

(1) Whenever the committee authorizes a project under Public Law 89-298, the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1965; Public Law 83-566, the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act; or Public Law 86-249, the Public Buildings Act of 1959, as amended; the chairman shall submit for printing in the Congressional Record, and the committee shall publish periodically as a committee print, a report that describes the project and the reasons for its approval, together with any dissenting or individual views.

(2) Proponents of a committee resolution shall submit appropriate evidence in favor of the resolution.

(c) BUILDING PROSPECTUSES:

(1) When the General Services Administration submits a prospectus, pursuant to section 7(a) of the Public Buildings Act of 1959, as amended, for construction (including construction of buildings for lease by the government), alteration and repair, or acquisition, the committee shall act with respect to the prospectus during the same session in which the prospectus is submitted.

A prospectus rejected by majority vote of the committee or not reported to the Senate during the session in which it was submitted shall be returned to the General Services Administration and must then be resubmitted in order to be considered by the committee during the next session of the Congress.

(2) A report of a building project survey submitted by the General Services Administration to the committee under section 11(b) of the Public Buildings Act of 1959, as amended, may not be considered by the committee as being a prospectus subject to approval by committee resolution in accordance with section 7(a) of that Act. A project described in the report may be considered for committee action only if it is submitted as a prospectus in accordance with section 7(a) and is subject to the provisions of paragraph (1) of this rule.

(d) NAMING PUBLIC FACILITIES: The committee may not name a building, structure or facility for any living person, except former Presidents or former Vice Presidents of the United States, former Members of Congress over 70 years of age, former Justices of the United States Supreme Court over 70 years of age, or Federal judges who are fully retired and over 75 years of age or have taken senior status and are over 75 years of age.

RULE 8. AMENDING THE RULES

The rules may be added to, modified, amended, or suspended by vote of a majority of committee members at a business meeting if a quorum is present.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EXPORT IMPORT BANK

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to mark the 75th anniversary of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, this country's official export credit agency. Its mandate is to create and support jobs here in the United States by financing U.S. exports that might otherwise be lost because private sector financing is unavailable or to meet the competition of foreign governments' export credit agencies that are supporting their exporters to secure the deal. Obviously, the work of Ex-Im Bank is especially relevant in difficult economic times such as we are currently experiencing, because U.S. exports equal U.S. jobs.

The Export-Import Bank falls under the jurisdiction of the Senate Banking,

Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee, and I am aware of the many positive effects it has had for U.S. manufacturers. In the past 5 years, it has helped at least 75 companies in 43 communities in Connecticut finance over \$700 million in exports. These export sales create and sustain high-paying manufacturing and other jobs related to exports.

Ex-Im Bank is also accustomed to stepping in when times are hard. It was founded on February 12, 1934, in order to help facilitate exports during the Great Depression. Since then, it has supported over \$400 billion in U.S. exports that would not have gone forward without it—exports that support U.S. jobs.

Just after World War II, Ex-Im Bank became a precursor of the Marshall Plan, authorizing over \$2 billion for the reconstruction of Europe. In more recent times, Ex-Im Bank has stepped in to assist U.S. exporters during the Mexican debt crisis of the 1980s and the Asian debt crisis of the 1990s.

Don't confuse this with foreign aid. Ex-Im Bank charges for its services and is self-financing, and is therefore not a drain on U.S. taxpayers. Ex-Im Bank makes credit judgments on the basis of reasonable assurance of repayment, and has a historical default rate under 2 percent. Over 80 percent of Ex-Im Bank's transactions directly benefit small businesses, which are the most effective generators of jobs in our economy.

Over the past 75 years, Ex-Im Bank has responded in difficult times to the problems of U.S. exporters. In this time of economic hardship, we need government institutions like the Ex-Im Bank to provide strong leadership in responding effectively and efficiently to the challenges facing U.S. exporters, large and small.

I am happy to join with leaders from across the political spectrum in wishing the Export-Import Bank of the United States well on its 75th anniversary.

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 rec-

ommendations 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:

Thank you for asking for the opinions from residents of the great state of Idaho. Clearly only one answer for this . . . do something now! We all know that it will take a couple of years to implement; however, we must remember this is for the long term. I believe that nuclear and hydroelectric is the way of the future, and the cleanest approach.

