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SCHAKOWSKY JOINS LEADER GEPHARDT AND OTHERS TO EXPOSE BUSH ADMINISTRATION CLOSE TIES TO BIG OIL

**DEMOCRATS RELEASE REPORT ENTITLED
GOP: GRAND OIL PARTY**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) today joined Democratic Leader Dick Gephardt to demand relief for consumers being gouged by big oil. At a news conference, Democrats also released a report exposing the Bush Administration and Republicans close ties to the energy companies that are responsible for charging consumers high-energy prices.

"The Bush Administration has said that there is nothing that can be done to help consumers in the short-term, that the only strategy is long-term. We know that isn't so. The President should act now to stop price gouging - First, by jawboning his friends in the oil and gas industry and, if that doesn't work, sending legislation to Congress to get relief now," Schakowsky said.

Schakowsky added, "If the President is willing to reach out to labor leaders, certainly he can bring in his and Vice President Cheney's big oil friends to demand some relief. According to Vice President Cheney 'There's not much we can do in the short term.' What he really meant to say was, 'There's not much we WANT to do in the short term.'"

She concluded, "We know that big oil has played a role in the price spikes by manipulating supply in order to maximize profits. Democrats will not stand idly by while consumers continue to get gouged. We have offered a short and long-term plan for sensible energy policy and also know that consumers need relief now. So far, the Bush Administration has only proposed relief for big oil."