

HAROLD RUNNELS
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

May 2, 1977

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Eliot Porter
Route 4, Box 33
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Eliot:

Thank you for your recent communication expressing your thoughts on the President's energy message to the Congress and to the nation.

New Mexico, as an energy-producing state, has a special interest in the outcome of this issue. Therefore, I listened to President Carter's remarks during his address to the nation, his appearance before the Congress, and a special briefing I attended at the White House.

I share the President's concern for the need to conserve this nation's available oil and gas supplies. I have said for some time that petroleum products are becoming too valuable to burn, and have, as a result, strongly supported federal involvement in development of new sources of energy. I have, for example, been one of the leaders in the House of Representatives for increased funding of solar energy development.

While I share the President's view that we must conserve the available resources, I truthfully was very disappointed that he didn't indicate that the federal government would make a major commitment to finding new sources of energy. This nation has the technology. We have proved it time and again in such programs as space and military equipment. I personally am convinced that if we would undertake a development program similar to the commitment President Kennedy made in 1961 when we found ourselves behind in the space program, we would soon find the answers to meeting our future energy requirements.

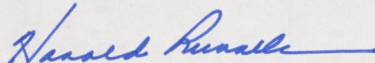
The imposition of new taxes on gasoline and large automobiles which will then be rebated in the form of tax credits serves only one purpose, the creation of even more government bureaucracy to administer the program. Additionally, it would not result in a single drop of new oil or gas.

The President's energy proposal is a very complicated measure. I will support those provisions which I feel are responsive to meeting this nation's energy crisis. I will oppose those provisions which serve only to penalize the unfortunate consumer and discourage new oil and gas exploration.

I appreciate your taking the time to share your thoughts with me on this very important issue.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Harold Runnels", followed by a horizontal line.

HAROLD RUNNELS, M.C.

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