

consumer action

Education and advocacy since 1971

Oil execs misdirect blame as California families take hit at pump with record gas prices

Three editorial cartoons highlight oil industry's disregard for consumer pocketbooks

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Special Note to Editors: Attached are cartoons by Steve Greenberg who has granted full permission to publish without charge. High-resolution versions for print are also available by request. [[Click here to download a zip file with the cartoons in .jpg file format.](#)]

SAN FRANCISCO – Oct. 8, 2012 – Drivers are breaking out their credit cards to pay record high gasoline prices at the pump. Oil companies blame power failures and a recent fire at Chevron's Richmond Refinery, but Consumer Action – a leading consumer rights organization – says the industry is pocketing huge profits while saying it can't afford to meet its clean air commitments.

"Big oil is pocketing billions in profits and taking billions more in consumer-funded government subsidies as they claim clean air standards in California are too expensive," said Ken McEldowney, Executive Director of Consumer Action. "We're calling their bluff—California families are the ones who are hurting right now, not fat cat oil executives."

To help illustrate the challenges faced by consumers, Consumer Action commissioned three editorial illustrations by cartoonist Steve Greenberg and pulled together a compilation of 20 years worth of oil industry [false claims](#).

CONSUMER ACTION CARTOONS:

- "Yo-Yo" - depicts California consumers tied up in a yo-yo always paying for Big Oil's screw-ups and price hikes that earn oil companies more profits.
- "Defying Gravity" - depicts how Big Oil cares more about profits and high prices than safety and cleaner fuels
- "You Pay" - shows the perverse lessons oil companies have learned to always make the consumer pay for their mistakes.

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Consumer Action has been a champion of underrepresented consumers nationwide since 1971. A nonprofit 501(c)3 organization, Consumer Action focuses on financial education that empowers low to moderate income and limited-English-speaking consumers to financially prosper. It also advocates for consumers in the media and before lawmakers to advance consumer rights and promote industry-wide change.