

before us, they misinterpret congressional intent. In those situations, particularly when important issues like money laundering are involved, it is incumbent upon Congress to take corrective action. I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting this legislation.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, this year's Black History Month comes at a remarkable time that will be marked in the history books for generations to come. The inauguration of our Nation's first African-American President, Barack Obama, and confirmation of the first African-American Attorney General, Eric Holder, demonstrate our Nation's boundless capacity to change. All Americans have great cause to celebrate during this year's Black History Month our groundbreaking progress.

As Civil rights icon Representative John Lewis observed, "When he [President Obama] was born, people of color couldn't register to vote in many quarters of the deep South." Now, an African-American holds the most distinguished elected position in our country—President of the United States of America. This month is a time to reflect on the distance we have traveled, and the civil rights we have successfully fought for, in just one generation.

But it is also not a time to become complacent. Americans still encounter injustices solely because of their background or the color of their skin. There still exist large and unacceptable disparities in the opportunities afforded many Americans for good education, health care, employment, and more. Black History Month provides an opportunity for Congress to remember that addressing these injustices and disparities must be an important goal for Congress in the years ahead.

So this month let us reflect on our past triumphs, take note of this significant historical moment for our Nation, and look forward to an even brighter future as we continue working to ensure equality for all Americans.

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:

In response to your request for personal experience with the rising energy costs, I write not to whine, but to share concern. I live in Caldwell and work in Boise, near the airport, which quickly adds up to well over 400 driving miles a week just in commuting and equates to one full tank of gas, if I am lucky. I have done the research: public transportation is not an option from Caldwell or Nampa into Boise to our off-the-beaten-path work location. I work in non-profit, assisting others in worse situations than myself, which does keep rising energy costs "in perspective," however, concern is fast approaching.

Because I work in non-profit, I cannot afford to live any nearer to work, though. I really do not make that little of money—13.46/hr., which is, of course, much higher than the minimum wage. The problem for me is realizing how much is going out in taxes. My paycheck for 80 hours is \$1,077, which is quite doable for a single resident, but my gross wage is \$796. That is \$562 every month; a lot of money that could either go toward the rising food, utility or gas costs or allow me to live closer to where I work.

People looking to the government for more handouts will only continue to cripple the system. There are so many agencies with waiting, open arms to assist people in need of finding work or housing—like my agency. Cut taxes—help the working, taxpaying citizens stay on their feet and out of homeless shelters and local food pantries.

JEN, Boise.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my concerns regarding the impacts of higher fuel and energy costs on me. As fuel prices have risen, I have had to start thinking about where I need to go and what my routine will be for the day before getting in the truck. Gone are the days when I would drive 15 miles to the next town to have lunch with someone. Nowadays, I have started riding my bike to work, bought a motorcycle, and even took a different job closer to my house; all in an effort to reduce my fuel expenses. The motorcycle even gets 5x the MPG that my truck does. As a result of all of this, I now drive my truck less than 10K miles per year and have lost 15 lbs just this spring/summer alone. I go to bed earlier, watch less TV, wake up earlier, and generally am happier and have more energy due to the added exercise that I am getting.

I feel horrible for not driving my truck everywhere, but I just cannot afford it. I do hope that that does not make me any less patriotic. I applaud your efforts at trying to get Congress to understand that the only way back to cheap gas (at least for 10 years or so) is to start drilling and pumping crude in Alaska, Utah, Colorado, Montana, Idaho, and any other state that might have some oil under the earth. We need to get every last drop of oil we can from under our own country. We should leave no patch of earth untapped. We must get it all. We need it. It is the only way to protect my right to \$1.20/gallon gasoline prices and continue my God-given way of life here in America.

Thanks again for doing a great job.

GREG.

