



Press Information – For Immediate Release

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Zaccaria Welcomes Repeal of Offshore Drilling Ban, Questions Langevin's Lack of Response to Repeal Congressional Ban

North Kingstown: Mark Zaccaria yesterday applauded the move by the President to repeal the executive ban on offshore drilling, and questioned why his opponent has not demonstrated leadership by spearheading an effort to repeal the similar Congressional ban. The executive ban on drilling for oil off of our nation's coastline had been put in place by President George H. W. Bush. It was rescinded in hopes that Congress would repeal its own ban on offshore drilling. In the days since the ban was repealed, the price of oil has already dropped more than ten dollars. "I call on my opponent to listen to his constituents and take the necessary steps to try and ease the pain at the pump," Zaccaria said. "If Mr. Langevin does not understand the urgency with which Congress must act, then I am afraid he has lost touch with the people whom he is supposed to represent."

Zaccaria contends that political leaders who overlook \$4.00 per gallon gasoline as an inconvenience will condemn some Rhode Islanders to frostbite and worse this winter by allowing home heating oil to remain at that level.

Zaccaria has publicly supported new efforts to decrease our nation's dependency on foreign oil by allowing increased domestic production. "Our economy, as it stands today, runs on oil. We must take effective steps to lower the price of oil now to buy the time we need to adapt our infrastructure to new fuels sources," said Zaccaria. "We must make the transition to alternative forms of energy, but while we're doing that our present economy cannot survive on \$140 a barrel oil."

Zaccaria believes that we must look at our energy problem as a three-step process. In the short-term, we will have to continue to rely on oil, and therefore we must find ways to reduce its price. In the mid-term, we must begin the

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transition off of oil, relying on alternative forms of energy such as solar, wind and nuclear. In the long-term, we should evolve a hydrogen-based energy economy.

Mark Zaccaria is a resident of North Kingstown, RI, where he runs a small business. He and his wife, Ruth, have been married for 33 years. They have three grown children who are all residents of the state. Learn more about Mark's candidacy for congress at the web site: www.markz4ri.org

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