Times Argus

With rising oil prices and turmoil in the Middle East, Congressman Peter Welch and two House colleagues are asking the president to tap emergency oil reserves to give consumers short-term relief from rising prices.

Welch and Reps. Edward Markey of Massachusetts and Rosa DeLauro of Connecticut urged the president on Thursday to consider using the strategic oil reserve to prevent supply disruptions and rising prices from rampant speculation in the oil markets.

The letter says it's a short-term step to help consumers but says the country needs to develop clean energy alternatives that reduce its dependence on oil in the long-term.