

Gas prices are through the roof and Sean Casten is part of the problem. Casten has repeatedly voted against policies that could drive down gas prices and keep us energy independent. Casten even called to raise the gas tax.

With the second highest gas tax in the country, Illinois had the seventh highest gas prices in the nation in early June:

- Illinois has the second highest gas tax in the country and had the seventh highest average gas price as of June 2, 2022. “The average gallon of gas in Illinois has surpassed \$5 a gallon, according to AAA. At \$5.13 on average, Illinois is the only Midwest state over the \$5 mark... Every state is reeling with elevated gas prices, but Illinois’ second-highest gas tax in the nation piles on to already soaring gas prices. Only six states have higher gas prices than Illinois.” (Dylan Sharkey, “ILLINOIS GAS PRICES SURPASS \$5 A GALLON,” [Illinois Policy Institute](#), 6/2/22)

Gas prices in Illinois hit their highest recorded level on June 13, 2022:

- According to AAA, gas prices in Illinois hit their record high point on June 13, 2022.

HIGHEST RECORDED AVERAGE PRICE		
	Price	Date
Regular Unleaded	\$5.562	6/13/22

(“Illinois Average Gas Prices,” [AAA](#), assessed 7/21/22)

Sean Casten voted in favor of H.R. 1319, the American Rescue Plan Act:

- Casten voted for H.R. 1319, the American Rescue Plan Act. (H.R. 1319, [Roll Call #72](#), Passed 220-211: R 0-210, D 220-1, Casten Voted Yea, 3/10/21)

Additional government spending caused a rise in the prices of goods – including gasoline:

- Stimulus checks caused additional spending, decreasing supply and driving up prices. “Supply bottlenecks have occurred because companies were caught flat-footed by the speed of the economic recovery from the pandemic, with most consumers flush with cash, after multiple stimulus checks, and spending freely. With everyone now ramping up at once, manufacturers, shipping firms, miners and agricultural companies can’t keep up.” (Christopher Rugaber, “EXPLAINER: Why are fears of high inflation getting worse?,” [AP](#), 5/12/21)
- Consumer prices for things like gas and “household basics” are up. “Gas prices are rising. Auto prices are soaring. Consumer goods companies are charging more for household basics like toilet paper, peanut butter and soft drinks.” (Christopher Rugaber, “EXPLAINER: Why are fears of high inflation getting worse?,” [AP](#), 5/12/21)

On March 1, 2022, Sean Casten voted to block consideration of the American Energy Independence from Russia Act:

- Per The Federalist, “House Democrats shot down legislation to reclaim energy independence.” House Democrats shot down legislation to reclaim energy independence

on Tuesday hours before President Joe Biden offered a rallying cry for his administration's climate agenda." (Tristan Justice, "Democrats Torpedo Legislation Aimed To Reclaim American Energy Independence," [The Federalist](#), 3/2/22)

- **On March 1, 2022, Casten voted Yea on ordering the previous question for H. Res. 950.** (H. Res. 950, [Roll Call #49](#), Passed 221 – 202: R 1-202, D 220-0, Casten voted Yea, 3/1/22)
 - **“The previous question motion effectively asks whether the House is ready to vote immediately on the main question.”** (Congressional Research Service, "[Considering Legislation on the House Floor: Common Practices in Brief](#)," updated 2/26/21)
- **On March 1, 2022, Rep. Reschenthaler determined that if the previous question were to be defeated, he would “offer an amendment to the rule to immediately consider the American Energy Independence from Russia Act.”** “That is why, Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will personally offer an amendment to the rule to immediately consider the American Energy Independence from Russia Act.” (Congress.gov, "[Congressional Record – House: H1189](#)," 3/1/22)
 - **If a previous question fails, “the Speaker would recognize the leader of the opposition for one hour,” in which they “could propose changes to the special rule, perhaps to...allow the House to consider a different bill.”** “At the end of an hour, the Rules Committee majority floor manager will ‘move the previous question,’ and the House votes on the motion. The previous question motion effectively asks whether the House is ready to vote immediately on the main question. (In this case: Is the House ready to vote on adoption of the special rule?) Majority party Members usually vote for the previous question, and the question is therefore almost always decided in the affirmative. Minority Members who urge a ‘no vote’ on the previous question are doing so because, if the previous question were defeated, the Speaker would recognize the leader of the opposition for one hour. During that hour, the opponent could propose changes to the special rule, perhaps to allow more minority party amendments to be offered to the bill or to allow the House to consider a different bill. Members in opposition to the special rule often characterize the previous question vote as a vote related to such amendments or bills. The vote on the previous question on a rule is often a record vote, meaning Members use the voting machines on the floor. Once that motion is agreed to, the House votes immediately on the question of approving the special rule, and this question is often decided by record vote as well.” (Congressional Research Service, "[Considering Legislation on the House Floor: Common Practices in Brief](#)," updated 2/26/21)

The American Energy Independence from Russia Act would, among other things, “counter Russia’s energy influence and Ukrainian aggression by unleashing American production to lower oil prices and displace Russia imports:”

