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COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

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April 17, 2026

William J. Wiatrowski
Acting Commissioner
U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20212

Dear Acting Commissioner Wiatrowski,

I last wrote to you on March 9, 2026, requesting updated consumer price projections that factored in the impact of President Trump's illegal war in Iran. Just a few weeks later, the impact of the crisis has deepened considerably. With our economy teetering on the brink of recession, the war's suffocating costs amount to a tax hung directly around the necks on American consumers—taxes no American consented to when Trump ran disingenuously as a candidate of “peace,” pledging to end destructive and costly foreign wars. As a result, we need the nonpartisan expertise of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) now more than ever. I reiterate my call for an updated consumer price analysis to determine, objectively, what Americans stand to pay for Trump's disastrous misadventure in Iran, taking into account the war's full impact on all sectors of the American economy.

The economic havoc wreaked by this war has damaged virtually every sector imaginable, and we need the BLS to factor in the full implications of what the war will mean for the American economy. Some consequences, however, are obvious in the short-term. I noted in my previous letter that analysts were forecasting that gasoline prices could climb to \$4 per gallon if the war lasted for a month; we have now surpassed that threshold. Gas prices have spiked by nearly 40% since February 28, when we first struck Iran, and now average \$4.08 per gallon.¹ Small businesses and individual car owners are struggling with the prospect of more than \$540 per vehicle in added annual gas costs.²

¹ *National Average Gas Prices*, AAA (April 6, 2026), <https://gasprices.aaa.com/>. The price at the beginning of the war in Iran was \$2.98 per gallon; the current national average price is \$4.11 per gallon.

² U.S. Energy Information Administration, *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)*. <https://www.eia.gov/tools/faqs/faq.php?id=23&t=10#:~:text=In%202023%2C%20U.S.%20finished%20motor,gallons%20per%20day%20in%202018>. The EIA notes that U.S. motorists use about 376 million gallons of gasoline per day. Divided by the 285 million registered personal and commercial vehicles in the country—and spaced over the course of the year—this currently reflects approximately \$540 more, per year, in gas costs given the increases in prices since the Iran War began.

In my previous letter, I pointed out that the war had disrupted approximately 20% of global liquefied natural gas (LNG) supply and 30% of global fertilizer.³ The crisis has since worsened. Since the war in Iran, the cost of fertilizer has skyrocketed: urea is up 35%, anhydrous ammonia is up 19.7%, and UAN32 and UAN28 are up 20 and 17.5%, respectively.⁴ Overall, fertilizer prices in the U.S. are up by an average of 30% since the war began.⁵ Farmers nationwide are facing the prospect of further increases in fertilizer costs just as they begin their spring planting. In the coming months, these costs will be passed on to grocery stores, and ultimately, to consumers. Before Trump's war in Iran, the Department of Agriculture estimated that food prices would rise by 3 percent in 2026—one month later, that forecast warned that food bills could rise at twice that rate.⁶

Cost increases in diesel and jet fuel will further exacerbate this crisis. The on-highway diesel price jumped by 45% from February 27 to April 1, and jet fuel rose by approximately 70% during this same period.⁷ Delta increased its baggage fees by as much as \$50 per bag, and United Airlines raised its checked bag fees for the first time in two years.⁸ UPS, Amazon, FedEx, and the United States Postal Service have all increased prices to account for rising fuel costs.⁹ Increased transportation costs affect virtually every facet of the supply chains our economy relies on. And yet, we have yet to hear any concrete plan from the Administration regarding an end to the conflict, a solution to alleviate these costs, or any attempt at providing relief for Americans.