My husband and I are long-haul truckers, and pay over \$1,400 per day to fuel. Yes, there are other countries that pay more, but we have not prepared ourselves for "mass transit" in the United States, and we are also, in my opinion, very spoiled with our cars.

Most Americans do not stop to realize what impact all of this madness will have on them. It is not just "fuel costs" at the gas pump; it is the big picture of the fuel costs. I have seen all the corn fields in Iowa and Midwest that have been bought out by foreigners. Our country is literally vanishing before our eyes, and "fuel" does not even touch the surface of our internal problems.

Let us stop selling off America and do for ourselves, quick. We could be a self-sufficient country, and get back some of our power that we have so easily sold off.

Thank you for your considerations.

DIANNE, *Boise Valley.*

We are in our early 70s retired and on a fixed income. We now plan every trip to town (16 Miles one way) to do senior things and shop. Our costs are going up on every area: food, medications (Plan D ran out this month June; paying 100 percent now for the rest of the year). We have had to pull money out of savings every year since retirement. Gas and diesel is a joke and you people in Washington, DC are out of touch with reality. Open up our reserve and kill the profit takers. Open up by Federal Law our Drilling and harvesting our own oil products while working on other alternative fuel sources. We citizens know what is happening; why do not you? Stop being lawyers and start being citizens and do what is right for the USA.

The environmentalists are OK along with the civil liberty union folks but once in a while you have to make decisions they are not going to be happy about for the good of the country. You should all now know corn to fuel is not the answer.—We need to build refineries back here in our own country along with our manufacturing jobs. Do something right and open up our own reserves and give us citizens a chance to enjoy our retirement after 60 years of work. Thank you for reading my letter.

MARVIN and GLORIA, *New Meadows.*

Please do not support off-shore drilling and exploration for additional domestic oil. Sure, Idaho is a big state and we have to drive from here to there, but finding us more domestic oil is not the solution. Even if we starting domestic oil exploration today, I understand we would not be producing that oil for many more years, and that would not solve our immediate self-induced crisis today.

Conservation is not a "personal virtue"—conservation is key to reducing our oil consumption, and Idahoans have a long history of conserving when it is necessary. Unfortunately, we got lulled into a false sense of security and prosperity by cheap oil prices for many years, and thought we could drive our

SUVs inexpensively forever. We chose to ignore the warnings that we would eventually run out of cheap oil.

And, nuclear energy is not the alternative, not if the nuclear waste is going to continue to be stored in Idaho.

Better use of funding: mass transit (even in Idaho) and renewable energy sources, not domestic oil exploration.

BECKI, *Hailey*.

I am retired (66 years old) and live with my wife. We have carefully budgeted our retirement for a home, cars and a dog. We find ourselves keeping our air conditioner off until it is unbearable. We do not travel because of the high gas prices and our children cannot afford to come see us. We keep the lights off and use a couple of fans during the day. Food prices are up forcing us to use some of our food storage and rotation. We pay twice as much for food then we did last year and electricity and gas are prohibited and there is no leveling off in sight. House market is down and we cannot even sell our house if we are forced to. It appears the government wants to force greater taxes on Social Security without factoring in that we paid into for many years and a decrease of Social Security and other high costs will cause us buying less food, gas, and electricity use. We need some relief and quick decisions on solving these problems now. I am for drilling, building new refiners, obtaining other sources energy with protection of wildlife. We can do it.

JAMES, *Eagle*.

Thank you for the opportunity to sound off my concerns regarding the rising oil prices. The rising cost of gasoline affects my family not only with the higher cost to fill our van but prevents us from spending our dollars in ways that we would prefer: family trips, clothing and shoes, an occasional TV update. This is the first year in our 11-year marriage that my husband and I have been able to enroll our children (we have 4) into extracurricular programs (karate and swimming lessons) and we will now need to cancel one or both due to the higher cost of driving to and from work. Food costs have skyrocketed, making it difficult to feed our family in a healthy way. It surprises me to see that the less healthy foods are less expensive than healthy options like fresh vegetables and fruit. Hamburger with a higher fat content is much cheaper than a more healthy option. Like all families, we make accommodations—we buy much less snack foods, sodas and breads to allow us to purchase basics such as chicken, hamburger, some vegetables and a few fruits. There are no evening or weekend excursions to the movies, Boondocks Entertainment Center or the water park. We will be unable to travel around Idaho this year to show the kids how wonderful their state is. Our heating bill this coming winter is something I am afraid to think of.

