

Recovery will take time. The American people understand that. They have patience for the long road that lies ahead, but they do not have patience for Congress to point fingers, drag its feet, or fail to act.

We have already shown the American people we can act on a bipartisan basis, and we have done it this Congress. We worked in a bipartisan basis to pass the Lilly Ledbetter legislation, bipartisan legislation that makes the working place a place where women are treated more fairly.

We worked on a bipartisan basis to pass the Children's Health Insurance Program, legislation that, in Nevada, will give insurance to 120,000 children who previously had no health insurance. These pieces of legislation are already law. They have been signed by President Obama and are now the law of this country because we worked together to get it done.

This week Senators from both parties met with the seriousness of the economic crisis with an earnest approach to solving this emergency. With the help of the dedicated work of Senators BEN NELSON, JOE LIEBERMAN, SUSAN COLLINS, OLYMPIA SNOWE, and ARLEN SPECTER, we now have the opportunity to support legislation that will put America back to work.

I appreciate my friend from Maine mentioning the letter from the Chamber of Commerce. This is a strong letter. You cannot find a company anywhere in America that does not support this legislation because they know it is going to create jobs.

The National Association of Manufacturers supports this legislation. Big business, small business supports this legislation because they believe help is on the way. At a time of escalating job loss, it will save or create as many as 4 million new American jobs. At a time when middle-class families are finding it harder to make ends meet, it provides desperately needed tax relief. At a time of crumbling roads and ever greater reliance on foreign oil, it invests in infrastructure and renewable energy. At a time of deepening complexities in the global marketplace, it better equips our schools to prepare American students for success.

But our job does not end here, it begins. In the coming weeks and months, we will turn to legislation offered by the Obama administration to fix our badly broken financial sector and to stabilize the housing market. As we have with Ledbetter—I talked about that important legislation—Children's Health Insurance Program, and this economic recovery plan, we need to continue to work together to solve the problems our great Nation faces. Nevada and all of America deserves nothing less. The time to act is now. Because the American people believe help is on the way, we must prove it to them.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the vote start now.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, what is the request?

Mr. REID. I have 2 minutes remaining. I am giving everyone relief so they do not have to listen to me.

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

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, pursuant to rule XXII, the clerk will report the motion to invoke cloture.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the Collins-Nelson of Nebraska amendment No. 570 to H.R. 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Ben Nelson, Max Baucus, Kent Conrad, Jon Tester, Debbie Stabenow, Charles E. Schumer, Richard Durbin, Dianne Feinstein, Jeff Bingaman, Patty Murray, Christopher J. Dodd, Benjamin L. Cardin, John D. Rockefeller IV, Claire McCaskill, Patrick J. Leahy, Blanche L. Lincoln, Harry Reid.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on amendment No. 570, offered by the Senator from Maine, Ms. COLLINS, and the Senator from Nebraska, Mr. NELSON, to H.R. 1, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. KYL. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) would have voted "nay."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays result—yeas 61, nays 36, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 59 Leg.]

#### YEAS—61

Akaka	Gillibrand	Nelson (FL)
Baucus	Hagan	Nelson (NE)
Bayh	Harkin	Pryor
Begich	Inouye	Reed
Bennet	Johnson	Reid
Bingaman	Kaufman	Rockefeller
Boxer	Kennedy	Sanders
Brown	Kerry	Schumer
Burris	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Byrd	Kohl	Snowe
Cantwell	Landrieu	Specter
Cardin	Lautenberg	Stabenow
Carper	Leahy	Tester
Casey	Levin	Udall (CO)
Collins	Lieberman	Udall (NM)
Conrad	Lincoln	Warner
Dodd	McCaskill	Webb
Dorgan	Menendez	Whitehouse
Durbin	Merkley	Wyden
Feingold	Mikulski	
Feinstein	Murray	

#### NAYS—36

Alexander	Bunning	Corker
Barrasso	Burr	Crapo
Bennett	Chambliss	DeMint
Bond	Coburn	Ensign
Brownback	Cochran	Enzi

Graham	Kyl	Roberts
Grassley	Lugar	Sessions
Hatch	Martinez	Shelby
Hutchinson	McCain	Thune
Inhofe	McConnell	Vitter
Isakson	Murkowski	Voinovich
Johanns	Risch	Wicker

#### NOT VOTING—2

Cornyn Gregg

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 61, the nays are 36. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. DURBIN. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Madam President, as we know, that is the last vote for today.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I have checked with the Republican leader, and we are going to go now into a period of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each. The first person to be recognized is Senator GRASSLEY of Iowa, who wants to speak for 10 minutes. Others who want to speak can certainly do so.

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

#### IDAHOANS SPEAK OUT ON HIGH ENERGY PRICES

Mr. CRAPO. Madam 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 heart-breaking 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:

I am not going to bother with "how" we are affected by high energy prices. Just about everyone buys fuel. Just about everyone buys food, and uses electricity or natural gas to heat and cool their homes. It is a given that everyone is affected. It is not the

"how" that is important; it is the "why". I have a firm belief that the crisis is not in energy; it is in government, and monetary policy. The price of fuel and other forms of energy are increasing due to a combination of several things: 1) Lack of a truly free market, 2) An excess of government involvement, 3) Greed and a desire for control, and 4) Inflation directly caused by the Federal Reserve. The latter is the most probable cause of the increase. I do not believe for a second that prices have anything to do with supply. I believe we have enough oil within our own borders to easily become energy independent, if only it was allowed (by government) to be tapped. I believe the Federal Reserve (a private entity masquerading as a government entity, completely controlled by private bankers) is one of the main (if not the main) evils in our time. The Federal Reserve should be abolished, and sound money, backed by gold and silver, should be restored. All economies that have ever been based on a fiat currency fail, and ours will as well (mark my words, and the words of the Founding Fathers). The Fed has done absolutely nothing to secure the value of the dollar, but instead has done everything possible to erode it. Soon the paper and ink that is used will be worth more than the currency itself, as it is backed only by the people's trust in their government; something that is quickly declining.

I do not want the Congress involved in this issue. It is not government's responsibility to be involved, or to "fix" anything; it is rather their responsibility to not be involved. Let the free market work. If it was not for the presence of corporatism, several alternative energy sources (such as domestic oil, electric cars, solar power, etc) would have already been developed and be mainstream choices.

I would encourage you to read (or listen to) The Proper Role of Government, given by Former Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson. You can find the text and audio at the following link: <http://www.wakeupsaints.com/truth/Ezra%20Taft%20Benson%20The%20Proper%20Role%20of%20Government.php>

I would also encourage you to read (or listen to) The 5,000 Year Leap. A summary (and entire audio) can be found at the following link: <http://www.wakeupsaints.com/truth/W.%20Cleon%20Skousen%20The%205%20C000%20Year%20Leap.php>

Thanks for your time,

NATE, *New Plymouth.*

Thank you for asking us to write to you regarding the energy crisis. I used to laugh at my mother-in-law when she complained about \$1.80 a gallon gas. Dave and I have always tried to plan our trips and walk whenever possible to conserve gas, especially since the "crisis" of the 70s, so gas was just a necessity and there was no sense driving all over town looking for the cheapest station. It is really too bad that something was not done then to use our own energy resources, but the environmentalists took over and successfully squelched any progress. Now we are dependent on foreign oil and it will take several years to get our own resources up and running. If our plan was to drain all of the oil out of the Middle East before using our own, it really backfired. I would like a bumper sticker proclaiming, "Do not like the price of gas? Blame an environmentalist."

That being said, we had better get busy and start drilling in anywhere we can, building refineries where we can (what about President Bush's idea of converting unused military bases?), and developing nuclear power. When the price of gas goes back down,

it will all be forgotten if we do not use this crisis to get started!

JACQUI, *Boise.*

I have read with great interest your articles on the high fuel prices. Sorry, but I believe it is all a load of bull and brain washing!! Listen carefully—The problem is the greed of the oil companies! Pure and simple. There is no reason on earth why they should make billions of dollars per month in profits, by screwing the American people! The cost of a barrel of oil does not equate to the price of the fuel! They have put our entire country into a tail spin! What they are doing is nothing short of criminal. My wife and I are on a fixed income, retired and unable to enjoy any travel! We are only able to see our grandkids once a year from Kuna to Spokane, due to the price of fuel! The electrical has just taken a big jump as well. The government needs to step in and stop these thieves from bilking the American people. Just because they have a product that is required by all, they take advantage of it and are robbing the nation! Drilling for oil is not the problem. We have already proven with ethanol that the price of American produced fuel is even higher! The CEO of Shell Oil on "The Today Show," said we have enough oil for 300 years. Supply is not the problem. Greed of the oil companies is the only problem! Please save our country by forcing them to lower the price!

CARL, *Kuna.*

I am retired from Idaho State Police. I served 18 years. I have lived in Idaho since 1967. Thank you for trying to save our country. As a recently retired public employee, I had dreams of fishing and/or golfing a couple of times a week. Those simple pleasures used to be limited to available time, and not by how much it cost to get there. Now that I have the time to do those things, I have to consider the additional costs fuel has made in getting to those destinations and limit myself to once a week or a couple times a month. This not only dampens the hopes I had for my retirement years, but affects those that would have provided other services to me along the way. Those people that would have sold me ice, lunch, beverages, clothing, equipment, etc. are all losing out on my ability to travel.

We live 30 miles from the nearest 'large' retail area and have begun to delay trips to the city; combining our shopping needs into one visit rather than three. And, as would be expected, we find all of our required purchases have increased in cost because high fuel prices caused increased shipping expense for the retailer. The presumption that the average person sees \$50 more a month increase on fuel is only a drop in the bucket to the true impact to ones' retirement budget. So we tend to stay home, contemplating going back to work. On the positive side, my yard sure looks great because I have so much time to dedicate to it!

DAVID, *Kendrick.*

Gas prices are affecting us at home our level pay electric went from \$62/month to \$87/month and no increase in electric use. We have to drive to Boise from New Plymouth once a month because my husband has Traumatic Brain Injury and requires once a week therapy. The 100% disable pay from the VA that my husband is on is a fixed income; the travel money is not enough to pay for the round trip to Boise along with he does not get the full amount of travel pay for the 3 or 4 visits.

He cannot drive himself so I take a half-day to full day off work to drive him and to be a part of his appointments because he is not able to remember what was said by the

therapist or the doctors. So our income is hurt with me missing work.

Our food budgets support one child full time, another child half the time along with their friends (it is better to open our home to friends to know what they are doing and support them). Not that we have a lot of children coming and going.

Luckily my job is here in town, Internet Truckstop, so I can walk most days to work, which I have been doing for many years.

I can only imagine what people are going through with smaller incomes. The food prices here in town are considerably higher compared to driving to Ontario, Oregon, or Payette, Idaho. It is still worth grocery shopping across the river if you are already going to be there. Payette County does not have a lot of service-related businesses so there are many times we have to go into Ontario to meet our needs as county residents.

JEANNETTE.

Thanks for the opportunity. We own a small residential building company in Boise with a small fleet of pickups. As you know the home market is weak at best and this one more item, higher gas prices, does not help. But in the end, it is the consumer that will pay for my increased cost just as I will pay the increase when any corporation or other entity above me gets a tax increase. We need to drill now, anywhere and everywhere we can and rely on our own resources.

STEVEN.

I fully agree with this excerpt from your email letter:

"Congress should not be sitting on the sidelines while Idahoans are paying the price at the pump, and I hope together we can spur some real action on this issue."

Unfortunately, this is exactly what it seems that Congress is doing. As long as the United States' economy is petroleum-based, we will experience increasingly higher fuel costs. Regardless of how many barrels of oil are pumped globally, the refining capacity of this country is at max capacity, or so we are led to believe, therefore gas and diesel prices will continue to remain high. This reality will not change regardless of coastal or Alaskan exploration. The only solution to our situation would seem to be increasing our ability to run our economy on alternative fuels i.e. nuclear, hydro, solar etc. To that end, it would seem that the nation which set a bipartisan goal of putting a man on the moon within a decade—and succeeded, would be able to set a goal of weaning our nation's economy from petroleum within a reasonable period of time. However, given the extreme bipartisanship nature of our Congress and the influence of legacy lobbyists on legislation, I do not see that happening.

FRED, *Boise.*

Thank you for providing this forum to learn and receive feedback as to how the outrageous fuel price increases are adversely affecting us personally. Sadly, with all of the feedback that you have received, there is no "quick fix" or immediate resolution to this issue, unless of course, the major oil producers and suppliers wish to "pay it forward" by reducing the price of unleaded regular and diesel by 50%.

My fuel costs, like everyone else's, have doubled since 2005. We are making every effort to reduce our costs by driving less, even with two diesel powered vehicles. Boise lacks viable and practical public transportation that would further help reduce everyone's costs, so we all continue to struggle with these outrageous price increases.

Here are some facts for you, to illustrate these price increases:

On July 4, 2005, the price of diesel was \$2.43 per gallon. Today, the price is \$4.75 per gallon, nearly double in three years!

On January 31, 2008, the diesel price hit \$3.24 per gallon, and on May 23, 2008, the diesel price hit \$4.55 per gallon. Major oil company stations are now selling diesel in excess of \$4.89 per gallon, over 200% increase in three years.

Since January 31, 2008, diesel prices have increased 67%.

In the meantime, as a new and recent retiree now living on Social Security, my benefits increased \$50 per month from 2007 to 2008, hardly enough to offset these constant rising prices. Tack on the recent increases for Idaho Power (25%), Intermountain Gas (10%), and food costs, senior citizens on fixed incomes are juggling to keep pace, and still pay for their necessary medicines.

The major oil companies have all boasted significant profits ranging from \$5 billion to \$10 billion per fiscal quarter, and some executives have testified that they are paid in excess of \$10 million annually. The oil companies have also indicated that profits to shareholders have jumped a whopping 40 cents per share. It is very easy to see that the oil companies, their executives, and the shareholders are becoming very wealthy at the expense of the American consumer. That is simply not right, nor is it fair!! The major oil companies are also exporting large quantities of diesel fuel to European and Asian markets, which have much larger price increases driving their markets.

The oil companies, like any other business, needs to focus on providing a quality product, at a fair and reasonable price, to all consumers. Rather, the oil companies are rapidly increasing their profits, holding back on product delivery, speculating on oil futures to further drive up prices, and the American consumer is getting victimized daily by the oil companies actions.

Sadly, there is no immediate fix for this problem! Any new drilling will fail to drive down prices for at least five years. New and more efficient vehicles will be expensive such that many Americans will be unable to afford them. (A \$45,000 hybrid vehicle would cost consumers over \$600 per month in payments and interest.) Production of biodiesel and ethanol is counterproductive if the cost per gallon of these products exceeds the current gas and diesel prices. Consumers clearly need gas and diesel costs lowered.

Yet we (America) are spending \$150 billion a year on a war in Iraq that has no perceived outcome and that has not positively influenced oil price reductions! NASA is sending a space craft to Mars to investigate planets on which we could never reside or survive! In the last five years, NASA space craft failures have cost American consumers at least \$165 million per failure. We simply do not have that luxury to waste money! Cut NASA's budget in half and give that money back to consumers! Stop the war and bring our troops home safely, and give that money back to American consumers! Stop pork barrel spending and give that money back to consumers! We in Idaho do not need to help finance projects in other state's Congressional districts where we fail to realize any benefit, except for loss of revenue.

Congress's job is to provide for the American people, not special interests, and operate the government's business successfully, providing any profits to the American consumer. That is not happening.

The business of running the federal government is a business, and Congress and the President has failed miserably to provide for the American consumer. With the trillions of dollars racked up in Congressional debt, America could soon be bankrupt. That would be a hard lesson in reality. The gas and diesel fuel crisis is a significant indicator of a failing economy. I will be watching to see what Congress can do. Thanks again for allowing this forum.

JACK, Boise.

We should start drilling in ANWR and off our coasts. We have shale in several states that we are not allowed to access; we should open this up, too.

One of our sons just driving to work and back is paying \$8 a day for gas, and he drives a midsize Honda. Another son drives a Subaru and he is paying \$150 a month for gas, just getting to work. Another son drives a semi-truck and cannot take care of his family of eleven, with the cost of fuel being so high. All of these sons are not in high paying jobs, so it is affecting what they can pay for housing, food and other costs. They are all hard-working and do not accept government assistance; they want to stay free of government help.

Please consider drilling, we have oil here, why cannot we use it? We feel that as soon as we start drilling the price of oil will go down because of the threat of competition. Thank you for asking for our input; we have sent your message to other people also.

FRANK and JO ETNA.

I would love to share with you the impact that higher gas prices has had on our family. In the past two years, I have suffered horribly with a condition called psoriatic arthritis. It has had some very disabling qualities about it. We have always been a very close family and have followed our children literally around the country with their athletics. My husband and I live in a small rural area of SE Idaho, and our children and grandchildren love to come and visit. With my health problems in the past several years, I am not able to travel and get around like I once did, so our children have been the ones to load up the grandkids and come to Grandma and Grandpa's house. With the rising gas prices, my children are now unable to come up as often, which is tearing me to pieces. I have even offered to help pay for their gas, but with our limited income, and their wonderful sense of pride, they do not want to accept it. There are very few areas they have to cut back from, while trying to raise young families, in order to come up with the extra money to get here on a regular basis. To us, there is nothing more important than family, and our family has been greatly affected by the high costs of gas/fuel.

I would love to see us move forward and stop having to rely on other countries (and playing games with the devil to do it) and start utilizing our own resources. That has always been one of the greatest things about our country is our self-reliance and willingness to help others. In order to help others, we must be able to help ourselves and put ourselves in a position to where we do not have to beg, borrow, or steal from other countries when we have the resources here to take care of our needs. I would urge Congress to get on board and start utilizing our resources to save our country. It is only a matter of time before we start having major trucking strikes—can you imagine where we will be if this takes place?

Then we do not have to just worry about where we are going to get the money for fuel, but how we are going to eat and survive. Businesses will soon start folding under the extra heavy burden for fuel and gas prices. It really paints an ugly picture of where we might be a year from now.

We will be watching this issue very closely and the candidates we select had better have this vision in mind if you are going to earn our vote.

PATTI, Montpelier.

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

### REMEMBERING DON ALEXANDER

• Mr. BINGAMAN. Madam President, it was with sadness that I learned of the death of Don Alexander. I was honored and fortunate to get to know him in the later stages of his distinguished career when I joined the Finance Committee. His advice and guidance on a variety of matters, but particularly on issues involving the Internal Revenue Service, were invaluable to my staff and me. With Don, you knew he was always going to bring to bear the wisdom acquired over years of service to his country, and the taxpayers, and do so with the enthusiasm and energy of a person half his age.

Throughout his career, Don always stepped forward to answer his country's call to duty. He took his integrity, thoughtfulness, and decency to the battlefields in World War II, and to the Internal Revenue Service where he was Commissioner during some of its most troubling times. Don confronted all challenges with confidence and determination, never wavering from his principals or strong sense of fairness.

At a time when our President is calling for all Americans to consider the importance and the need for government service, we need look no farther for a role model than former Commissioner Alexander. I honor him for his service to our country and all that he did to make us a stronger Nation.●

### TRIBUTE TO MARTHA BRYANT

• Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, I wish to honor in the RECORD of the Senate Martha Bryant, a true leader and an excellent businesswoman, for her many years of service to her community.

Martha has a long history of service to the communities she has called home. Born in Waycross, GA, the daughter of Arloa Gerald Morgan Wood and Joseph Cepheus Wood, she returned to her hometown after college to teach high school English for 3 years. Following that, she was certified as a professional YMCA director and served as program director for the State YMCA of Georgia from 1959 through 1962.

The citizens of Rome, GA, were lucky that Martha came to their town to serve as the program director of the YMCA of Rome/Floyd County in 1962. During her years in Rome, Martha served two terms on the board of the United Way as well as numerous terms on the Administrative Board of First Methodist Church, including as chair for 2 years. She also taught the Adult Sunday School class for 35 years, served 2 terms on the Alcohol Control Commission for the city of Rome, and was a part of the organizational committee that brought Georgia Highlands College to Rome.

Despite her volunteer schedule, she also found time to begin a brandnew business in 1972, Bryant and Garrett