

Republican Senators to push for \$100 gas rebate checks

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Associated Press

WASHINGTON (CNN) -- Most American taxpayers would get \$100 rebate checks to offset the pain of higher pump prices for gasoline, under an amendment Senate Republicans hope to bring to a vote Thursday.



However, the GOP energy package may face tough sledding because it also includes a controversial proposal to open part of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska to oil exploration, which most Democrats and some moderate Republicans oppose. Democrats are also expected to offer their own competing proposal, as members of both parties jockey for political position on the gas price issue.

"Our plan would give taxpayers a hundred dollar gas tax holiday rebate check to help ease the pain that they're feeling at the pump," Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist announced Thursday. Frist said the rebates would go to single taxpayers making less than \$125,000 per year, and couples making less than \$150,000. Republican senators said they hoped soaring gas prices would inspire Democrats to support their proposals.

"A lot of these other things we're talking about today, supply, like ANWR, have had Democrats oppose them in the past, when gas was \$1.25, \$1.50. Gas is now \$3," said John Thune, R-South Dakota. "I would expect that there would be a lot more bipartisan support for proposals that would increase supply in this country."

Under Senate rules, either the GOP amendment or the Democratic alternative would probably need 60 votes to pass, which is considered unlikely. However, the amendments would give senators a change to cast votes on measures designed to help constituents being hit by high gas prices. As outlined by Frist and other GOP senators, the energy package would give taxpayers a \$100 rebate, repeal tax incentives for oil companies and allow the Federal Trade Commission to prosecute retailers unlawfully inflating the price of gasoline.

The GOP senators are also calling on the Bush administration to suspend deposits into the Strategic Petroleum Reserve for six months to increase the nation's oil supply. President Bush announced Tuesday that he would halt new deposits into the reserve until after the summer driving season

1. Thoroughly explain the conditions one must meet in order to qualify for the rebate.
2. What obstacles might the GOP encounter in passing such a proposal?
3. If this proposal was made years ago, why are Senators now beginning to pay particularly close attention to the issue? Explain.
4. If your family owned two vehicles, each of which had a 19.5 gallon tank and one-way work commute of 26 miles, for a five day work week, compare and contrast the differences in prices at \$1.25, \$1.50, and \$3.00 a gallon over a period of one week, one month, and one year.
5. If your family fuel expenses in 2002 - \$4,987; 2003 - \$5894; 2004 - \$7892; 2005 - \$9890; and projected 2006 - \$12,365 determine the percent of change annually. What year was the largest increase? Explain.
6. In the passage above, in paragraph form, explain at least seven ways using the "**Reading Across The Curriculum**" poster simplifies understanding of the material. Be specific.
7. In paragraph form, list at least five ways using guidelines from the "**Writing Guidelines**" will make you a stronger and more convincing writer; specifically, on The Daughtry Times.
8. Using contextual clues only, explain the meaning of the italicized word: *sparse*ly.
9. In paragraph form, explain five legitimate and educational purposes behind The Daughtry Times.