

As the founder and co-chair of the Congressional Northwest Energy Caucus, DeFazio is widely regarded by his colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives as an expert in Northwest energy policy. DeFazio has a strong record of supporting reliable, cheap, public power; fighting speculation and other non-competitive activities in our gas and energy markets; encouraging smart growth in renewable energy sources and reducing our reliance on foreign fuels; and serving as a watch dog for Northwest electric ratepayers.

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Major Accomplishments

Energy Deregulation

DeFazio has been one of the most outspoken critics of energy deregulation. He was one of 60 House members to vote against the passage of the 1992 Energy Policy Act that allowed the deregulation of the wholesale energy market and gave states the option to deregulate their retail energy markets. At the time, DeFazio warned deregulation would lead to less reliable and more costly power. He was right. Northwest ratepayers saw a 40-50 percent increase in electricity prices during the 2001 Western energy crisis. Since 1992, DeFazio has regularly introduced legislation to re-regulate the energy industry and to protect consumers and small businesses from volatility in the market.

Low Electricity Rates in the Northwest

DeFazio has repeatedly fought attempts to privatize the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), a quasi-government agency that provides a reliable, cheap, and carbon free source of power in the Pacific Northwest. DeFazio also worked with Senator Hatfield to refinance BPA's multi-billion dollar debt, saving ratepayers millions of dollars over the long-term and preventing the implementation of huge rate increases.

Nuclear Power Watchdog

Before serving in the U.S. House of Representatives, DeFazio played a significant role in halting the construction of four nuclear power plants that were backed by the Washington Public Power Supply System (WPPSS). As DeFazio predicted, cost overruns and mismanagement left three of the four planned nuclear facilities unfinished. The failed WPPSS nuclear projects led to the largest municipal bond default in U.S. history at the time. Northwest ratepayers continue to pay hundreds of millions of dollars each year in debt service for the unfinished projects. As a Member of Congress, DeFazio remains critical of taxpayer financed subsidies for the construction of nuclear power plants and has advocated for greater investment in energy efficiency and renewable sources of power.

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Gas Prices

DeFazio has been a leader on fighting for lower gasoline prices by seeking to end speculation in the oil markets, working to reduce the OPEC monopoly, and expanding domestic resources. He has introduced legislation to make speculative oil trading more expensive and thus prices at the pump cheaper; he has sponsored bills to increase domestic oil supply by speeding up the development of the National Petroleum Reserve- Alaska; he supported legislation to encourage energy companies to produce domestic energy on the thousands of leases they currently hold

or forfeit those rights back to the American public; and DeFazio has recently called for federal investigations into declining California refinery production and rising West Coast gas prices that gouged Oregon drivers, families, and businesses for millions of dollars in 2012. Read DeFazio's letters to the Oil and Gas Fraud Working Group, President Obama, and Attorney General Holder below.

DeFazio Letter to the Oil and Gas Fraud Working Group
DeFazio Letter to AG Holder

Also don't miss two explosive studies on West Coast gas prices.

Portland-based McCullough Research refutes claims that high West Coast prices are result of normal market factor.

Read the report here: <http://www.mresearch.com/reports.html> November 15, 2012

Portland-based McCullough Research analyzes rising gasoline process on West Coast in the presence of falling demand and increased production. Read the report here: <http://www.mresearch.com/reports.html>

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Renewable and Alternative Energy

DeFazio supports a national renewable portfolio standard requiring that 20 percent of electricity come from renewable sources – like wind, solar, wave, geothermal, and biomass – by 2020. Such a mandate would create demand for renewable energy sources that would spur investments in renewable energy infrastructure and help bring down prices. DeFazio is working to end America's "addiction to oil" as President Bush put it by expanding federal research into alternative fuels and providing incentives for American automakers to speed commercialization of more efficient and alternative fuel vehicles. He has also been a major player in securing

Oregon's position as a world leader in wave power research and technology development.

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Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

BPA operates a 31 dam hydroelectric system that offers residents and businesses of the Northwest a reliable, cheap, and carbon-free source of power. BPA sells power at cost, thus providing Northwest ratepayers with some of the lowest electricity bills in the United States.