- **The American Energy Independence from Russia Act “sought to counter Russia’s energy influence and Ukrainian aggression by unleashing American production to lower oil prices and displace Russia imports.”** “Tuesday’s failed legislation sought to counter Russia’s energy influence and Ukrainian aggression by unleashing American production to lower oil prices and displace Russian imports.” (Tristan Justice, “Democrats Torpedo Legislation Aimed To Reclaim American Energy Independence,” [The Federalist](#), 3/2/22)

- **The legislation would have reauthorized the Keystone XL Pipeline that was ended by Biden on his first day in office.** “The bill reauthorized the Keystone XL Pipeline axed by Biden on his first day in office, which transported more than double the oil imported from Russia in December.” (Tristan Justice, “Democrats Torpedo Legislation Aimed To Reclaim American Energy Independence,” [The Federalist](#), 3/2/22)
- **“The legislation also mandated the resumption of leases for oil and gas drilling on federal land.”** (Tristan Justice, “Democrats Torpedo Legislation Aimed To Reclaim American Energy Independence,” [The Federalist](#), 3/2/22)
- **The legislation would have also “required the administration to release a plan on energy security within 30 days and replace oil reserves within from the emergency stockpile.”** If it had passed, the Republican bill also would have required the administration to release a plan on energy security within 30 days and replace oil reserves withdrawn from the emergency stockpile. On Tuesday, Biden announced the U.S. would tap 30 million of its 590 million barrels of strategic petroleum reserves maintained for emergencies. The reserves are authorized to hold up to 714 million barrels.” (Tristan Justice, “Democrats Torpedo Legislation Aimed To Reclaim American Energy Independence,” [The Federalist](#), 3/2/22)

The legislation was introduced “less than a week after Russia, a global energy producer supplying more than 10 percent of the world’s oil, launched an assault on Ukraine:”

- **The legislation was introduced “less than a week after Russia, a global energy producer supplying more than 10 percent of the world’s oil, launched an assault on Ukraine.”** “The bill’s partisan failure comes less than a week after Russia, a global energy producer supplying more than 10 percent of the world’s oil, launched its assault on Ukraine. Last year, the United States doubled its imports of Russian crude and took in more than 400,000 barrels on average daily in December, the last month for which data is available from the Energy Information Administration.” (Tristan Justice, “Democrats Torpedo Legislation Aimed To Reclaim American Energy Independence,” [The Federalist](#), 3/2/22)

The money that the United States spends on oil and gas from Russia benefits Vladimir Putin and allows him “to weaponize his country’s monopoly on Western energy:”

- **The money that the United States spends on oil and gas from Russia benefits Vladimir Putin and allows him “to weaponize his country’s monopoly on Western energy.”** “Oil and gas revenues, meanwhile, fund Moscow’s war machine as Russia’s largest exports, allowing President Vladimir Putin to weaponize his country’s monopoly on Western energy. Last year, Russia generated \$119 billion from its energy resources, according to reporting by Reuters citing Russia’s Finance Ministry.” (Tristan Justice, “Democrats Torpedo Legislation Aimed To Reclaim American Energy Independence,” [The Federalist](#), 3/2/22)

Casten Has Voted 7 Times To Limit Energy Exploration:

- **On June 20, 2019, Casten Voted For House Amendment 434 To H.R. 3055, Which Would Establish A Department Of Interior Moratorium On Oil And Gas Drilling And Related Activities In The South Atlantic, Florida, And The Gulf Of Mexico.** “Wasserman Schultz, D-Fla., amendment that would prohibit the use of funds made

available under the bill for the purpose of conducting Interior Department offshore oil and gas leasing, preleasing or related activities in the Outer Continental Shelf Planning Areas for the South Atlantic, the Straits of Florida, and the central and eastern Gulf of Mexico.” (H.R. 3055, [Roll Call #378](#): Schultz Amendment 128 Passed 252-178: R 25-171; D 227-7; 6/20/19, Casten Voted Yea; [CQ Summary](#), Accessed 7/31/19)

