

REPLY TO:

135 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501
(202) 224-3744
e-mail: grassley.senate.gov/contact.cfm

721 FEDERAL BUILDING
210 WALNUT STREET
DES MOINES, IA 50309-2140
(515) 288-1145

111 7TH AVENUE, SE, Box 13
SUITE 6800
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52401-2101
(319) 363-6832

United States Senate

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501

January 23, 2014

REPLY TO:

103 FEDERAL COURTHOUSE BUILDING
320 6TH STREET
SIOUX CITY, IA 51101-1244
(712) 233-1860

210 WATERLOO BUILDING
531 COMMERCIAL STREET
WATERLOO, IA 50701-5497
(319) 232-6657

201 WEST 2ND STREET
SUITE 720
DAVENPORT, IA 52801-1817
(563) 322-4331

307 FEDERAL BUILDING
8 SOUTH 6TH STREET
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA 51501-4204
(712) 322-7103

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

Dear Chairwoman Ramirez:

I am writing to inquire about the Federal Trade Commission's oversight of the propane market in the Midwest.

In recent days, the Midwest spot price of propane at Conway, Kansas, has spiked far above the Gulf Coast spot price at Mont Belvieu, Texas. I recognize that in the fall, the demand for propane to dry the large, wet corn harvest was significant. In addition, the Midwest has experienced increased demand for propane due to the current cold weather. However, the price for propane at Conway has surpassed the spot price in Mont Belvieu by as much as several dollars. Many of my constituents have questioned this considerable price differential. Moreover, in just the past few days, the spot price for propane in the Midwest has doubled.

I request that the Federal Trade Commission remain vigilant in overseeing the propane market 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 your review of the propane market in the Midwest.

Sincerely,


Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator

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

Committee Assignments:

RANKING MEMBER,
JUDICIARY

AGRICULTURE
BUDGET
FINANCE

CO-CHAIRMAN,
INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS
CONTROL CAUCUS