

I think we need a new approach. We need change in this town. What Senator OBAMA is proposing is a change in the Tax Code to give that family and others a fighting chance. That is all we can offer them. There is no guaranteed success, but we can offer them just an opportunity, a fighting chance at success. It is a chance most of our families have capitalized on and did a pretty good job for their kids. We owe that to the next generation as well.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SANDERS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I take this opportunity to recognize October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, DVAM, and to recognize the fine work of STAND! Against Domestic Violence.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the bill to designate October as "National Domestic Violence Awareness Month." I strongly support the motivation behind DVAM and I have worked to end domestic violence as long as I have been a Member of Congress. I authored the Violence Against Women Act, VAWA, while in the House of Representatives, and helped get it passed and signed into law after being elected to the Senate. VAWA toughened laws against perpetrators and continues to provide funding for campus safety, battered women's shelters, and training programs for law enforcement to identify and better understand cases of domestic violence. I am also proud to have introduced the Domestic Violence Identification and Referral Act to provide funding to schools for health professionals who work to prevent domestic violence.

Domestic violence can strike anyone, regardless of race, age, sexual orientation, religion, socioeconomic status or education level. Particularly tragic is the impact domestic violence has on children—physically, emotionally, and mentally. This violence witnessed in the home is often acted out in schools and communities. This negative cycle of violence has far-reaching impacts and I believe we must work together to prevent such violence from occurring in the first place.

I commend the tireless efforts of those who work everyday to end this violence. For over 30 years, STAND! has provided domestic violence services to families and individuals throughout Contra Costa County. Through their work, STAND! strives to end domestic violence by raising awareness through

education so that individuals will become advocates, and by providing support services to those survivors of domestic violence.

As we prepare to enter Domestic Violence Awareness Month, I ask my colleagues to join me and STAND! in remembering the victims of domestic violence. I am inspired by those women who have survived domestic violence. And I mourn those who have not survived. In their memory, I will fight against domestic violence and work to empower women as long as I am in the U.S. Senate.

#### SEA OTTER AWARENESS WEEK 2008

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to recognize Sea Otter Awareness Week 2008.

Established in 2003 by the national nonprofit organization Defenders of Wildlife, Sea Otter Awareness Week is an annual event that aims to teach the public about the vital role that sea otters play in our marine ecosystem. Acknowledged each year by numerous nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and local, State, and Federal elected officials, Sea Otter Awareness Week helps to protect this sentinel species and its habitat.

Historically, sea otters once numbered in the hundreds of thousands and thrived along the 6,000 miles of Pacific coastline from northern Japan, through the Aleutian Islands of Alaska, down the coast of California, and into Baja California in Mexico. Sadly, because of their thick fur, sea otters were hunted to the point of near extinction throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. Thanks to an international ban on hunting, conservation efforts, and reintroduction programs, the sea otter population is on its way to recovery, though it has been a slow process.

The health and well-being of our sea otter population is indicative of the overall health and well-being of the Pacific Coast marine ecosystems as a whole. We must do all we can to protect our coastal ecosystem and foster the survival of sentinel species such as the sea otter. To ensure a healthy coast and ocean, I am proud to have reintroduced my National Oceans Protection Act, which provides a comprehensive approach to ocean management and protection, ensuring that Americans can enjoy the beauty and majesty of our oceans for generations to come.

I commend Defenders of Wildlife and all those involved in Sea Otter Awareness Week for their dedication to raising awareness about the tremendously important role that sea otters have in our coastal ecosystem. I am inspired by their work and I applaud them for their perseverance in protecting the health of our oceans and marine life. Their commitment means a brighter future for us all.

#### IDAHOANS SPEAK OUT ON HIGH ENERGY PRICES

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, in mid-June, I asked Idahoans to share with me how high energy prices are affecting their lives, and they responded by the hundreds. The stories, numbering over 1,000, are heartbreaking and touching. To respect their efforts, I am submitting every e-mail sent to me through [energy\\_prices@crapo.senate.gov](mailto:energy_prices@crapo.senate.gov) to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This is not an issue that will be easily resolved, but it is one that deserves immediate and serious attention, and Idahoans deserve to be heard. Their stories not only detail their struggles to meet everyday expenses but also have suggestions and recommendations as to what Congress can do now to tackle this problem and find solutions that last beyond today. I ask unanimous consent to have today's letters printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

I am writing this letter out of somewhat desperation with the costs of energy lately. We live about 35 miles south of Lewiston on property that my grandfather purchased in the early 1940s. I have been disabled and am on Social Security Disability after working over 25 years in the utility and communication industry. My wife has been working in the health care insurance business for over 20 years and drives back and forth every day to work. We were budgeting and spending about \$200-\$250 per month for gas. In the last two months, it has increased to \$425 per month! I know a little about all the oil reserves in Montana, North Dakota as well as other places even offshore and the untapped areas in Alaska for drilling and several capped oil/propane wells that have already been drilled. I am familiar about the open pit mining in Centralia, Washington; Montana and Wyoming. I was working when they moth-balled the nuclear plants at WASOP. I use these areas as examples in the Northwest because this is where I live and I am more familiar with them. We have taken several conservation measures to cut our energy costs at our home, but you can only do so much! I hardly ever even leave the house anymore because I cannot afford to drive my (small) Ford Ranger F150 pickup, just only to doctor appointments.

What can you do to start helping other Americans like us here in Idaho and the Northwest? Congress should put our families first, ahead of the environmentalists! These people are driving up costs at an alarming rate! I believe in treating our resources properly and our environment respectfully, but come on, use our heads! These environmentalists are making it impossible to survive anymore. We need to decide if American people are going to survive or is it going to be a small snail, a kind of fish or a spotted owl, which, by the way ruined the lumber industry in the Northwest. After research, they found out it was a bigger owl killing the smaller ones! How much money did that cost the people and industry brought on by environmentalists? It is survival time, folks . . . let us start using our heads. We need to start using our own resources now, not later, and stop depending on other countries because you see where that has positioned us. Open up the reserves, uncap oil wells, less restrictions on open pit coal mines, put more nuclear plants on line. Stop using wheat and corn for bio-fuels because it is killing us at

the grocery stores, better yet, stop wasting money on bio-fuels because it is not cost effective. There are more actions that need to be taken, but the "most important" thing is that we need Congress to start acting. Now to help us survive before it is too late. Please!

Sincerely and with respect,

BARNEY and PATTI, *Winchester.*

I guess I have to admit that you are probably representing the views of the majority of the people in Idaho. Sadly, that is a very short-sighted viewpoint.

My story is that I am trying to walk more and ride my bicycle when I can. Generally, I am trying to be more energy conscious. The bottom line is that we Americans are missing the point. For three reasons, we have to change our way of thinking. The first is for our own health. Frankly, we do not get enough exercise because we have become so dependent upon the automobile. Take a look at your local high school parking lot sometime. We are actually educating kids not to walk or ride bikes. Take a look at the country as a whole, and you will see a serious obesity problem. Take a look at our cities and ask the question, "How safe is it for a family to ride a bicycle to the store or to the park? How safe is it for children to ride to school on a bike? How safe is for a mother to take her child to the grocery store on a bike? Sadly, the basic answer seems to be: "Who cares?" Frankly, you should!

The second reason is also related to health. When Idaho's cities grow, with the corresponding dependence upon gasoline, the wonderful clean air that people brag about deteriorates. The Rathdrum Prairie and the Spokane Valley are set up very much like the Los Angeles basin. It is only a matter of time before we restrict woodburning stoves in the winter and increase emission standards on vehicles.

The third reason is for the health of the planet. The hole in the ozone layer and the problems caused by global warming may not be entirely caused by the internal combustion engine, but they have played a significant role. Just think for a minute of what this world is going to look like if we continue down this path, and China, Africa, India and the rest of the world drive cars the way we do. Our children and grandchildren will have a difficult time breathing, and that will be just the beginning of the problems they will face. Capitalism certainly has its strengths as an economic tool. But somebody has to control it, or it will lead us to our own destruction. It is a system designed to create profit for people who answer needs.

Fifty years ago or more, our system began "creating needs", like a MacDonald's hamburger, a Corvette Stingray, or a piece of waterfront property all to myself. Originally, these seemed like simple enough requests, but look at what we have become. Our religions tell us wealth does not make us happy, but we do not really hear that. We flatter men and institutions who treat nature like their own possession. Sadly, I would bet that very few people in Idaho are writing you letters like this. I wish you had the wisdom and the courage to begin to turn the thinking of the people of this state around. My question to you is simply, "If we keep going this way, what do you think Idaho and this country will look like in 50 more years. I predict your children and grandchildren will be saying, "Wow, we did not know that would happen!" Just as much as we are saying now that we wish the miners of the 19th and 20th centuries had said, "Maybe we should have more concern for our lakes and rivers". Just as I would say now, "Why did not our forefathers have the wisdom to see that turning the shoreline of our lake over to private property owners is a serious mistake." The wa-

ters of Idaho just as the ocean around the islands of Hawaii should have remained public property. "Those who refuse to learn from history are destined to repeat it." We are there! Good luck with your programs. I know you are a good and thoughtful man, and you cannot singlehandedly turn this state or this country around, but I hope you will begin to open your eyes and your mind to some other possibilities. We need that from you.

RICHARD.

Thank you for the email telling us of your position on the energy crunch. I heartily support tapping the petroleum resources we have here in the United States and, from all that I have heard, we have the technology to do it in an environmentally-friendly manner. I understand that Congressman Chris Cannon of Utah is making efforts to develop oil shale fields that are located under Utah, Colorado and Wyoming. I support this and hope that you will uphold these efforts if corresponding bills reach the Senate. Also, please do whatever you can to support the development of technologies that will allow us to tap these resources in more efficient and environmentally conscientious ways.

I also support expanding our use of nuclear energy. My understanding is that the popular fears of nuclear power plants are largely based on myth. And most of the "waste" produced is either relatively benign, or can be recycled or reused. If federal regulations were changed so that all radioactive byproducts did not have to be shipped to a nuclear waste repository, we would have plenty of space in places like Yucca Mountain for the 2 percent of nuclear "waste" that actually should be there. France produces 80 percent of its electricity from nuclear power. What in the world is holding the U.S. back from building more nuclear power plants?

I am all in favor of expanding our refinery capacity and in developing alternative energy sources, such as biodiesel. Please do whatever you can to bring about changes at the federal level so that the private sector can go to work developing technologies and resources and solve these growing problems. I pray that your fellow legislators will take the extreme environmentalist lobby with a grain of salt. I agree that we are "too dependent on petroleum," and that we are "far too dependent on foreign sources of that petroleum." We need to move forward in tapping the resources we have. We need to do so in an environmentally conscientious manner, but we need to move forward.

BLAKE, *Hamer.*

What would really help is if this information could be put into the hands (and heads!) of the other Senators, Representatives and President Bush.

I am sure you are looking for sad stories of starving babies and missed vacations due to the price of energy lately. My story is quite different. I have taken the issue of high gas prices as an opportunity to change my lifestyle. I ride my bicycle more instead of driving everywhere, I have started enjoying activities that occur in my own backyard instead of "going somewhere" to have a good time. I have actually enjoyed the peace and quiet this gives me. Its funny how our "on the go" American lifestyle in search of "a good time" can be solved by NOT being on the go! :)

Now I am sure there are people (many people) who are severely hurt from change in energy prices, BUT ignoring the issue and waiting for someone to bail them out is NOT the right solution. I have learned to live within my financial budget and not spend more than I make (something my grandfather taught me). I take the same approach to energy. If I cannot afford to do it, I just find

other things to do! No more whining and wanting handouts! No more subsidies. Let the price of gas/oil go wherever the market will take it. Let us diversify our energy sources and get rid of this "single point of failure". I would even go so far as to say we should NOT "fully utilize proven American oil and natural gas reserves" (leave them for a real rainy day) and lets put our time and effort into diversifying.

DAX.

Something has got to give! My husband works ten hour-days and sometimes six days a week in the woods as a logger. I work as a school bus driver eleven months a year. (Neither one of us has to drive to work, thank God!) We live at least 50 miles roundtrip from the doctor's offices, bank, grocery stores, etc. Our gas bill averages around \$400 a month since January '08. Our heat/energy bill averages \$400 a month. We have tried to make our trips to town count as we would stock up and shop for necessities a few times a month. However, that has also changed as we cannot afford to stock up as grocery prices have skyrocketed. We now do without. Our extra money is being eaten up by fuel, energy costs and groceries and we are not living high on the hog!! We cannot afford the fresh food that does not last a week in the refrigerator and cannot afford to go 50 miles for fresh stuff weekly.

We have tried to help our only daughter who lives 80 miles away and can barely cover rent and student loans (who, by the way, did not qualify for a stimulus check when she has worked and went to college, her income was \$6,000.)

To top it off, we do have credit card debt and perfect credit, which we've worked hard to achieve!! But apparently due to the credit crises(?), we received a letter that now our interest rates are going up even though we have never been late with a payment or exceeded our limit! Our retirement accounts are crashing, according to news releases; that is also due to oil prices and speculators! We have had the American Dream, and it is slipping away!! Time for some changes, sick to death of environmentalists who probably do not even work! Fed up in rural Idaho.

SCOTT and SHANNON, *Deary.*

I advised my state representatives against passing legislation for ethanol production. I hope I was not the lone voice.

I am alerting all who are willing to listen or read of the manipulation of the United States of America into the North American Union and subsequently an Emergent World Government.

You will either be unaware of this activity, a proponent of it, or opposed to the premise of the dissolution of the US of A. I know what is on the horizon for America and planet Earth. Our current path need not be a willing venture. We have the resources and the resolve to lead the world. We do not need to abdicate that role to a dozen Global families.

The link I provide below is revealing. According to Lindsey Williams, a Baptist Minister who worked with oil exploration companies in Alaska, the U.S. has all the oil it needs for the next 100 years or so.

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=3340274697167011147>

This information needs but one Senator or Representative to bring it to the floor and into the light. It may be too late already. If you wish to discuss this at length, I will avail myself.

Respectfully,

DENNIS.

I am a typical Idahoan, born and raised here. I work as Rehabilitation Counselor for

the State of Idaho. I work with individuals who are typically low income, or reliant on Social Security Disability Awards for their living. The gas prices have hit these individuals very hard. Many have a strong desire to obtain employment and earn a gainful wage, but with gas prices at \$4/gallon, they simply cannot afford to go to work. There is not a reliable bus system, no train system to be utilized, and so they decide to sit at home. The nearest areas offering the best employment options are 20 miles away in either direction. Not a bad commute as the traffic is relatively minimal, but an \$8, \$9, \$10/hour job simply does not offset the cost of fuel. I live five minutes from my office, and I find myself wondering how I will pay for the fuel. I laugh when I see the oil representatives say they pay the same amount for gas as the rest of us. They may pay the \$4/gallon I do, but it has minimal to no impact on their wallet when compared to the average American. Please work harder to find a suitable solution that is long term and equitable to all Americans.

My story is not dramatic. It probably is not unique, but I think that is why I am taking the time to email a response to your news letter.

*Trenton.*

I am a thirty-year-old mother of two young boys and registered nurse. My husband and I budget. We save. We avoid debt. Our home is modest, much of it built with our own hands. We each drive a ten-year-old car. We rarely eat out. We will also earn nearly \$86,000 this year, far above the median Idaho household income. Yet, I am feeling the burden of increased energy costs.

How can that be? Our story really began with 9-11, or the economic downturn that immediately followed it. Downsizing, and then more downsizing meant layoffs for my husband, a new college graduate at that time. Jobs were scarce for new grads, and we depleted our savings, eventually turning to credit cards in order to feed and insure our young family.

The economy picked up and he found consistent work. Then, I graduated from college and we began attacking our credit cards with added fervor. The future began looking brighter. We set debt payoff goals and looked for ways to reduce the number of my hours away from home so that I could focus on our young boys. This December I was going to work one less day per pay period. It was going to be our Christmas present to our family.

Now that dream does not seem likely.

Increases in energy have led to price hikes around the board. Wheat costs have skyrocketed, fresh produce too, and let us not even talk about milk and gasoline. The increases mean that, in order for us to pay off our debt and continue saving, I will have to continue working my regular schedule. If we want any extras, like a date out, an occasional vacation, or to finish projects around the house, I have to work extra shifts to cover those. I do not see how I will be able to reduce the number of hours at my job.

You ask what priorities I think Congress should set to solve this crisis? My answers may seem a little strange, but I am a believer in capitalism, fiscal responsibility and hard work. They really do work! I would like to see our leaders:

Increase domestic oil production & alternative energy production. Remember the South? Many say that they lost the war because they did not have infrastructure. We need to remember past mistakes so they do not revisit our future. Our refineries are aging. We import more than we export. Regulations make it nearly impossible to build new refineries and expensive for new drill

sites. We need to find a balance with responsible environmental practices that allow new refineries to be built and natural resources to be extracted.

Do not set price caps. If oil and gas become too expensive, there will be incentive for alternative fuels & for Americans to conserve!

Look at ways to decrease our tax load. Americans work very hard for every penny we earn. Find ways to be more fiscally responsible so that our tax burden can be lightened to help offset our increasing energy expenses.

Do not forget the younger generation. My generation is paying thousands in to social security & other programs that will be bankrupt before we ever get to use them. We feel the added strain of paying now, while trying to find ways to be self sufficient because we expect to have a bankrupt country by the time we get to retirement age. We need to invest in our future. And please do not forget our little children. What legacy will we be leaving them?

Quit labeling the Oil Companies as the bad guys. Our current conundrum is nothing more than the classic supply versus demand. If demand goes up and supply cannot meet it, the cost will go up. This concept is taught in economics classes around the country. Why should we expense the oil companies to work for nothing? These companies provide many Americans with good jobs. Let us find a way to bring more of these jobs home!

Thank you for your time,

*DIXIE, Rexburg.*

#### RECOGNIZING SBE, INC. OF BARRE, VERMONT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the innovation and achievements of SBE, Inc. in Barre, VT.

For decades, SBE has demonstrated an exceptional ability to adapt to the demands of a changing marketplace. The company started as Sprague Electric in 1945, but today SBE is using cutting-edge technology to develop capacitors for use in green cars, alternative energies, Taser stun guns, and advanced military equipment. These innovative products have created dozens of quality Vermont jobs that reflect our state's commitment towards moving to alternative energy sources.

I commend Ed Sawyer, president and CEO of SBE, and all of the hard-working employees in Barre for their foresight and innovation. I ask unanimous consent that a September 1, 2008, Burlington Free Press article about the company be printed in the RECORD so all Senators can read about the success and commendable business practices of this sustainable Vermont company.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Burlington Free Press, Sept. 1, 2008]

BARRE FIRM ADAPTS PRODUCTS TO SURVIVE: CAPACITOR COMPANY MOVES FOCUS FROM TV AND STEREOS TO TASERS AND HYBRIDS

(By Dan McLean)

BARRE.—SBE Inc., built on 20th century capacitor technology, has survived by continuing to adapt, taking a Vermont-made product and carving a national market.

SBE has branched off from its trademarked orange colored capacitors, known worldwide

as the "orange drop," and is pursuing "power ring" technology for hybrid vehicles, alternative energy producers and military applications.

"This is sustainable manufacturing. It's a different product mix," said Ed Sawyer, president and CEO of the SBE Inc.

SBE has landed two rounds of U.S. Department of Energy grants to pursue capacitor technology for the burgeoning hybrid vehicle industry. The money is helping to bankroll research and development that are creating jobs. "We applied for the grant in a competitive process along with approximately 2,000 other firms across the U.S.," Sawyer said.

By continuing to innovate, the manufacturer has been able to save itself from becoming obsolete.

Over a billion capacitors have been made by the Barre-based manufacturer during the past six decades, Sawyer said. A capacitor is an electronic device that can store energy.

#### KEYS TO SURVIVAL

Boom times continued into the late 1960s and early 1970s for the capacitor manufacturer. During that time, about 900 employees built capacitors for companies such as AC Delco, Magnavox, RCA and Zenith.

The industry has changed a lot since Sprague Electric entered into a subcontracting agreement with the Rock of Ages Corp. to manufacture capacitors on their behalf in 1945. SBE Inc. is the successor to Sprague Electric Co.

SBE has retrofitted. The company has translated a mid-20th century technology into a modern application for green cars, alternative energies, Taser stun guns and military equipment. As the decades passed, foreign competitors—mostly in China, Korea, Malaysia and the Philippines—began making capacitors for one-quarter to one-third the price, Sawyer said. Aside from the hefty price competition, work was lost because the manufacturing of many electronic devices that use capacitors moved from the U.S. to Asia.

When Sprague Electric sold the company to SBE in 1986, it was down to 19 employees, Sawyer said. SBE now has about 50 employees and is hiring five more engineers to work on capacitors for hybrid cars.

The company survived, Sawyer said, because of its longstanding philosophy: "new products need to be developed to keep the company viable."

SBE Inc.—which leases 30,000 square feet of the 110,000 square feet the manufacturer owned a few decades ago—was created from the shell that Sprague Electric was leaving behind after being decimated by foreign competition, Sawyer said. The management team banded together to buy the operation, forming SBE, he said.

"If they didn't have the motivation, it would have been just one more 'closed business' story," Sawyer said.

Since becoming president in 2002, Sawyer promoted the development of patents. Three patents have been issued on high-voltage, pulse technologies, and six more are pending, he said.

Unlike a semiconductor, which requires power be applied to it, a capacitor has the ability to hold a charge and can change direct current to alternating current, which is used to power an electric motor.

#### JOB POTENTIAL

Job growth, particularly skilled manufacturing positions, should continue at SBE.

If the capacitor technology SBE is developing for hybrid vehicles is embraced by General Motors, as Sawyer hopes, employment could grow by another 100 people. "It would be huge job growth for the state," he said.

Rob Peterson, a GM spokesman, said suppliers for the Chevy Volt hybrid vehicle have