

Education Data, the average teacher spends more than \$520 a year out of pocket on school supplies.

I have spoken to dozens of teachers in Maine who have told me of the books, rewards, supplies, and other materials they routinely purchase for their students.

Idella Harter is one such teacher. She told me of spending more than \$1,000 in a single year, reaching deep into her pocket to buy materials, supplies, and other treats for her students. At the end of the year, she started to add up all of the receipts that she had saved, and she was startled to discover they exceeded \$1,000. Idella told me at that point she decided she'd better stop adding them up.

Debra Walker is another dedicated teacher in Maine who teaches kindergarten and first grade in town of Milo. She has taught for more than 25 years. Year after year, she spends hundreds of dollars on books, bulletin boards, computer software, crayons, construction paper, tissue paper, stamps and inkpads. She even donated her own family computer for use by her class. She described it well by saying, "These are the extras that are needed to make learning fun for children and to create a stimulating learning environment."

Another example is Tyler Nutter, a middle school math and reading teacher from North Berwick, ME. After teaching for just two years, Tyler has incurred substantial "startup" fees as he builds his own collection of needed teaching supplies. In his first years on the job, he has spent well over \$500 out-of-pocket each year, purchasing books and other materials that are essential to his teaching program.

Tyler tells me that he is still paying off the loans that he incurred at the University of Maine-Farmington. He has car payments to make. He is saving for a house. And he someday hopes to get an advanced degree. Nevertheless, despite the relatively low pay he is receiving as a new teacher, he says, "You feel committed to getting your students what they need, even if it is coming out of your own pocket."

That is the kind of dedication that I see time and again in the teachers in Maine. I have visited nearly 100 schools in Maine, and everywhere I go, I find teachers who are spending their own money to improve their professional qualifications and to improve the educational experiences of their students by supplementing classroom supplies.

The relief we passed overwhelmingly in the last Congress was a step in the right direction. As Tyler told me, "It's a nice recognition of the contributions that many teachers have made." We are committed to building on this good work. We invite all of our colleagues to join us in recognizing our teachers for a job well done.

By Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself, Mr. BREAUX, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. BAUCUS, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. CHAFFE, Mr. ALLARD,

Mr. INHOFE, Mr. LOTT, and Mr. THOMAS):

S. 696. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a tax credit for marginal domestic oil and natural gas well production and an election to expense geological and geophysical expenditures and delay rental payments; to the Committee on Finance.

Mrs. HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, I am introducing today legislation to provide tax incentives for marginal wells. As we look to long-term solutions to meet our needs for gasoline, electricity and home heating oil, marginal well tax incentives are critical to increasing supply and retaining our energy independence.

Senators representing all regions of the country, including the Northeast and Midwest, have a common interest: to make the United States less susceptible to the volatility of world oil markets by reducing America's dependence on foreign oil. I understand that when the price of home heating oil spikes in the Northeast, it hurts those Senators's constituents. They understand when the price of oil falls below \$10 a barrel—as it did several years ago and we lose 18,000 jobs as we did in Texas—that hurts my constituents. We understand that these are merely two sides of the same coin: a growing U.S. dependence on foreign oil.

In fact, at the heart of the marginal well tax credits is the goal of reducing our imports of foreign oil to less than 50 percent by the year 2012. It is incredible to me that America is sliding toward 60 percent dependence on foreign oil. As the sole remaining superpower in the world, and as the country with an economy that is the envy of the industrialized world, this threat to our economic as well as our national security is simply and totally unacceptable.

The core problem with our growing dependence on foreign oil is an underutilized domestic reserve base of both crude oil and natural gas. In 1992, we imported 46 percent of our oil needs from overseas. It is equally important to realize that in 1974, when America was brought to her knees by the OPEC oil embargo, we imported only 36 percent of our oil. Today we stand at over 56 percent imports. If the major oil producing countries of the world were ever to collectively sabotage U.S. interests as we have seen in the past with Iraq, they could wreak havoc with the American economy.

We simply must take steps today to increase the amount of oil and natural gas we produce right here at home. While shutting-off foreign oil completely may not be realistic, it is realistic to utilize our reserves much more than we do today. Marginal wells—those wells that produce less than 15 barrels of oil and less than 90 thousand cubic feet of natural gas per day—have the capacity to produce 20 percent of America's oil. This is roughly the same amount of the oil the U.S. imports from Saudi Arabia.

Much of this oil and gas could be produce in areas where it is being produced today, and has for decades, that is not environmentally sensitive. That is why I have advocated for tax incentives that would make it economically feasible for production to continue and actually increase in areas largely where production takes place today.

There are close to 400,000 such wells across the United States. Many of these wells are so small that, once they close, they never reopen. If we had had the marginal well tax provision in place several years ago before the oil price plummet, we would not have lost over 400,000 barrels per day of production due to small wells shutting down.

The overwhelming majority of producing wells in Texas are marginal wells. A survey by the Independent Producers Association of America, IPAA, found that marginal wells account for 75 percent of all crude production for small independent operators; up to 50 percent for mid-sized independents; and up to 20 percent for large companies. A sensible energy independence policy is to offer tax relief to producers of these small wells that would help them stay in business when prices fall below a break-even point. When U.S. producers can stay in business during periods of low prices, supply will be higher and help keep prices from shooting up too high.

