

RESOLUTION RULES, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, Americans across the country are facing record breaking gas prices; and

WHEREAS, these price increases are made all the more frustrating given that fossil fuel companies are continually posting financial profits as inflation undermines Americans' buying power; and

WHEREAS, previous examples of energy market manipulations regulated by the federal government have involved the intentional sale of energy reserves at a loss to strengthen a company's overall position, making fraudulent trades to collect certain electricity market payments; and, manipulating the market by withholding or flooding the market with supply to benefit a company's position; and

WHEREAS, to protect consumers S. 4217, the Transportation Fuel Market Transparency Act (Cantwell) has been introduced in Congress and would significantly increase transportation fuel market transparency to prevent any fraud or manipulation that may be artificially inflating gas prices; and

WHEREAS, this legislation would strengthen oversight by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) with increased penalties for those companies that provide false information to manipulate the market; and

WHEREAS, the bill enhances the FTC's authority to go after false market information designed to artificially inflate retail prices; establishes a new Transportation Fuel Monitoring and Enforcement Unit at the FTC to analyze fuel markets for transparency and competitive market practices; and, identifies any manipulation, reporting of false information, use of market power or any other unfair method to distort transportation fuel markets to accrue illegal profits; and

WHEREAS, the City should support this legislation to ensure transparent and competitive transportation fuel markets in order to protect consumers from unwarranted price increases;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles includes in its 2021 - 2022 Federal Legislative Program support for S. 4217 (Cantwell), the Transportation Fuel Market Transparency Act, which would significantly increase transportation fuel market transparency to prevent any fraud or manipulation that may be artificially inflating gas prices.

PRESENTED BY: Paul Koretz
PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY: Paul Koretz

JUN 01 2022
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