QUESTIONS POSED BY SENATOR LEAHY

QUESTIONS FOR JOSEPH ALIOTO:

QUESTION:

1.) Do you think there needs to be more transparency on the commodity exchanges, particularly natural gas transactions? If so, what steps can Congress take to increase transparency in the natural gas market? Should Congress require traders to register?

RESPONSE BY JOSEPH M. ALIOTO:

To the extent that prices are being manipulated by speculators, by oil companies themselves, or by other parties whose identities are unknown, increasing market transparency would help prevent artificial price manipulation. in order to avoid such price manipulations, identities of traders should be published, traders should be required to register, and all purchasers should be required to take delivery of the purchased commodities.