

**MARCH 23, 2001**

**DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS ENERGY TASK FORCE REQUESTS IMMEDIATE MEETING WITH SECRETARY OF ENERGY**

**SCHAKOWSKY AND OTHERS WRITE:**

***"WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSITION THE ADMINISTRATION HAS TAKEN IN RECENT DAYS"***

**WASHINGTON, D.C. -After consumers in her district were forced to pay more than double to heat their homes and with gas prices at the pump likely to soar again this summer, U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) called on the Secretary of Energy to "meet with the Democratic Caucus Energy Tasks Force next week to discuss the current energy situation."**

**In a letter to Secretary Abraham, Schakowsky and her colleagues on the Democratic Energy Task Force wrote, "Americans across the country are facing soaring gasoline prices at the pump, natural gas prices have more than tripled, and electricity costs that have been volatile all over the country, particularly in the West Coast."**

**They added that they are moving closer to developing a comprehensive energy policy to address short and long-term national energy needs. "Adopting a policy that strengthens our economy, protects our environment, and keeps our nation secure is our first priority," they concluded.**

**Schakowsky and her colleagues oppose plans by the Administration to drill in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as a solution to meet our nation's growing energy demands.**