

JASON SMITH
8TH DISTRICT, MISSOURI

**COMMITTEE ON
THE JUDICIARY**

COURTS, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND
THE INTERNET SUBCOMMITTEE

REGULATORY REFORM, COMMERCIAL
AND ANTI-TRUST LAW SUBCOMMITTEE

CONSTITUTION AND CIVIL JUSTICE
SUBCOMMITTEE

**COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES**

PUBLIC LANDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL
REGULATION SUBCOMMITTEE

FISHERIES, WILDLIFE, OCEANS AND
INSULAR AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2508

2230 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4404-PHONE
(202) 226-6326-FAX

CAPE GIRARDEAU OFFICE
2502 TANNER DRIVE, SUITE 205
CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO 63703
(573) 335-0101-PHONE

FARMINGTON OFFICE
22 E. COLUMBIA STREET
FARMINGTON, MO 63640
(573) 756-9755-PHONE

ROLLA OFFICE
830A S. BISHOP
ROLLA, MO 65401
(573) 364-2455-PHONE

WEST PLAINS OFFICE
35 COURT SQUARE, SUITE 300
WEST PLAINS, MO 65775
(417) 255-1515-PHONE

<http://www.jasonsmith.house.gov>

January 27, 2014

The Honorable Edith Ramirez
Chairwoman, Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20580

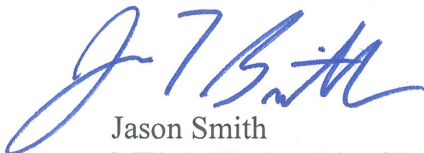
Dear Chairwoman Ramirez:

The cost of propane is spiking dramatically across the Midwest, and particularly in the State of Missouri. I am writing to ask that the Federal Trade Commission conduct oversight of the propane market in the Midwest to ensure that price gouging and anti-competitive behaviors are not driving these price increases.

The spot price of propane at Conway, Kansas – the main supply point for my district – has recently increased far above the spot price at Mont Belvieu, Texas. While there are considerable supply and transportation issues that may be adding to this large price differential. Many of the state and federal regulations causing it have now been waived. I would urge you to find out if opportunistic trading during a natural disaster is mostly to blame. Many of my constituents are reporting that their long-term propane supply contracts are being cancelled – one hopes that these schools, fire departments, family farmers, and homeowners are not being put out in the cold so that market speculators can make a few extra dollars.

As such, I formally request that the Federal Trade Commission conduct oversight of the propane market in the Midwest to prevent possible anti-competitive behavior or illegal manipulation, and to ensure that any supply shortages are not created artificially. I look forward to hearing the results of this oversight.

Sincerely,



Jason Smith
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Cc: The Honorable Eric Holder
Attorney General of the United States

The Honorable Ernest Moniz
Secretary of Energy

The Honorable Mark Wetjen
Acting Chairman, Commodity Futures Trading Commission