DeFazio founded and co-chairs the bipartisan Northwest Energy Caucus, which is devoted to preserving the benefits of the Columbia River Power System and the BPA. In the early 1990s, DeFazio played a key role in securing House support for a provision allowing BPA to contract directly with the Army Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation for generation improvements and maintenance activities. The BPA estimates this provision will save the region's ratepayers about \$400 million over the life of the improvements.

DeFazio also chaired a congressional Task Force on BPA and authored a widely praised report, "BPA at a Crossroads." The report and recommendations were completed in May 1994 and have had a significant influence in the regional debate over BPA's future course.

Recently, DeFazio garnered a \$3.25 billion investment for BPA. These funds are in the form of increased borrowing authority that will allow BPA to build critical infrastructure to facilitate renewable and energy efficient projects. The increased borrowing authority created 1,000 construction jobs in Oregon and will eventually create tens of thousands of jobs in the renewable energy industry in the Pacific Northwest.

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Must Reads

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[DeFazio wants probe of gas prices](#) - 06.06.12 *Democrat Herald*

[DeFazio Wants to Lower Gas Prices](#) - 05.27.11 *Democrat Herald*

[DeFazio and populist Democrats Offer Plan To Lower Gas Prices-](#) 05.26.11 *Oregonian*

[House Leaders Make Closing Arguments on Energy Issues Before Holiday Weekend-](#)
05.26.11
New York Times

[Speculation Explains More About Oil Prices Than Anything Else](#) - 05.13.11 *McClatchy Newspapers*

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Press Releases

- 11.19.12 [DeFazio to AG Holder: Lack of Progress on Gas Price Investigation is 'Intolerable'](#)
- 06.06.12 [Republican Block DeFazio Amendment To Protect Taxpayers, Target Gas Companies](#)
- 06.01.12 [DeFazio Asks President to Support Investigation Into West Coast Gas Prices](#)
- 05.17.12 [DeFazio Asks For Immediate Investigation Into Gas Price Manipulation on West Coast](#)
- 06.23.11 [DeFazio Urges President to Stand Up to OPEC Price Gouging](#)
- 05.26.11 [DEFAZIO FIGHTS FOR LOWER GAS PRICES BY REINING IN SPECULATION](#)
- 01.12.11 [OREGON DELEGATION WINS SUSPENSION OF UNFAIR EPA BIOMASS REGULATIONS](#)
- 10.01.10 [DEFAZIO TO SPEAK ABOUT JOB CREATION, TAX CUTS, CHINESE CURRENCY MANIPULATION, AND BIOMASS](#)
- 09.30.10 [DEFAZIO TELLS FEDS TO GET ON THE SAME PAGE ON BIOMASS UTILIZATION](#)
- 06.16.10 [OREGON HOUSE MEMBERS LEAD BIPARTISAN EFFORT CHALLENGING EPA'S DECISION TO UNDERMIND SUSTAINABLE BIOMASS](#)
- 10.15.09 [DEFAZIO, OREGON DEMOCRATIC DELEGATION, URGE SECRETARY CHU TO SUPPORT WAVE ENERGY TECHNOLOGY](#)
- 06.27.09 [DeFazio Votes Against Wall Street Speculation in Climate Change Legislation](#)
- 06.15.09 [DeFazio Defends American Consumers Against Oil Speculators](#)
- 03.30.09 [DeFazio Applauds Friends of The Earth Carbon Report; Urges Caution with Unregulated Cap and Trade](#)
- 05.16.08 [DeFazio to Challenge OPEC Nations on Oil](#)
- 05.23.07 [DeFazio Votes to Protect Consumers from Outrageous Price Gouging by Oil Companies](#)
- 03.13.07 [DeFazio Announces Gas Price Stabilization Bill As Gas Prices Climb To \\$3/Gal in Oregon](#)
- 06.07.06 [DeFazio Rejects Sham Legislation Purporting To Lower Gas Prices](#)
- 05.04.06 [Rep. DeFazio Fights High Prices at the Pump](#)

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