

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 16, 2026

The Honorable Chris Wright  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Wright:

I write to seek clarification regarding the Department of Energy's recent announcement that it will release 172 million barrels from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR).<sup>1</sup> Gas prices in Arizona and across the country have skyrocketed since the beginning of the war in Iran, and Arizonans deserve additional insight into the decision making and details around this announcement.<sup>2</sup>

Although the SPR is designed to "alleviate the market impacts of both domestic and international disruptions," I am concerned that its effects will not be felt equally by all Americans, including Arizonans.<sup>3</sup> No detail was provided in the SPR release announcement about where the fuel will be sent, or how allocations will be determined.

I therefore request that you provide answers to the following questions by April 6, 2026:

1. How did the Department determine how many barrels would be released from the SPR?
2. What is the Department's plan for distribution of the additional releases across various regions of the United States? What factors were considered in the planning process?
3. In the Department's analysis, how much of an increase in gas supply will be seen in Arizona? What impact is this release expected to have on gas prices in the state?

I look forward to gaining more details on how your Department plans to relieve Arizona's exceptionally high gas prices through releases from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve- an anticipation that I know is shared by Arizonans who are struggling to pay the price of conflict with Iran.

Sincerely,



Ruben Gallego  
United States Senator

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<https://www.energy.gov/articles/united-states-release-172-million-barrels-oil-strategic-petroleum-reserve>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.newsweek.com/how-much-gas-increased-every-state-iran-war-11671068>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.energy.gov/hgeo/opr/articles/infographic-strategic-petroleum-reserve>