Many families that we know have lost jobs from Micron cuts and now Albertson's cuts putting their very families into jeopardy for homelessness and hunger, let alone higher gas prices. With higher prices in everything and wages not increasing to accommodate the rise, crime is also on the rise and police departments are facing even higher costs than we are because they are unable to do their jobs properly which will reflect in a very negative way despite the fact that it is not their fault. The elderly and people with disabilities are affected by higher gas prices in the same ways as the rest but additionally with higher taxi fares and reduced bus routes preventing them from getting to medical appointments, Social Security Administration appointments and other appointments or events critical to their well-being.

Solutions that we can think of: We believe in the nuclear options and hydrogen powered cars. We believe in increasing the use of solar power and wind power—especially in Idaho. These need to be priorities in Washington. Our dependence on oil hurts the USA in many ways other than basic dollars—such as our very credibility. It would also be prudent of our Congressmen to encourage their state counterparts to encourage and develop public transportation options, especially in rural areas. It is an expense that would eventually pay off.

Thank you for your time.

GINNY, *Boise*.

What can we do about the rising cost of fuel in this country? Once the economic power country of the world is now in a very sad situation. Opec is dictating what we pay for oil and we are standing still letting it happen. Some of the politicians are suggesting tax the oil companies on the huge profits. Really who would wind up paying for that tax? The consumer that is who.

Here are some suggestions, which I am sure you have heard:

1. Start using our reserves now and begin using pumps that are standing idle. We have the oil in reserve to cut off importing Opec country oil and put the squeeze on them.

2. Begin drilling ANWR and forget about the environmentalists crying about it. They will soon realize we have to do this before it is too late. At the same time stop exporting oil we now drill in Alaska and use it here at home.

3. Give the big oil companies incentives to build new refineries in the form of tax credits etc. Maybe if we use our oil and they build new refineries the supply would increase. I have a hard time dealing with the saying "supply and demand." Why should we be paying nearly the minimum wage for a gallon of gasoline. Why should people have to worry about buying fuel or food. This is The United States of America, and it is time our reputation of being the economic leader of the world return to us.

I have a small business and the cost of having products shipped to me is eating away at my profit margin. I cannot continue to have to raise my prices and get sales in my type of business.

I am sure a person of your level does not even have to worry about what you spend on food and fuel but the majority of this country does and we cannot sit still and wonder when this is going to end. It is up to our elected leaders to step up and do something about it now. The American dream is not the American nightmare. Mr. Craig has been on the news and had some good ideas. All of you in Washington need to band together as one and do something to fix the situation. When 9/11 happened Republicans and Democrats united together as one and again it is time that you do that.

TERRY.

You asked how high fuel prices have affected our lives.

1. I am a sales rep and travel S. Idaho & E. Oregon. Since April 15th I have driven 13,000 miles. I am sure that I have spent over \$600.00 since then on gas. I knew that I could no longer afford my Toyota Sequoia. So I downsized to a Honda Accord. I now get 27 MPG's. I have had to make a tough decision. I now have to ask my customers if they will be spending over \$2,000. Otherwise I can no longer afford to make the trip. What I would be making off the sale would basically be going back into gas making me nothing. It is not fair to my customers. They no longer get the personalized customer service they deserve. The company I work for does not reimburse us for fuel, food, and hotel. My cus-

tomers have also had an increase in shipping costs.

2. My husband switched jobs. He was driving 60 miles round trip 5 days a week. The cost to fill up his diesel truck is over \$100.00 now (it used to cost \$60.00 2 years ago). He now works closer to home being able to make the tank last 2-3 days longer now.

3. I now run errands once a week. I conserve gas by making one trip into town. I could halfway understand the high cost of fuel if the gas companies (Chevron, Texaco, etc.) were posting huge losses in their profits. But they are not. They are posting some of the largest profits in history.

Everyone is feeling the pinch. Something must be done and fast. Thanks for your time.

Cheerfully,

ALYSON.

