

## **Coffman: High Gas Prices Negatively Affecting Seniors, Working Families, Memorial Day Travel**

**(WASHINGTON)** — Today U.S. Rep. Mike Coffman (R-CO) discussed with witnesses in a U.S. House Natural Resources Committee about how high gasoline prices are disproportionately affecting seniors, working families and minorities, as well as negatively affecting the tourism industry. Coffman, who sits on the Committee, said more could be done to develop domestic energy and to lessen our dependency on expensive sources of foreign energy.

“Witness after witness from across the country has come before this Committee to show us how rising gas prices are one of the biggest roadblocks we face on the path to economic recovery,” Coffman said. “With our vast domestic sources, there is no reason that further economic damage should be caused by the high price of gas.”

The hearing was called as many Americans prepare for the Memorial Day weekend. According to AAA, 40 percent of Americans say gasoline prices will affect their Memorial Day vacation plans, negatively impacting a host of small businesses across the country dependant on tourism.

“When families cannot vacation it affects everything from gas stations and restaurants along the way to the beach, as well as the venues at their would-be destination,” said Pamela Anderson, operations manager of Capt. Anderson’s Marina in Panama City, Florida.

Witnesses also testified before the committee over the disproportionate effect rising gas prices have on seniors, working families and minorities.

“Energy costs represent a much larger fraction of disposable income for households earning

less than \$50,000 than for wealthier families. Due to these income inequalities, the burdens of energy price increases are imposed disproportionately on black and Hispanic households,” said Deneen Borelli, a Project 21 Fellow at the National Center for Public Policy Research.

“The crippling burden of these high prices can mean not being able to buy medications, get around, or stay warm in winter or cool in summer,” said James Martin, Chairman of The 60 Plus Association. “For seniors this is about more than economic security, it’s about survival.”

This hearing is the third in a series on harnessing American resources to address rising gasoline prices. For more information, please [click here](#) .

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