In his first address to the nation since the war began over a month earlier, the President stated that “we’re getting along incredibly well in the production and sale of massive amounts of oil and gas.”¹⁰ Who “we” are in this statement remains a mystery—though is most likely the oil industry executives actively profiteering from this crisis¹¹—as Americans nationally are suffering under the burden of higher prices they cannot afford. Trump's plan for reopening the Strait of

³ Elena Mazneva, Stephen Stapczynski, and Salma El Wardany, *Gas Prices Surge as Qatar Shuts World's Largest LNG Export Plant*, Bloomberg (March 2, 2026), [Gas Prices Surge as Qatar Shuts World's Largest LNG Export Plant - Bloomberg](#).

⁴ Roger Pielke, *The Economic Costs of the Iran War*, American Enterprise Institute (April 2, 2026), <https://www.aei.org/articles/the-economic-costs-of-the-iran-war/>.

⁵ Diccon Hyatt, *The Iran War Is Cutting Off Fertilizer Supplies And Raising Food Prices*, Investopedia (April 2, 2026), <https://www.investopedia.com/the-iran-war-is-cutting-off-fertilizer-supplies-and-raising-food-prices-11940922>.

⁶ Kim Severson, *Where Might the Iran War Hit Your Grocery Bill? Start With Raspberries*, N. Y. Times (Mar. 27, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/03/27/dining/raspberry-prices.html>.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ Kailyn Rhone, *The Iran War Has Prompted Some Companies to Raise Prices*, N. Y. Times (Apr. 10, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/04/10/business/economy/iran-war-inflation-company-prices.html>.

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ *Transcript: Trump Addresses the Nation on Iran*. The New York Times (April 1, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/04/01/us/politics/trump-transcript-speech-iran.html> (transcribing remarks from U.S. President Donald J. Trump given on April 1, 2026).

¹¹ Benoit Morenne, *Oil CEOs Raked in Money from Trump's Iran War*, Wall St. Jour. (Apr. 8, 2026), <https://www.wsj.com/business/energy-oil/oil-ceos-raked-in-money-from-trumps-iran-war-74486920>.

Hormuz is similarly mysterious: Trump noted that “when this conflict is over, the Strait will open up naturally. It will just open up naturally.”¹²

Understandably, Americans remain skeptical that President Trump has a plan of any kind. They cannot afford to fly blind, as Trump apparently elects to. Facing thousands of dollars in higher prices for gasoline, groceries, and utilities—not to mention the hundreds of billions of their taxpayer money that Trump is requesting to pay for the war itself—American families and small businesses must budget and plan for the future. BLS must put forward consumer price projections that reflect the disastrous consequences of Trump’s illegal war. I previously requested that BLS respond by Tuesday, March 24, 2026 with a variety of data points. I reiterate that request for the following points as soon as possible, but no later than May 1, 2026:

1. Please provide updated projections for consumer price changes in the energy sector — including gasoline, home heating fuel, and electricity — over the next six to twelve months.
 - a. In these projections, please assess the effect of military-related disruption to production, assuming that current levels of disruption to oil and LNG flows through the Strait of Hormuz continue.
2. Please provide updated projections for consumer food price changes over the next six to twelve months, taking into account higher energy and transportation costs, disruptions to fertilizer supply chains linked to elevated natural gas prices, and any anticipated import or export disruptions.
3. Please provide updated projections for consumer prices for goods more broadly — including household products, apparel, and durable goods — given anticipated supply chain disruptions, increased shipping costs, and higher energy input costs.
4. Please provide the methodology BLS is using to model the consumer price impacts of geopolitical energy supply disruptions.
 - a. How does BLS’s current modeling account for the specific characteristics of the Iran conflict, including potential prolonged disruption to the Strait of Hormuz?
 - b. Does this methodology take into account various projected durations of the conflict?

¹² *Transcript: Trump Addresses the Nation on Iran*. The New York Times (April 1, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/04/01/us/politics/trump-transcript-speech-iran.html> (transcribing remarks from U.S. President Donald J. Trump given on April 1, 2026).

I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Edward J. Markey". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Edward J. Markey
Ranking Member, Committee on Small
Business and Entrepreneurship