The marginal well provision in the energy bill provides a maximum \$3 per barrel tax credit for the first 3 barrels of daily production from a marginal oil well, and a similar credit for marginal gas wells. The marginal well credit would be phased in-and-out in equal increments as prices for oil and natural gas fall and rise. For oil, in would phase in between \$18 and \$15 per barrel. In addition to the marginal well provisions, the bill includes tax incentives for delay rental payments and geological and geothermal expensing. These provisions will help producers locate and develop potential oil and gas properties.

We do not have to be at the whim of foreign countries or market forces beyond our control. Therefore, we've got to increase our domestic supply and I believe these energy tax incentives will do that.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 28—AUTHORIZING THE PRINTING OF THE BIOGRAPHICAL DIRECTORY OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS, 1774–2005

Mr. FRIST (for himself and Mr. DASCHLE) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 28

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION OF PRINTING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There shall be printed as a Senate document a revised edition of the

Biographical Directory of the United States Congress for the period ending with the 108th Congress.

(b) SPECIFICATIONS.—The Senate document described in subsection (a) shall be in the style, form, manner, and binding as directed by the Joint Committee on Printing after consultation with the Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House of Representatives. The Office of the Secretary of the Senate, acting through the Historian of the Senate, and the Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives, acting through the Legislative Resource Center, shall provide appropriate biographical data and other material for the revised edition, including data for—

(1) Senators and individuals who have served in both the Senate and the House of Representatives, to be provided by the Historian of the Senate; and

(2) Members of the House of Representatives (including Delegates and Resident Commissioners), to be provided by the Legislative Resource Center.

(c) NUMBER OF COPIES.—In addition to the usual number, there shall be printed with suitable binding the lesser of—

(1) 1,230 copies of the revised edition, of which 250 shall be for the use of the Senate, 930 copies shall be for the use of the House of Representatives, and 50 copies shall be for the use of the Joint Committee on Printing; or

(2) a number of copies that does not have a total production and printing cost of more than \$95,000.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Rules and Administration will meet at 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, April 8, 2003, in Room SR-301 Russell Senate Office Building, to conduct an oversight hearing on the operations of the Sergeant at Arms, Library of Congress and Congressional Research Service.

For further information concerning this meeting, please contact Susan Wells at 202-224-6352.

AUTHORIZATION FOR PRINTING OF BIOGRAPHICAL DIRECTORY OF CONGRESS

Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina. Mr. President, I send a resolution to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 28) authorizing the printing of the Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress from 1774 through 2005.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina. Mr. President, I ask that the resolution be adopted and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Con. Res. 28) was agreed to, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 28

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION OF PRINTING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There shall be printed as a Senate document a revised edition of the Biographical Directory of the United States Congress for the period ending with the 108th Congress.

(b) SPECIFICATIONS.—The Senate document described in subsection (a) shall be in the style, form, manner, and binding as directed by the Joint Committee on Printing after consultation with the Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House of Representatives. The Office of the Secretary of the Senate, acting through the Historian of the Senate, and the Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives, acting through the Legislative Resource Center, shall provide appropriate biographical data and other material for the revised edition, including data for—

(1) Senators and individuals who have served in both the Senate and the House of Representatives, to be provided by the Historian of the Senate; and

(2) Members of the House of Representatives (including Delegates and Resident Commissioners), to be provided by the Legislative Resource Center.

(c) NUMBER OF COPIES.—In addition to the usual number, there shall be printed with suitable binding the lesser of—

(1) 1,230 copies of the revised edition, of which 250 shall be for the use of the Senate, 930 copies shall be for the use of the House of Representatives, and 50 copies shall be for the use of the Joint Committee on Printing; or

(2) a number of copies that does not have a total production and printing cost of more than \$95,000.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on today's Calendar: Calendar Nos. 80, 81, 82, 83, and 84. I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and that the Senate return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Gregory A. White, of Ohio, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio for the term of four years.

Thomas Dyson Hurlburt, Jr., of Florida, to be United States Marshal for the Middle District of Florida for the term of four years.

Christina Pharo, of Florida, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Florida for the term of four years.

Dennis Arthur Williamson, of Florida, to be United States Marshal for the Northern District of Florida for the term of four years.

Richard Zenos Winget, of Nevada, to be United States Marshal for the District of Nevada for the term of four years.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2003

Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, March 25. I further ask that following the prayer and the pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then resume consideration of S. Con. Res. 23, the budget resolution, as provided under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina. For the information of all Senators, we will return to the budget resolution tomorrow morning. The chairman and ranking member of the Budget Committee have exchanged copies of the final amendments that remain in order to the resolution. We now have a number of amendments to dispose of prior to a final vote on the resolution. The Senate will begin voting on these remaining amendments upon convening tomorrow morning. Members are asked to remain in the Chamber during the second phase of the so-called vote-arama. With the cooperation of all Members, we will be able to move through the remaining amendments in a more efficient and orderly manner. The Senate will proceed to a final vote on the budget resolution no later than 4 p.m. on Wednesday. Therefore, I would advise my colleagues that we have a lot of work before us this week.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:48 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, March 25, 2003, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate March 24, 2003:

NATIONAL MUSEUM SERVICES BOARD

JOHN E. BUCHANAN, JR., OF OREGON, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM SERVICES BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 6, 2006, VICE RUTH Y. TAMURA, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

DEE ANN MCWILLIAMS, OF TEXAS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, VICE JACOB LOZADA, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ROGER FRANCISCO NORIEGA, OF KANSAS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (WESTERN HEMISPHERE AFFAIRS), VICE OTTO J. REICH.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ANNETTE SANDBERG, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY ADMINISTRATION, VICE JOSEPH M. CLAPP, RESIGNED.