

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3802
specter.senate.gov

August 5, 2008

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

I urge you to call Congress back into session to use the August recess to legislate on energy in an effort to deal with the high cost of oil and gasoline at the pump.

On July 28, 2008 in a floor debate, I challenged Majority Leader Reid directly to keep the Senate in session during August for that purpose. He declined, responding that Republicans would "suffer" more than Democrats because more Republican Senate seats were in jeopardy. I countered with the observation that it wasn't a matter of whether Republicans or Democrats would "suffer" the most, but that the issue was the suffering of the American people from the high cost of oil and gasoline.

For months the Senate has been dysfunctional and gridlocked for reasons specified in my op-ed article (copy enclosed) which is published in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* today. I further suggest that you call upon Senator Reid to suspend his practice of "filling the tree," at least during the August session so that the Senate can perform its traditional function and legislate.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Arlen Specter