

Good morning members of the Natural Resources Committee. My name is Andy Juris, I am 4th generation wheat farmer from Klickitat County in Eastern Washington and the current Vice President of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers. Thank you for the invitation to address you this morning.

Today rural Americans, and particularly farmers, face an uncertain future due to the current geopolitical implications of the war in Ukraine, continued COVID infections, and unfortunate energy policy. This is particularly true with respect to gas, diesel, and natural gas. Regardless of one's view of fossil fuels, there simply is no viable, affordable, or even available replacement for us currently. The equipment we use burns it at set rates within its engine power parameters, the trucks, trains, and barges that transport it also burn it at a set rate. Fuel is one of the essential components that powers the food security that America has enjoyed since it emerged from the Great Depression.

Recently there has been quite a bit in the news regarding the supply chain disruptions that have affected fertilizer, crop protection chemicals, and equipment repair parts. These all have put an immense strain on the stability of American agriculture, and farmers are doing their best to mitigate these risks. That may include using less fertilizer (which can result in less yield), switching to tillage or no-till practices, and running older equipment that is easier to repair. However, fuel stands alone as something that, at a certain level, we cannot operate without. Trucks can't haul a crop halfway, and you can't only harvest half a field. We need fuel, particularly mid-range distillates like diesel that are 1) Available, and 2) Priced within our ability to purchase it. Washington State stands among a group of states with the highest fuel prices in the nation.

Today the American farmers are doing everything they can to ensure the safety, stability, and affordability of the food supply, both domestically and for our international partners. But we need help. We need policy that will assist refining capacity to return to 2019 levels and perhaps beyond, the streamlined designation of critical energy projects, and renewed domestic oil production. But this isn't my area of expertise, what I do know is that we are being squeezed, pressured from all sides. Fuel, its price, and its availability, is fueling this crisis. Farmers stand ready to do their jobs, grow our food, and we also stand ready to partner with all of you to address this challenge. Thank you for your time.

Data points for Diesel and Gasoline Prices:

WASHINGTON AVERAGE GAS PRICES ⁱ

	Regular	Mid-Grade	Premium	Diesel
Current Avg.	\$5.526	\$5.743	\$5.928	\$6.373
Yesterday Avg.	\$5.537	\$5.741	\$5.928	\$6.355
Week Ago Avg.	\$5.555	\$5.754	\$5.945	\$6.245
Month Ago Avg.	\$5.205	\$5.389	\$5.585	\$5.766
Year Ago Avg.	\$3.640	\$3.840	\$4.015	\$3.536

COMPARE STATES ⁱ

Location Washington ▼ National ▼

Gas Reg Mid Prem Diesel