- **On June 20, 2019, Casten Voted For House Amendment 132 To H.R. 3055, Which Would Establish A Department Of Interior Moratorium On Oil And Gas Drilling And Related Activities In The North, Mid, And South Atlantic.** “Pallone, D-N.J., amendment that would prohibit the use of funds made available by the bill for the purpose of conducting Interior Department offshore oil and gas leasing, preleasing or related activities in the Outer Continental Shelf Planning Areas for the North Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic, and South Atlantic.” (H.R. 3055, [Roll Call #379](#): Pallone Amendment 132 Passed 247-185: R 18-180; D 229-5; 6/20/19, Casten Voted Yea; [CQ Summary](#), Accessed 7/31/19)
- **On June 20, 2019, Casten Voted Against House Amendment 143 To H.R. 3055, Which Would Have Stricken A Section From H.R. 3055 That Prevents Energy Leases In The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.** “Amendment sought to strike section 118 from the bill that prevents energy leases in ANWR.” (H.R. 3055, [Roll Call #384](#): Duncan Amendment 143 Failed 198-233: R 193-5; D 5-228; 6/20/19, Casten Voted Nay; [H. Amdt. 441 To H.R. 3055](#), Failed 6/20/19)
- **On June 20, 2019, Casten Voted Against Mullin’s Amendment To H.R. 3055, House Amendment 147, Which Would Prohibit The Use Of Funds To Enforce An EPA Rule Regarding Emission Standards In The Oil And Gas Sector.** “Mullin, R-Okla., amendment that would prohibit the use of funds made available by the bill to enforce a June 2016 Environmental Protection Agency rule regarding emission standards for the oil and natural gas sector.” (H.R. 3055, [Roll Call #385](#): Mullin Amendment 147 Failed 191-241: R 190-8; D 1-233; 6/20/19, Casten Voted Nay; [CQ Summary](#), Accessed 7/31/19)
- **On September 11, 2019, Casten Voted For H.R. 205, The Protecting And Securing Florida’s Coastline Act Of 2019, Which Would Permanently Ban Oil And Gas Leasing In Eastern Areas Of The Gulf Of Mexico Off The Florida Coast.** “Passage of the bill, as amended, that would permanently extend an existing moratorium on oil and gas leasing by the Interior Department in certain areas of the Gulf of Mexico, which is currently set to expire in June 2022. It would also require the Interior Department to collect inspection fees from certain oil and gas facilities operating on the outer Continental Shelf and set annual levels and schedules for fees collected from facilities above the waterline, drilling rigs, and non-rig units. Such fees would be deposited into a Treasury Department ocean energy safety fund established under the bill’s provisions, with funds to be made available through annual appropriations acts to carry out inspections of outer Continental Shelf facilities.” (H.R. 205, [Roll Call #521](#): Passed 248-180: R 22-174; D 226-5; 9/11/19, Casten Voted Yea; [CQ Summary](#), Accessed 9/17/19)
- **On September 11, 2019, Casten Voted For H.R. 1941, The Coastal and Marine Economies Protection Act, Which Would Prohibit Oil And Gas Leasing Off The Pacific And Atlantic Coasts.** “Passage of the bill, as amended, that would prohibit the Interior Department from any further oil and gas leasing within the Atlantic Region or Pacific Region outer Continental Shelf planning areas. It would also require the Interior Department to collect inspection fees from certain oil and gas facilities operating on the

outer Continental Shelf and set annual levels and schedules for fees collected from facilities above the waterline, drilling rigs, and non-rig units. Such fees would be deposited into a Treasury Department ocean energy safety fund established under the bill's provisions, with funds to be made available through annual appropriations acts to carry out inspections of outer Continental Shelf facilities." (H.R. 1941, [Roll Call #525](#): Passed 238-189: R 12-183; D 226-5; 9/11/19, Casten Voted Yea; [CQ Summary](#), Accessed 9/17/19)

- **On September 12, 2019, Casten Voted For H.R. 1146, The Arctic Cultural and Coastal Plain Protection Act, Which Would Block Drilling Along The Shoreline Of Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR).** "Passage of the bill that would repeal existing law authorizing an Interior Department program for the leasing, development, and transportation of oil and gas in and from the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. It would also require the Interior Department to collect inspection fees from certain oil and gas facilities operating on the outer Continental Shelf and set annual levels and schedules for fees collected from facilities above the waterline, drilling rigs, and non-rig units. Such fees would be deposited into a Treasury Department ocean energy safety fund established under the bill's provisions, with funds to be made available through annual appropriations acts to carry out inspections of outer Continental Shelf facilities." (H.R. 1146, [Roll Call #530](#): Passed 225-193: R 4-187; D 221-5; 9/12/19, Casten Voted Yea; [CQ Summary](#), Accessed 9/17/19)

Increasing domestic energy production could have helped lower costs:

- **According to the National Association of Manufacturers, increasing domestic energy production, including the utilization of federal lands, could help lower gas prices and make the U.S. more competitive on the world stage,** "Policymakers can help alleviate the pain Americans are feeling at the pump and elsewhere—but by increasing domestic energy production, not through ill-conceived legislation, the NAM told U.S. House leadership this week... legislators should focus on increasing production of energy here at home, which will lower inflation and pump prices, as well as make the U.S. more competitive globally, Jones wrote. 'That starts with opening our diverse resources on federal lands, approving responsible exploration and production, supporting sustainable permitting and quickly building out more energy infrastructure.' (NAM News Room, "Increased Production, Not Regulations, Will Lower Gas Prices," [National Association of Manufacturers](#), 5/20/22)

Sean Casten advocated for raising the gas tax in 2018:

- **In 2018, Casten said we "should increase the gas tax."** "Everybody's for better roads, bridges, mass transit and water systems, but almost no one who is or wants to be a congressman wants to raise the gas tax to pay for it; Sean Casten is the exception. Casten said, 'There are a whole host of reasons we should increase the gas tax, but yes, we should pass a gas tax increase because the cap on that has increasingly made it impossible to fund our roads. But I'm making separate point that if the only way to fund roads is thru the gas tax as presently constructed, then absolutely we should raise the gas tax.'" ("Congressman challenger wants to raise gas tax to support infrastructure improvements," [WLS 980](#), 5/4/18)