mr. Dudley:

Gasoline prices throughout the upper Midwest have risen very sharply after the closure of a unit at BP's refinery in Whiting, Indiana. The increases have been most dramatic in the parts of Michigan and Indiana that depend most on this refinery. Some areas of the Midwest have seen prices rise over \$1 per gallon over a 24 hour period, disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable of our constituents and resulting in large unpredicted costs in getting goods to market across the region. Additionally, some are worried that speculators may force additional increases due to lack of information. Needless to say, this incident poses a serious hardship for our districts.

These price spikes hit the pocketbooks of every consumer and they have the right to know the answers to the following questions:

1. What is the cause of the outage and when did it occur?
2. How much gasoline production has been idled?
3. How long is the outage expected to last?
4. Is it possible for other refineries in the region (or other units at Whiting) to make up for the shortfall, and if not why not?
5. Does BP exert any control over the price that individual gas stations charge, and if so what is the company doing to prevent price gouging?
6. Is there any role for state and federal governments in alleviating the severity and/or duration of the price spike and in reducing the likelihood of future incidences?

Please respond to these questions by August 21 and provide us with daily updates thereafter until the situation is resolved. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Fred Upton  
Member of Congress



Jackie Walorski  
Member of Congress