Thank you so much for taking an interest in our energy problems. My husband and I

spend \$700-\$800 per month in fuel cost. In addition to that our home is heated by heating oil. This winter our oil bill was about \$250 per month. If prices keep rising our heating costs this winter may soar to \$350 per month. My husband and I are doing our best to commute when possible. However, our work schedule only allows for this twice a week. I have a son with medical problems that make it difficult for me to take the commuting van as I may have to get home at odd times for him.

I am not educated enough on our fuel issues. However, I feel that there must be answers and solutions. The fuel is affecting the costs of everything. We are headed for a recession unless something is done quickly. I believe that drilling for oil within our own nation is a must. That will not solve our immediate problems, but we need to be looking long term, too. I think that the oil companies need to be held to a level of profits when it comes to increasing prices. I also feel that the Treasure Valley must have some sort of public transportation system. This needs to be started soon. Not only will this help with our energy costs, but also with air quality. That would be a system I could use as I would be able to access it any time. I realize that a lot of these solutions require large amounts of money, but the federal government needs to step in.

Thank you, again, for taking time for public comments. I appreciate all you do for the citizens of Idaho.

WENDY.

"Gas prices are too high" is a response not worthy of your staff's time and energy. We already know that. The question I have is, "why"? I think several things are going on here.

First, speculation/profit taking. People are trying to make exorbitant profits at the expense of not just Americans, but everyone whose fuel ticket is written by the cartels. The oil companies are making record profits on top of record profits. Where is the re-investment in refining capability, exploration, and improved distribution? Americans are feeling like these companies are thumbing their collective corporate noses at us, the customer. All the while, prices on everything affected by the cost of a barrel of oil keep increasing.

Second, we are a society built on cheap energy. That is clear. It is unreasonable to expect that to continue indefinitely. At the same time the process of weaning us away from these cartels' stranglehold is forced upon us. I think that we are placing our very existence as Americans into someone else's control.

We need to do what we can here to mitigate this immediate and forced situation. We can become energy independent, but that is going to take time. In the meantime, we need to explore other avenues to keep us an independent nation, and get us out from under the foot of countries whose only concern for America is that we keep buying their oil so that they can remain rich and expand their interests. Some of these countries are, at the core, anti-American.

How did we get here? Greed. Across the board! Let us not let the lobbies dictate what they think is best for this nation, unless it is. And our governmental branches need to get a handle on this, or this brink of crisis position we find ourselves in is going to result in some very difficult times for a long, long, time. For some families, it already is dire right now. I would also like to say that predicating our future actions on the basis of some "environmental catastrophe" where there is not good science to back it up, is, at the very least, foolhardy. Again, too few people are making bad policy for this nation,

and in many cases our elected leadership is listening to, and falling for it. Enough.

Last, but certainly not least, we need to begin looking at all of our sources of energy, and not ruling any out at this point. An energy policy that is coherent, supportable, and that makes sense for the short and long haul are absolutely necessary. We can get to more environmentally sanctioned energy sources, but this is a time of transition. It is not the time for dawdling, and that option has long since passed. Throwing money at this is not the answer either. This whole situation is approaching critical proportions, and if we do not start to do some forward-thinking, our economy, security and future existence are potentially at risk. Let us not let that happen. We are standing before the slippery slope. What are we going to do? I am afraid that the executive branch for the next few years is not going to help this situation either. So it falls back to the people and those who represent them. We have you there because we believe that you are in a position to make the hard calls that will make the United States a better nation in the long run, and protect her interests. You and all of the others in Congress have taken oaths to support, protect, and defend this nation. I believe, at this juncture, that you still want to do that. Make Idahoans proud of your initiatives and just do what is right. God, help us all.

BYRON, *Mountain Home AFB.*

I am late with this response. I feel we need to build more refineries in this country. Access to oil is not as much of a problem as being able to refine it for our uses. They try and tell us it costs too much to get it out of the ground. What is better self reliance or dependency on others?

Our elected officials have too many fingers in the pie, and we need to get rid of all lobbyists and let the voters decide what is best for our country's welfare. There is no quick fix for the troubles we are in, except for bringing control of our self sufficiency back to our country instead of relying on other countries. We have what we need here. Two problems: government and greed.

RAY.

Disabled Vietnam vet. Have to spend most of my time sitting at home, cannot afford to go anywhere. Price of food getting so high, cannot afford to eat what I want.

When are we going to start charging OPEC higher prices for what they need to survive? [Perhaps] halt their supply of food for a few months. Get their loaf of bread up to our price of gas, and make them scream "uncle."
JERRY, *Athol.*

I am the Sheriff of Payette County. I was given this e-mail address to write concerning the high fuel costs and the impact it has on our community safety.

The Payette County Sheriff's Office has approximately 20 cars in the fleet, most of them being patrol vehicles. I budgeted \$62,000 for fuel this fiscal year. I determined this amount using \$3.25 per gallon of gasoline and the average amount of fuel we use monthly/yearly. The average fuel bill for the fleet was \$3,500 a month. Since the soaring of fuel prices, it is approximately \$5,000 a month and still climbing. I have asked for \$95,000 to cover FY2009.

I have made some minor changes to patrol procedures by limiting the amount of miles put on the cars in a shift. Handling "calls for service" by telephone if possible, rather than driving a patrol car to the complainant's residence, etc. There are still more limitations I may implement if need be.

Obviously, this affects the safety of the community if deputies are not able to ac-

tively patrol and deter criminal activity. Since taking office in 2005, our crime rate has gone down and our solve rate has gone up. These statistics prove we are doing a better job at being proactive and taking criminals off the street. I worry about the safety of this community and my statutory duty to protect and serve.

I am in support of expanding our domestic production of petroleum. We need some relief ASAP. The support from your office is greatly appreciated.

CHAD, *Payette.*

I am like a lot of Americans, I have to drive. Carpooling, mass transit, bicycles or skateboards are not going to help me. I am a sales rep, and I have to drive as does everyone else in my office. This is a crisis that did not have to happen. The environmentalists got their way and have damaged the economy and security of this country. Let us drill now. Just announcing that we are going to drill and build nuclear plants will drop the price of crude. No one believes we will. Get this done. It is critical.

TOM.

If we are serious about saving gas, we need to do two things: (1) Slow down. . .driving 55-60 mph rather than 70-80 mph will save gas and substantially reduce demand, and (2) Better regulate speculation of oil futures. There are about 10,000 offshore drilling permits that have been issued but that are currently not being used, so the oil companies obviously aren't highly motivated to explore. We all have hardship stories. What we need is action at your level.

CHUCK, *Boise.*

My family and I have had to curtail some of our planned and/or camping trips this summer because of the cost of fuel. I had planned on going camping this summer for a few days but now I have to change my plans so I will have enough fuel to get back and forth to work.

I am a retired (credited with 38 years service) and a disabled military veteran. I was injured in Vietnam and then again in Desert Storm. I do not get much from my retirement (\$501) after they take my disability and taxes from it so I have to keep working along with my wife so that we can afford to have a home and be able to eat.

I agree with the President that we have to drill off the coast and in ANWR along with coming up with alternate fuel.

JOHN.

Just a short message—thank you for your attention to this matter. Senator Crapo. This whole thing is a big lie. We are one of the richest nations in energy and reserves. We do have the resources and there is no shortage. It is all there and it has been proven and everyone knows it, so what are not we tapping into it?

Other countries are controlling us because we depend on them. And the other thing is that a few tree huggers here are able to shut us down as far as tapping into our own reserves. That is just not right and has to stop now.

This problem has not happened overnight and cannot be fixed overnight, but changes can be made and should be made now, so we can start heading in the right direction. It will take time but it needs to start now. The government needs to step up to the plate now and so does each state, including Idaho, and put a stop to this wrong that is being done to each of us.

Thank you for your time and attention and please be a doer and not just a hearer.

LYLE, *Meridian.*

I live in Nampa, where the price of gas has not yet \$4.50. I know in other parts of the

country it is well above that. While it may be a good idea to have alternative flue sources, that is still a long while coming. The immediate solution is to drill for our own oil. Both in ANWR, and in the Gulf of Mexico. I mean if the Chinese are going to drill for it in the gulf we might as well to. Better that we get some of that oil than none.

Bottom line we have our own oil why are we buying it from others at outrageous prices?

ERIC, *Nampa.*

My suggestion to help save energy is to bring back the Amtrak line from Salt Lake City to Portland.

LORI, *Nampa.*

This is a response to your email soliciting "stories" about the effects of the high price of gasoline on Idahoans.

I lived and worked in Colorado from 1969-77, and in Los Angeles from 1977-2004. I began visiting Idaho around 1979, and moved to Hailey in 2004—in large part, because it reminded me of Colorado in the 1970s: a beautiful natural landscape, appreciated by many locals and visitors.

This country has been on a gas-guzzling binge for fifty years. I am sick and tired of hearing people complain about the cost of gas, driving solo in their inefficient cars, and unwilling to carpool or contribute towards mass transit options.

We do not need to expand domestic petroleum production. We need to learn conservation and seek alternative energy sources. The "God-given right" to tear up the landscape for oil and selfish-use is at the heart of what is wrong with people and their mind-set on a global scale.

Wake up and smell the coffee.

I dare you to share this email (uncensored) with your Senate colleagues.

MARK, *Hailey.*

I have been commuting to Boise from Caldwell since 1988. I now spend approximately \$400 per month on gas. I drive a mid-sized car and am unable to carpool because of my work hours, which vary. I never know if I am going to have to work late or not. There are no other options for me. So, because of the fuel prices, all I buy are groceries and gas. The US should look into more nuclear power, alternative fuel sources such as hydrogen and increase drilling in this country. For years, I worked in the Utah area where they drilled and capped numerous wells. As far as I know, those wells are still capped. Why aren't we using more domestic oil? Alaska is supposed to contain lots of oil, but we do not drill there. I believe that in this day and age, it would be possible to drill without excessive damage to the environment.

KATHY.

I understand you are seeking a response to the energy issue. We the people of the U.S. and Idaho have a responsible to make sure that when we obtain our natural resources we make sure it is done environmentally proper or as best as possible as the times dictate.

We should drill domestically offshore and on land, with the addition of building refineries to coup with the domestic demands. We should conduct other alternatives as well while we are drilling as well. The U.S. government should have incentives in place for developers, manufacturers and consumers for the alternative energy, i.e. tax credits that we have for hybrid auto.

Thanks for taking time in reading this note.

JOSEPH, *Eagle.*

As a resident of the outlying area of Clearwater County, the price of gas is wreaking havoc. The prices on goods in Orofino have risen dramatically. People go to Lewiston a lot to shop, but that has become prohibitive also. The economy in general is taking a hit because it is costing the timber companies an arm and leg to haul logs, therefore it is trickling down to the other businesses. Recreation is being hit because people cannot afford the fuel. Something has to be done. As a country we need to band together to help conserve energy, and reduce our dependence on foreign oil sources. It seems to be yet another case of the rich getting richer, and the poor getting poorer. What would happen to this nation if for one week, nothing moved? No food was hauled, no freight was moved, no gasoline was purchased. For the first time in my lifetime, I fear that a depression is nearing. I have to wonder if anyone has the power to fight this, or are we too late?

CRISTINE, Orofino.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING LANI SILVER

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the memory of a remarkable woman, Lani Silver. Lani was a passionate activist, oral historian, journalist, filmmaker, speaker, and artist who passed away January 28, 2009.

Lani was born on March 28, 1948, in Lynn, MA. Shortly after she was born, her family moved to San Francisco. When she was 19, Lani traveled to South Africa, where she observed the awful impacts of apartheid. Lani was profoundly affected by this experience, and when she returned to San Francisco she began what was to become a lifetime commitment to progressive causes.

In 1981, Lani founded the Holocaust Oral History Project. Over the next 20 years she recorded over 1,700 oral histories, with over 1,400 Holocaust survivors and witnesses. Lani also served as a consultant to Steven Spielberg's Shoah Foundation, which recorded 53,000 Holocaust survivor oral histories. Thanks to Lani's vision and determination, these valuable stories were not lost forever.

Lani's commitment to social justice took many forms. In 2006 she cowrote and produced an opera about Yukiko Sugihara, a Japanese diplomat in Lithuania who, during World War II rescued thousands of Jews during the Holocaust by hand-writing visas against the orders of the Japanese Government. Lani also organized events, exhibits, and media campaigns around the world to honor Sugihara and make sure his important story would not be forgotten.

In 2000, Lani founded the James Byrd Jr. Racism Oral History Project, in honor of James Byrd, Jr., who was brutally murdered in Jasper, TX, in 1998 by three White supremacists. The project has recorded 2,500 oral histories on racism in America with participants from the San Francisco Bay area, Jasper, and Houston, TX.

Lani's many contributions have not gone unrecognized. In 1996, Lani received the Woman of the Year award from KQED public television and radio, and in 2003 she received the Alumni of the Year award from the City College of San Francisco.

Lani stood out as a driven activist who cared for her community deeply and will be remembered by friends and colleagues as earnest, humble, and dedicated to the ongoing fight for equality and fairness. Her optimism, dedication, and courage are reflected by the thousands of individuals whose lives she has enriched and improved. We will always be grateful for Lani's example of passionate activism.

Lani is survived by sisters Lori Silver and Lynn Jacobs; nieces Sara Silver Jacobs, Brette Silver Jacobs, and Lauren Shaber; nephews Jose Jacobs and Justin Shaber, and brother-in-law Syd Shaber. Our hearts go out to Lani's family and friends during this difficult time.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:16 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 912. An act to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to clarify the eligibility requirements with respect to airline flight crews.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 912. An act to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to clarify the eligibility requirements with respect to airline flight crews; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-560. A communication from the Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Exemption From Registration for Certain Firms With Regulation 30.10 Relief" (RIN3038-AC26) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 9, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-561. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department's 2009 Report on Foreign Policy-Based Export Controls; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-562. A communication from the Director, Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to competitive sourcing activities during fiscal year 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-563. A communication from the Secretary, Division of Trading and Markets, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendments to Rules for Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organizations" (RIN3235-AK14) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 9, 2009; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-564. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Capital Classifications and Critical Capital Levels for the Federal Home Loan Banks" (RIN2590-AA21) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 9, 2009; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-565. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Portfolio Holdings" (RIN2590-AA22) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 9, 2009; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-566. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report on the Taxation of Social Security and Railroad Retirement Benefits in Calendar Years 1997 through 2004"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-567. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Human Capital, Performance, and Partnerships, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to the Department's competitive sourcing activities during fiscal year 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-568. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Geographic Variation in Drug Prices and Spending in the Part D Program"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-569. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Visas: Documentation of Immigrants under the Immigration and Nationality Act, as Amended: Electronic Petition for Diversity Immigrant Status" (RIN1400-AB84) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 9, 2009; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-570. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, a report relative to the designation of countries of particular concern and a Memorandum of Justification; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-571. A communication from the Executive Secretary, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy and designation of acting officer in the position of Assistant Administrator for the Bureau of Economic Growth, Agriculture & Trade, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 9, 2009; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-572. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Family Violence Prevention and Services Program for fiscal years 2005-2006; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-573. A communication from the Deputy Director of the Office of Labor-Management Standards, Employment Standards Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled