

have men of high moral integrity making decisions about the future of our beloved United States of America.

With respect to high energy prices, I am very disappointed that our Federal Congress has shamefully neglected their responsibility to find a way to develop a national energy policy before we arrived at this rather extreme condition. Having worked as an oil and gas geologist in Houston, Texas before returning to Idaho, I know that it has never been a secret that our addiction to oil and natural gas was leading us into trouble as the opportunities to explore for large reserves continued to decline.

As a nation, we have been so negligent about seeing past the next election that our policies do not seem capable of meeting the challenges of a world that is now interdependent in so many ways. It has been and still is ridiculous to remove so many regions of offshore from oil and gas exploration and development. ANWR, in my opinion should be developed and if we are successful in finding additional resources there, use that for strategic reserves because we all understand that it is not likely to be significantly large in and by itself. Why is it so hard to communicate to those who are extreme (including John McCain) in their environmentalist/preservationist theologies that oil companies can explore and develop resources with such a small footprint that the ecological impacts are essentially negligible?

At the same time that I hear many in Congress calling for the rights to explore in additional areas, I really have not heard anything addressing the need to increase our refinery capacity or to deal with the myriad of gasoline blends that are required by EPA that reduce efficiencies in refining, nor does there seem to be anything coming to rural America to help with public transportation initiatives.

The Federal Government's overzealous effort to promote biofuels at the expense of food production seems to have been a huge mistake. Why was a similar effort of support not provided for oil shale or coal gasification etc.? With new EPA regulations governing carbon output it seems that we have added so much uncertainty into the business side of developing alternative resources that the risks may outweigh the potential successes.

Also, information I have received from the American Geologic Institute indicates that if the value of the dollar had kept pace with the Euro and other world currencies, oil prices would be in the \$60 to \$70 dollar range instead of the >\$130 level. It seems clear that we must find a way to stop the declining value of the American dollar!

You have an incredibly difficult job ahead of you as you try to find a path that will lead to lower energy costs and improved economic prosperity for all of the citizens of our country. Our prayers are with you.

MARK D. LOVELL, *Rexburg.*

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

SIOUX FALLS COUGARS

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the University of Sioux Falls Cougars men's football team for winning the 2008 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, NAIA, National Championship and for finishing at the top of the NAIA Coaches' Top 25 Postseason Poll. This was USFs third consecutive trip to the National Championship and second championship victory in that time.

The University of Sioux Falls men's football team has a long history of success, including 3 National Championships from 1996 to 2008 and 16 Great Plains Athletic Conference titles. This season proved to be yet another outstanding performance by the Cougars, as they finished with a perfect record of 14 to 0 and defeated Carroll College, 23 to 7, in the NAIA National Championship game. Their excellent performance throughout the season was awarded by receiving all 18 possible first place votes in the NAIA Coaches' Top 25 Postseason Poll.

The 2008 Cougars were led to the championship thanks to the combination of a powerful offense and a dominating defense. The Cougars averaged nearly 37 points per game while giving up only 6. The defense ranked first in the Nation in numerous statistical categories, including scoring defense and total defense. The team effort displayed each week by this group of men is a tribute to the countless hours of training and preparation that preceded this great accomplishment.

Certainly this season would not have been possible without the coaches and players themselves. The coaching staff, in alphabetical order, is as follows: Ross Cimpl, Al Christensen, Kalen DeBoer, Jeff Fitzgerald, Ryan Grubb, Al Hansen, Eric Inama, Dan Moe, and Kurtiss Riggs.

The team, in alphabetical order, is as follows: Blake Andersen, Brandon Andersen, Alex Anderson, Drew Anderson, Eric Anderson, Anthony Baldassari, Jeremy Barnes, Bret Beachner, Travis Beaver, Nick Benedetto, Tony Benedetto, Dustin Bergmeier, Quintin Biermann, Brandon Boe, Lorenzo Brown, Tyson Brown, Doug Carlson, Jordan Carlson, Cody Cavender, Erik Cimpl, Jacob Crowl, Kyle Cummings, Drew DeGroot, Josh Dorr, Dane Driscoll, Trevor Engelson, Nathan Everett, Eric Fjeldheim, Shawn Flanagan, Dylan Fritz, Stanley Green, Jake Hahne, Adam Halseth, Mike Hartley, Brad Hartzler, Michael Hill, Trevor Holleman, Lavell Jackson, Eric James, Maxon Keating, Taylor Klein, Brandon Koolstra, Kyle Lancaster, Jade Larson, Scott LeBrun, Landon Leveranz, Matt Lindgren, Marlon Lobban, Adam Lopez, Ryan Lowmiller, Mitch Lupkes, Brad Maag, Justin Meidinger, Joe Moen, Tyler Mousel, Tyler Newman, Eric Page, Mike Patterson, Tony Pedri, Casey Peters, Kristian Porter, Nick Ramstad, Jim Rawhouser, Jared Redding, T.J. Ross, Jon Ryan, Spencer Sailors, Sean Santiago, Mark Sayler, Mark Schaffer, Dan Schmeichel, Shawn Schnabel, Andrew Schoenfelder, Ryan Schuler, Ismael Small, Eric Smith, Kyle Staudt, Dominic Studzinski, Rene Velasquez, Jared Vlotho, Tim Voegeli, Demetrius Washington, Kyle Wasson, and T.J. Wendt.

While the Cougars' success was truly a team effort, I would like to recognize the team's head coach Kalen DeBoer for being honored as the 2008 American Football Coaches Association NAIA Coach of the Year. This is the second time that he has received this honor since taking the helm for the Cougars in 2005. In only 4 years of Cougar leadership, Coach DeBoer has amassed a daunting record of 52 to 3. He has led the Cougars to the NAIA Championship game three times. The Cougars' continued success is a testament to Coach DeBoer's ability to motivate his players to perform and succeed at a high level of competition.

