

Statement of  
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Women Involved In  
Farm Economics  
(W.I.F.E.)

Before

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of Agriculture

Legacy for the Future  
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## WIFE Women Involved in Farm Economics

Kansas W.I.F.E. President

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My name is Peggy Arensman. I am the Kansas President of Women Involved In Farm Economics, commonly called W.I.F.E. My husband and I own a wheat, alfalfa, and cattle farm close to Kinsley, Kansas. You will note that I wear red, This to denote that I am producing in the red.

Farmers have been locked into a large financial loss for years now. Some of us thought that we might feed our children from our oil checks.

When we purchased our land our abstracts read that we had obtained the mineral rights. We had payed for them! But with just the signature of the President's and the vote of our Congressman and Senators, our payed representatives, once again, we lost what we payed for, and needed, for the support of our children. The windfall profit tax was nothing more than legal robbery. Every business and industry has a budget, and if hard pressed are forced to curtail their spending until they work themselves out of their difficulties. This is exactly what our Federal Government must do! Not levy more taxes upon the citizens. When all forms of taxes are added up a family of four, making \$20,000 now pays 47% of his income in taxes. This is exclusive of the windfall profit tax.

The most basic need of life are air, water, and food. The production of food in the quantities we have become accustomed to, is depended upon our oil supply. We in the food industry are most dependent upon our independent drillers, for they furnish 90% of our country's domestic energy.

When Carter was running for the Presidency in 1976, he promised us no increase in taxes. What did we get? The greatest increase ever levied, the windfall profit tax. \$229 billion worth of taxes in 10 years. With the cheap food policy this adds injury to insult.

Much governing the industry just does not make sense for a strong America or a strong oil industry. When policy is made for our Nation, our government MUST put America first! For the most part, if policy benefits private business it benefits America. Healthy business helps

"Hell has no fury like a woman scorned"

strengthen America. For instance, profits for independent producers are plowed back into wells which produce more domestic oil. This generates new jobs, new taxes, and keeps the full monetary amount in this country.

Windfall profit taxes are on domestic oil, not foreign oil, therefore, it works backwards by making foreign producers have a competitive edge over domestic producers.

Our double price standard for oil domestic and foreign, should be reversed so that foreign oil gets the smaller price. This would benefit so many Americans. America can only help the rest of the world by keeping itself strong.

Our <sup>farm</sup> operation had been receiving \$800 to \$900 a month oil checks. This last check was in the \$300 range. This was the only way we thought we might provide for our children as our farm enterprise has had such large loss. Now this too, had been legally stolen from us.

The United States is sending the private producers the message "Your investment, your management ability, and your labor are worth nothing". This is a dangerous message. Our country was built on the independent competitive businessman.

Senator Dole, and Senator Boren we need your help, in repealing the windfall profit tax, for the benefit of us all.

I thank you for the opportunity of testifying before you today.