I firmly believe that our answers will not be found simply by extending our addiction to oil. Saying that drilling in the Alaskan wilderness or off the coast of Florida will fix our problem is akin to saying that the cure for an alcoholic is to go to a bar with a larger selection of drinks. We, as a nation, must eliminate our need for the limited resource that is oil.

We have spent, by conservative estimates, over \$550 billion on the Iraq war during the last five years. By ending the war and spending even ¼ of that amount solely on alternative, renewable energy resources, we would be off of oil in a decade and the Midwest would no longer mean anything of consequence to us except as a coalition of countries to which we could sell food and goods.

President Kennedy made up his mind to lead us to the moon in a decade, and he made it our national goal. We succeeded in that national goal. It is now your turn, Senator Crapo, to lead us toward our new national goal. Clean renewable energy that will forever take us out of the shackles in which limited oil has us bound. Imagine how this goal affects us by taking us out of war during the next ten years. Boosting our economy by injecting money into ground breaking research and industry. Helping to balance our budget by eliminating the need for at least another \$550 billion of war funding and directing the remaining dollars to technology that builds our country. It would help level the trade imbalance by reducing our imports of foreign oil and increasing our exports of food, technology, energy, etc. Our economy is built up, the dollar is strengthened and our independence is safeguarded while we maintain our role as a world leading nation.

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard,

BRIAN, *Twin Falls*.

P.S. I also believe that nuclear energy is not the answer as it sacrifices the long-term future for a short-term gain. Leaving the nuclear waste problem to our children and grandchildren is simply the wrong thing to do. We are greater than that. Be part of the long term answer, Senator Crapo; do not be a hostage to re-election politics. Be great, do the right thing and let history show that you held future generations in the highest regard and laid the foundation for the enormous success those generations will create.

I currently pay about \$9.25 a day to get to and from work. That is nearly double what I paid this time last year. I have not had a pay raise in about two years. Its only obvious that gas and food prices are causing a strain on our way of life in the current economy. Its like I am making less now than I was before.

I believe our main focus should be to recover the valuation of the dollar on the international market. At the time of this

email, the dollar is at 73.544. Oil prices have gone straight up because the value of the dollar is way down from its typical 100.000 mark. Drilling for more oil would certainly help our economy in the short run, but without the focus being on the valuation of the dollar, we are just applying band-aids. I believe that America should apply working solutions that reinvigorate American pride. Businesses need tax breaks to survive the current shaky economy. Businesses that deal strictly with products made in the USA should be rewarded quite a bit more beyond generalized tax breaks. The rebuilding of our economy needs to focus on the true roots of our economic engine.

BOB.

First off, I want to thank you for taking the time to listen to the average American on how high energy prices are affecting our daily lives.

My husband and I are getting close to retirement age. My husband is in his 60s, Viet Nam vet and very proud of the fact he was able to serve his country. I am 56. We live in a small rural community, surround by farm ground, population 600. Both my husband and I commute to work—I have about 25 miles, he has about 17. I understand that it is our choice to live “out in the country,” but the choice was made to start up a business in our little town; my husband opened up a small engine repair shop. Things were clicking along great for a few years. We weren’t setting the world on fire, but life was good, until the economy took a downward turn. We had to close our shop and my husband went back to into the workforce resulting in the commute.

I would say we have an average income, the two of us bringing in approx \$50,000. We do not own a lot of fancy things, do not drive fancy cars, and we are just average down home folks. As the price of fuel begins to climb, I see the extra we set aside for our “retirement” dwindle, it now fills the gas tank so we can go to work to pay the bills to put gas in the gas tank. The circle continues with no end. I worry about the “golden” years; will there be enough for us to actually retire and when we do retire will there be enough money to live on and enjoy a few things in life that we worked so long and hard for. Such as travel, that now does not seem to be in our future. We will not be able to afford it. I worry about my children and their children, and their future, will they be able to afford food, medical and fuel for their cars.

In our community, the rumbling at the local coffee shop is the talk of the high energy cost, how it is starting to affect all aspects of our lives, the farmers are struggling, many are selling out because they just cannot make it. We must make a change in our country to continue to be the greatest, strongest, self supporting, independent country we once were.

For you in Congress, I urge you not to forget the everyday people, there has to be way to work though this crisis. We support off shore drilling, increase domestic oil production, build refineries, study alternative fuel such as wind energy and lastly tax credits on renewable energy. Environmentalists have a place in our world, but the extremes they have taken have tied our hands at making the USA self supportive as we can and should be. Please urge your fellow Senators to work for and with you on this much-needed cause.

