

Obama proposes \$1,000 energy rebates for consumers



By MIKE GLOVER, Associated Press Writer

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Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama is calling for a \$1,000 "emergency" rebate to consumers to offset soaring energy costs.

Obama says the rebate would be financed with a windfall profits tax on the oil industry.

"This rebate will be enough to offset the increased cost of gas for a working family over the next four months," Obama said in remarks prepared for delivery Friday at a town hall meeting in the crucial swing state of Florida.

Obama had earlier said the rebates should be part of a larger tax relief package. But now he says the slumping economy demands they be put in place immediately.

Obama's remarks coincide with the release of the latest unemployment figures, which show 51,000 jobs lost last month.

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