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Governor Michael Dukakis announced Wednesday that he would join New York Governor Hugh Carey and Connecticut Governor Ella Grasso in presenting a "unified challenge" to President Ford's energy proposals.

Yesterday, Dukakis said he "couldn't imagine any set of proposals more devastating to Massachusetts and New England than those outlined by the President" Monday night.

Dukakis said today that the "effects of the Ford proposals would be disastrous to the New England economy and to each one of the New England states.

"It is essential that the New England governors join their colleagues from surrounding states in presenting a unified challenge to President Ford," Dukakis said. "Only by working together can we ensure the kind of effort I believe we need to effectively halt the Ford proposals."

On Wednesday afternoon, Lt. Governor Tom O'Neill met with union and business leaders alarmed by the President's energy proposals.

O'Neill will meet later this week with the state's Congressional delegation and urge them to "put an end to the energy tax proposal, which requires Massachusetts working men and women to pay inordinately for a national program of energy conservation."

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