Again, thank you for your continued support for Idahoans.

GAIL, *Melba*.

I hear cries for drilling. We should be hearing a challenge from a President. Do you remember when John F. Kennedy issued the

following challenge “within the decade we will put a man on the moon”? Well—I was hoping that President Bush would have cemented his name in history with a similar challenge—something like “I challenge the Nation to effectively become energy self-sufficient and efficient inside of the decade” but no—we just continue to hear—we need oil.

I personally say—get off of foreign oil now. The technology the world is benefiting from came from JFK’s challenge and think of all of the new technology if a President were to stand up and issue a challenge in the current era. Thanks for listening.

JOE, *Nampa*.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO ERIC BOE

• Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, today I recognize an exceptional Georgian, COL Eric Boe. Eric grew up in Atlanta and graduated from Henderson High School in Chamblee in 1983. A distinguished graduate with honors from the U.S. Air Force Academy, Eric earned his bachelor of science in astronautical engineering and subsequently a masters of science in electrical engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology.

Eric has served his country with distinction. He has been an F-4E pilot, a T-38 instructor pilot, F-15C flight commander, and a test pilot for the F-15 and UH-1N, logging over 4,000 flight hours in 45 different aircraft. Additionally, Eric flew 55 combat missions over Iraq in support of Operation Southern Watch.

In 2008, Eric was selected by NASA as a pilot and served in the Astronaut Office Advanced Vehicles Branch, Station Operations Branch, and Space Shuttle Branch as well as the Exploration Branch. In 2005–2006, Eric served as NASA Director of Operations at the Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center in Star City, Russia.

On November 14, 2008, Eric made his first trip to space serving as the pilot on STS-126 Endeavour. The Endeavour launched from NASA’s Kennedy Space Center with no delays or issues and docked with the International Space Station on November 16, 2008. The successful 16-day mission, which completed 250 orbits of Earth covering over 6 million miles, expanded the living quarters of the international space station and included four space walks by members of the Endeavour crew.

Eric has been recognized with numerous awards and honors. Serving as a Cadet in the Georgia Wing of the Civil Air Patrol, Eric earned the Spaatz Award, the highest award given to Civil Air Patrol cadets. Further, Eric has received various military decorations such as two Meritorious Service Medals, two Air Medals, five Aerial Achievement Medals, the three Air Force Achievement Medals, and the Air Force Commendation Medals, three Outstanding Unit Awards, and the Combat Readiness Medal.

I want to acknowledge the achievements of the entire STS-126 Endeavour

crew and congratulate them on their successful mission. As a fellow Georgian, I want to especially thank Eric for his outstanding service to our nation as a combat pilot and astronaut. His love of country and dedication are an inspiration, and he is a role model and an example of leadership of which we can all be proud.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:28 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 bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 448. An act to protect seniors in the United States from elder abuse by establishing specialized elder abuse prosecution and research programs and activities to aid victims of elder abuse, to provide training to prosecutors and other law enforcement related to elder abuse prevention and protection, to establish programs that provide for emergency crisis response teams to combat elder abuse, and for other purposes.

H.R. 469. An act to encourage research, development, and demonstration of technologies to facilitate the utilization of water produced in connection with the development of domestic energy resources, and for other purposes.

H.R. 554. An act to authorize activities for support of nanotechnology research and development, and for other purposes.

H.R. 631. An act to increase research, development, education, and technology transfer activities related to water use efficiency and conservation technologies and practices at the Environmental Protection Agency.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 448. An act to protect seniors in the United States from elder abuse by establishing specialized elder abuse prosecution and research programs and activities to aid victims of elder abuse, to provide training to prosecutors and other law enforcement related to elder abuse prevention and protection, to establish programs that provide for emergency crisis response teams to combat elder abuse, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 469. An act to encourage research, development, and demonstration of technologies to facilitate the utilization of water produced in connection with the development of domestic energy resources, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 554. An act to authorize activities for support of nanotechnology research and development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 631. An act to increase research, development, education, and technology transfer activities related to water use efficiency and conservation technologies and practices at the Environmental Protection Agency; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment: