

With that decline in consumer spending, our retailers are shutting their doors, laying off sales staff and management. With declining sales, manufacturers are laying off workers and shutting down assembly lines. Responses that are perfectly rational for individuals making their own decisions only add to our problems, making us all worse off.

Our jobs, our savings, our homes, our credit—all are under siege. Left alone, we know things will only get worse. We have to break that vicious cycle.

I remind my colleagues of these troubling trends because as bad as things are, they can get worse. Because we have failed to revive employment, consumer spending—the key to today's economy—and consumer confidence—the key to tomorrow's economy—remain in a slump. Because we failed to restore stability in home prices, foreclosures continue to spread. Because we have failed so far to clean up our banking system, lending and borrowing are drying up.

That is the real urgency behind the task of building an effective economic recovery plan because if we fail to act, we can be sure that we will lose more jobs, lose more homes, and reduce the value of our economy.

Because so much has gone wrong, our recovery plan must tackle many different problems at the same time. Because so much of our economic value has been lost, the scale of our response must be equal to that challenge. Because of the risk of further decline, our response must be rapid.

That is why the Senate is beginning debate today on a historic economic recovery investment program for America. We must do something dramatic to turn our economy around. At the same time, the American people will rightly judge whether we have used this moment wisely, whether we have invested these hundreds of billions of dollars of their hard-earned dollars in ways that will improve their lives.

Job creation and job preservation must be our goal. Jobs, jobs, jobs. Every job lost is another blow to our economy, losing productive work, spending power, and the revenue that supports the education, health care, roads, water, police, and fire protection provided by our State and local governments. Every job lost is truly a human tragedy, for the man and woman who loses the dignity of work, and the families thrown into turmoil.

One important way to create jobs is make more investments that will make our economy more productive—clearly, roads, bridges, clean water. A smart power grid, as we discussed with former Vice President Al Gore last week in the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, could become to our economy what the railroads were in the 19th century, what the highways were to postwar America, and what the Internet has meant to our digital age. And as we discussed last week in the Judiciary Committee, we can revolutionize

health care records and at the same time save billions of dollars while digitizing paper records, making sure we have appropriate privacy safeguards. We can improve health care, save money, help protect our patients, and create jobs. We will need to install new computers, routers, and software and educate and train the people with the skills to make the system work.

Listen, as jobs are created, consumers will be able to spend, homeowners will be able to keep up with their mortgages, families will be able to keep their kids in college. That is what economic recovery means, and that is what we have to do.

Finally, just as important as the jobs we create will be jobs preserved by keeping State and local governments able to provide the schools, the health care, the police and fire protection that we cannot do without. They will need teachers, nurses, firemen, policemen, and health inspectors on the job. Just today our congressional delegation from Delaware met with the Governor of Delaware. This crisis, just in Delaware alone, has slashed our revenue projections by \$5 billion in just 6 months. We face a \$600 million deficit, which will require shutting down services and laying off workers. This will add to the economic slowdown and reduce the services on which our citizens depend.

Support directly to State and local governments will get out to where it is needed. We know that because we know those governments are now forced to cut back in the face of declining economic activity and revenues. They need the money and they will use it. We have to get it to them.

This crisis has knocked a big hole in our economy, and it is essential we fill it quickly. Because of the size and speed of this task, we must also have extraordinary oversight and transparency to assure Americans that we are doing this right and that we are doing it openly. We must have additional resources and people dedicated to the sole purpose of auditing and investigating economic recovery spending. We must have transparency. We must make public all of the grants, contracts, and the oversight activities themselves. This is a historic undertaking, and we must have a historic level of transparency and oversight.

During my years of experience with the Senate, I have developed a deep respect for this very unique institution. I have seen it tested in war and peace, in good times and bad. The debate on our economic recovery plan this week is precisely the task for which this body, the Senate, was created. This is a moment that will test this institution. We must deliberate, we must debate, we must decide. There are no easy choices this week. There will be no easy votes. But I am convinced the Senate will meet this test, just as I am convinced our country will meet the test of these extraordinary times.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak up to 10 minutes each.

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

TRIBUTE TO GRAYSON COUNTY DECA

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the accomplishments of the Grayson County DECA from my home State of Kentucky and their efforts of promoting entrepreneurship through education and community awareness.

DECA is a high school association of marketing students which promotes the development of professionalism especially with regards to entrepreneurship and is the high school equivalent to the college association of Delta Epsilon Chi.

The Grayson County chapter works under the advisement of Cynthia Smith and Diane Horne, and comprised of dedicated young men and women, including two juniors from Grayson County High School, Tyler Lewis and Alex Henderson, who recently participated in the Entrepreneurship Promotion Project for organization.

The project has integrated its ideals into the local Grayson County schools with ventures such as developing different business ideas and creating sales presentations. They have reached out to the community with public service announcements on the radio and editorials in the local newspaper.

The Entrepreneurship Promotion Project earned the group a sixth place honors in their category at the spring 2008 International DECA competition.

In addition to the promotion of entrepreneurship, DECA requires that its members participate in many hours of community service.

Recently, DECA has organized a job shadowing program for the senior advanced marketing class at Grayson County High School. The program allows students to explore a career of their choice and gain professional experience by pairing them with local businesspeople.

The students explored careers at the Grayson County News Gazette, the Grayson County Sheriff's Department, the Leitchfield Police Department, the County Courthouse, CPA firms, law offices and the Chamber of Commerce.

The members of DECA have worked to raise awareness and have successfully obtained a proclamation from Grayson County Judge Executive Gary Logsdon and Governor Steve Beshear designating the last week in February as Entrepreneurship Week in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and in Grayson County. The group was also honored with a citation from the Kentucky House of Representatives.

DECA is a wonderful example of students striving for excellence both in

education and community. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing Grayson County DECA's hard work and dedication to education, community, and Kentucky.

(At the request of MR. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

TRIBUTE TO LARRY TREMBLAY

• Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, today I am pleased to introduce a resolution acknowledging the outstanding achievement of an extraordinary high school athletic coach. On January 21 this year, Larry Tremblay achieved his 500th career victory as coach of the wrestling team at Winchester High School in Winchester, MA. After 29 years of success, Coach Tremblay's outstanding career reached that milestone, with his victory over Carver High School.

Mr. Tremblay is one of only three Massachusetts coaches who have ever accomplished this feat. Coming off two back-to-back State championship years, and his induction to the National High School Wrestling Coaches Hall of Fame, the Winchester High Wrestling team is riding high under the remarkable leadership of Coach Tremblay. Appropriately the nickname of the school's beloved coach is "Larry legend" for his latest incredible milestone, and I commend Coach Tremblay for his skill and dedication and hard work throughout his years as Winchester High Wrestling Coach. A recent article will be of interest to all my colleagues in the Senate, and I ask unanimous consent that it may be printed in the RECORD.

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

"LARRY LEGEND" LIVES ON

[From the Winchester Star, Jan. 22, 2009]

Winchester, MA—Winchester High wrestling Coach Larry Tremblay entered Wednesday night's home match against Carver with 499 career victories.

Sachem alumni, fans and friends packed the gym to witness Tremblay achieve a feat only two other Massachusetts high school wrestling coaches have accomplished—500.

His 2008-09 squad made sure he left with the elusive, impressive and historic number.

With five scheduled matches remaining on the night, Sachem 152-pound grappler Mike Greco pinned Carver's Mike Babbin in the second period. That win sealed up not only a convincing 53-6 victory for the Sachems, but it also gave Tremblay the milestone.

"You don't get into coaching to win 500 matches or games," said Tremblay. "But one day I looked up and I had 100 wins, and then I looked up another day and it was 300. I've had a lot of fun coaching here."

Despite being undermanned, Tremblay credited Carver—a program that won the New England championship in 1994—with wrestling a strong match.

"My hat goes off to them," said the coach. "They made the long trip up here, and they wrestled hard."

The 160-pound, 171, 112 and heavyweight classes were all ruled "no contests."

Tremblay began coaching wrestling at North Reading 29 years ago. He spent one

season there before moving on to Winchester, where he has been ever since.

"When I started coaching I had curly brown hair," joked Tremblay. "Now look at me. They call me the 'silver fox.'"

Tremblay's passion and knowledge of the sport of wrestling, as well as coaching in general, makes him stand out and places him into an elite group.

"He has such a love for the sport," said Tremblay's son Travis, who grappled for his father for four years before graduating in 2005. "It's all he talks about. He loves it."

The night began at 103, where, despite putting up a big fight, Nick Cashion was pinned by Carver's Paul Walsh.

Although it would have been hard for anyone to steal Tremblay's thunder on this night, Sachem 119-pound grappler Connor Gregory managed to receive some well-deserved recognition as well. Gregory earned a 14-3 major over Carver's Matt Walsh, giving him 100 career victories.

Mike Barber (125) pinned Carver's Steve Mayne; Winchester's Fernando Monroy (130) pinned James Blankship.

Ryan Connolly (135) earned a first-period pin over Carver's Brandon English, and Winchester grappler Dan O'Connell (140) earned a 14-4 major decision by defeating Steve Scampoli.

Sachem John Williams (145) pinned Carver's Mike Cabral in the second period, and at 189, Winchester's Greg Kelley pinned Corey Ellis at 1:06 of the first period.

The match officially concluded when Andrew Moranian pinned Carver's Sean Mahoney in 1:31.

"These are special kids, and considering what the previous two teams did there is a lot of pressure on them," said Tremblay. "They're trying to build their own niche. They wrestle to the best of their ability. Not only have they done a good job on the mat, but they've done a good job representing the town of Winchester."

After the match, Tremblay received recognition for his accomplishment on the place he knows best—the wrestling mat.

"This really isn't a glamorous sport, but the whole wrestling community is like a family," said Tremblay. "It's a special thing. Tonight, when I saw all the parents and the alumni in the stands, I got a little emotional. This has been a great ride."•

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 well over 1,200, are heartbreaking and touching. While energy prices have dropped in recent weeks, the concerns expressed remain very relevant. To respect the efforts of those who took the opportunity to share their thoughts, I am submitting every e-mail sent to me through an address set up specifically for this purpose 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:

As a small business owner, the price of gas is close to putting me out of work. The economy is a little slow right now but only because of the price of fuel. If fuel prices were to drop a buck a gallon, the country would see a huge increase in spending. At this moment, I am unsure if I will be able to even pay my bills this month to keep my business open or a roof over my head. The burden of fuel prices and the lack of work for me have begun to put a huge stress on my relationship at home. She will now have to cover my share of the bills and will leave us both to figure out how to feed the kids, pay bills and buy fuel.

I am 41 years old and have been in the same profession for over 17 years. The thought of having to start over and train for a new job is very tough. I have looked for part-time work in hopes something will be done about fuel prices allowing me to save my business. There is very little work out there, and the work that is there pays so little it would cost more in fuel to get to work then you would make at work. This country is in need of something to be done about fuel prices, if they continue to rise we are going to see a lot of people homeless, stealing, or worse to just get by. It is time for this government to take charge and save its people before it is too late.

KEN, Kuna.

I work at the border of Idaho and Canada. Eastport, Idaho to be exact. This is 33 miles from Bonners Ferry. Many of us work here, at Customs and at the brokerages as well as a hand full of other businesses. Some of us carpool when we can.

I want to ask you to help us get public transportation in this northernmost area of Idaho. We need it. It will help all of us through this crippling gas price debacle as well as create a needed resource for everyone in Boundary and Bonner County. If I take time to write out a plan, will you seriously look at it and help us with grants and resources if feasible? The plan would be an idea of course, as I am not a grant writer, but I am banking on you to have that kind of resource.

I think it is feasible and needs to be. We should all have a focus on the future instead of cowering in fear because we do not know how to move ahead, simply because we cannot afford to live as we did, driving the biggest most powerful cars and trucks, without regard to the future, instead of conserving and investing in alternatives. It is not too late.

First things first. We all need to get to work and I think public transportation would be something people would pay taxes for in these parts.

I am including an email sent to me about alternative "air" cars. It seems other countries have found solutions in alternative means for transportation public and private. Why is it that our country does not "approve" these vehicles that run on "air"? It does not make any sense, other than the government is protecting the profits of corporations.

AMAZING AIR CAR

The Compressed Air Car developed by Motor Development International (MDI) Founder Guy Negre might be the best thing to have happened to the motor engine in years.

The \$12,700 CityCAT, one of the planned Air Car models, can hit 68 mph and has a range of 125 miles. It will take only a few minutes for the CityCAT to refuel at gas stations equipped with custom air compressor