The coaching staff and student-athletes of the University of Sioux Falls men's football team should be very proud of all of their accomplishments this season. On behalf of the Sioux Falls community and the State of South Dakota, I am pleased to say congratulations to the Cougars on another remarkable season. You have made us all very proud. •

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. KOHL):

S. 364. A bill to provide for the review of agricultural mergers and acquisitions by the Department of Justice, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NELSON of Florida:

S. 365. A bill to establish in the Department of Justice the Nationwide Mortgage Fraud Task Force to address mortgage fraud in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 366. A bill to amend the Social Security Act to eliminate the 5-month waiting period for Social Security disability and the 24-month waiting period for Medicare benefits in the cases of individuals with disabling burn injuries; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEVIN:

S. 367. A bill for the relief of Perlat Binaj, Almida Binaj, Erina Binaj, and Anxhela Binaj; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 368. A bill for the relief of Alemseghed Mussie Tesfamical; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KOHL (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 369. A bill to prohibit brand name drug companies from compensating generic drug companies to delay the entry of a generic drug into the market; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. THUNE, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. COURN):

S. 370. A bill to prohibit the use of funds to transfer detainees of the United States at Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to any facility in the United States or to construct any facility for such detainees in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. VITTER):

S. 371. A bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to allow citizens who have concealed carry permits from the State in which they reside to carry concealed firearms in another State that grants concealed carry permits, if the individual complies

with the laws of the State; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CARPER, Mr. PRYOR, and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. 372. A bill to amend chapter 23 of title 5, United States Code, to clarify the disclosures of information protected from prohibited personnel practices, require a statement in nondisclosure policies, forms, and agreements that such policies, forms, and agreements conform with certain disclosure protections, provide certain authority for the Special Counsel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. NELSON of Florida:

S. 373. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to include constrictor snakes of the species *Python* genera as an injurious animal; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. Res. 26. A resolution recognizing and honoring Ralph Wilson, Jr. and Bruce Smith on being selected to the 2009 Pro Football Hall of Fame class; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. BAYH, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. KYL, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. Con. Res. 4. A concurrent resolution calling on the President and the allies of the United States to raise the case of Robert Levinson with officials of the Government of Iran at every level and opportunity, and urging officials of the Government of Iran to fulfill their promises of assistance to the family of Robert Levinson and to share information on the investigation into the disappearance of Robert Levinson with the Federal Bureau of Investigation; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

s. 21

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 21, a bill to reduce unintended pregnancy, reduce abortions, and improve access to women's health care.

s. 117

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 117, a bill to protect the property and security of homeowners who are subject to foreclosure proceedings, and for other purposes.

s. 162

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 162, a bill to provide greater accountability of taxpayers' dollars by curtailing congressional earmarking, and for other purposes.

s. 234

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr.

BURRIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 234, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2105 East Cook Street in Springfield, Illinois, as the "Colonel John H. Wilson, Jr. Post Office Building".

S. 249

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 249, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to qualify formerly homeless youth who are students for purposes of low income tax credit.

S. 295

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 295, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the quality and efficiency of the Medicare program through measurement of readmission rates and resource use and to develop a pilot program to provide episodic payments to organized groups of multispecialty and multi-level providers of services and suppliers for hospitalization episodes associated with select, high cost diagnoses.

S. 325

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 325, a bill to amend section 845 of title 18, United States Code, relating to explosives, to grant the Attorney General exemption authority.

S. 332

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 332, a bill to establish a comprehensive interagency response to reduce lung cancer mortality in a timely manner.

S. 333

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 333, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an above-the-line deduction against individual income tax for interest on indebtedness and for State sales and excise taxes with respect to the purchase of certain motor vehicles.

AMENDMENT NO. 101

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 101 proposed to H.R. 1, a bill making supplemental appropriations for job preservation and creation, infrastructure investment, energy efficiency and science, assistance to the unemployed, and State and local fiscal stabilization, for fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 102

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 102 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1, a bill making supple-

mental appropriations for job preservation and creation, infrastructure investment, energy efficiency and science, assistance to the unemployed, and State and local fiscal stabilization, for fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 104

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WEBB) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 104 proposed to H.R. 1, a bill making supplemental appropriations for job preservation and creation, infrastructure investment, energy efficiency and science, assistance to the unemployed, and State and local fiscal stabilization, for fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 366. A bill to amend the Social Security Act to eliminate the 5-month waiting period for Social Security disability and the 24-month waiting period for Medicare benefits in the cases of individuals with disabling burn injuries; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, each year an estimated 500,000 people are treated for burn injuries, with 40,000 requiring hospitalization. It is time that we do more to aid those who suffer from disabling burns, which is why I am introducing the Social Security and Medicare Improved Burn Injury Treatment Access Act of 2009. I am pleased to join my colleague from Massachusetts, Congressman RICHARD NEAL, who introduced similar legislation in the House of Representatives.

This legislation provides a waiver of the 24-month waiting period now required before an uninsured individual becomes eligible for Medicare coverage for disabling burn injuries. It also provides a waiver for the five-month waiting period for Social Security disability benefits. This will help provide greater assistance to those who suffer from burn injuries and much needed support for the burn centers that treat them. Burn care is highly specialized and expensive. Since approximately 40 percent of burn victims are uninsured, this places a great financial strain on burn centers, causing some of them to close.

At a time when we are asking burn centers to be prepared to deal with catastrophic cases, and expand their capacity, we also must provide the support they need. Chemical fires, explosions, terrorist attacks, and major accidents are scenarios where burn centers play a critical role in public health. Over one-third of those hospitalized in New York following the September 11 terrorist attacks had severe burn injuries.