

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this critical input. I am employed as an Environmental Engineer at the Idaho National Laboratory—Materials Fuels Complex—a nuclear fuels research facility.

Impacts—to name a few:

Greatly reduced discretionary travel and spending

Marked increase in cost of food and consumables

Recent need to reduce percentage of income saved for retirement and college tuition for our children.

Huge increase in cost associated with heating home (Rocky Mountain Power) and irrigate my property.

Enormous cost increase in corn feed and fertilizer

Inability to afford herbicides necessary to combat noxious weeds on property

Decreased property values of vacation home in Island Park Idaho—given drastically reduced numbers of vacation visitors to Fremont Co. since gas and diesel have gone sky high.

The high fuel costs have created an atmosphere in virtually all commodities that the producer can falsely claim that their higher prices charged are merely a result of higher energy costs.

Suggested Actions:

Build infrastructure in U.S.—new, strategically located refineries,—this is not just a crude oil problem, and our refineries are antiquated.

Provide incentives to oil and gas companies to expand exploration—lower their corporate tax.

Prohibit reinstatement of windfall profits taxes.

Eliminate overly burdensome environmental/permitting hurdles for petroleum exploration, siting and operation of oil refineries, extraction/processing of oil shale, oils sands, etc.

Target drastically higher dollars for University research of petroleum exploration, extraction, and refining technologies.

DEVELOP ANWR AND ALL OFFSHORE RESOURCES

Develop natural gas distribution infrastructure—to gain access to the huge natural gas reserves in North America.

Never sign up to the Law of the Sea Treaty.

Reject Cap and Trade.

Sign on to No global warming (hoax) treaties or initiatives.

Play economic hardball with China and India, whom subsidize their citizens' use of petroleum products.

Firmly commandeer Iraq's oil reserves as partial compensation for the loss of life and financial burden of the Iraq war.

Thank you for the opportunity. P.S.—the U.S. is not too dependent upon fossil fuels; we are not using what we have on U.S. and adjacent soil wisely, or at all.

PAUL, Idaho Falls.

I really appreciate your efforts to help out the public. I work as a receptionist at St Alphonsus. Many patients are canceling their appointments primarily because they cannot afford to drive, even if it is 5 miles away. The public is not happy because of the gas prices.

My fiancé and I just moved closer to where I work. If we did not I would not be able to afford the gas to come to work. The rising gas prices are making the gap bigger between the rich and the poor. Something does need to be done quickly. The greed needs to come to an end and the government is the only force here in the United States big enough to help out the public.

Thanks for understanding,

MEGAN, Boise

Years ago I was pleased to be able to wait on your wife as she drove thru the MPCU teller window in Idaho Falls. With her in the Suburban were a passel of kids. Now I also have a few children, and these days with energy costs skyrocketing beyond the means of many families I think it is important to speak up. I think twice every time I drive my van because of the costs. We normally visit my family in Idaho Falls four times per year and this year will only be able to reasonably afford two times, and a major component of that decision is the cost of fuel. My husband is an engineer and drives approximately 20 miles round trip to work every day. He and another co worker commute to save fuel. We have not had as much disposable income as heating, cooling and fuel prices have climbed at an astonishing pace. We have stopped eating as much meat because of the cost of it. I water down the milk to make it go further. We fortunately live far below our means, but many families are not as fortunate as we are. One of my dear friends works in 30 miles away, and drives there from Moscow every day. With a long daily commute, and with higher prices looming on the horizon who knows what this winter will bring. She said that if it goes up much more she will not make enough money to justify the driving.

I am not asking for the government to fix this. The American people are resilient, and the government's micromanagement of energy opportunities has only led us to higher prices. You can bet if the oil companies are penalized for their comparatively tiny per gallon profit, prices will continue to climb.

What I propose is for government to get out of the way. Pave the road to energy independence with reduced regulation and open opportunity for exploration of all energy sources. We should pursue coal to oil, nuclear, wind, methane, natural gas and every other type of fuel, with the goal of being energy independent. If the government will just be reasonable, we could do all these things. I appreciate your service, and your request for stories. Thank you for remembering that you are there in our place, remind the others that they are too.

EMILY, Moscow.

First I must say that I am a retired federal employee with 34 years of service. As you know living on a fixed income is not easy at best, but with the cost of gas going up that is affecting EVERYTHING. I have cut back on all non essential driving—even to travel 50 miles to see my elderly parents (80 & 78) once a week to help them out. I have cut back on how often I mow the lawn to once every 2 weeks. I do not own any recreation toys such as campers, 4-wheelers, boats or motorcycles so cannot cut any RV usages. There will be very limited vacation trips this summer. . . . Maybe to take my grandsons camping.

I can remember back prior to the 70's gas scare when the government had more controls on the oil companies and gas was much more reasonable and there was still exploration being done by the oil companies. Now without controls these companies are having record net profits (enough to lower the cost of gas close to \$1.00 a gallon), why is this happening? Also the stock market futures on oil dictate price increases before the crude is even bought, but the drops in crude never seem to get passed on to consumers at the same rate as the increases . . . again why is this?

There was a march protesting the petroleum prices here in Lewiston a couple of weeks ago . . . what else can the people do to get thru to our government?

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my frustrations.

Sincerely,

BOB.

We must do all we can to mitigate the energy crisis gripping this nation. We can and must become energy independent on natural gas in America. We have the resources here to achieve this. Start drilling. Prices are on track to double by this winter. However, the brutal truth is that the neo-American Bolshevik socialist left in this country will tie this nation up in the courts for years to prevent this and force their agenda on this nation. They are arrogantly smug about their ability to control us now. And well they should be. They have been trained by some of the finest Marxist professors anywhere in the world today, right here in the USA. In the end, our epitaph will read that we destroyed ourselves with the very freedoms that made us the envy of the free world. May almighty God forgive us for what we have allowed to happen to this grand experiment in human freedom.

RANDY.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING WILLIAM H. "MO" MARUMOTO

● Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I wish to express my deepest condolences and warmest aloha to the family and friends of William H. "Mo" Marumoto, who passed away last November.

Mr. Marumoto was an inspiration to all of those who came in contact with him. Those who knew him well knew of his selflessness and commitment to the public good.

During World War II, Mr. Marumoto and his family spent 3 years in the Gila River internment camp in Arizona. This experience did little to deter Mr. Marumoto's pursuit of excellence and service to his country. He served as student body president of his high school, Santa Ana High School, and later graduated from Whittier College.

His remarkable career spanned over five decades. He arrived in Washington, DC, in 1969 to serve as assistant to the secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, responsible for recruiting senior executives for the Office of Education. A year later, Mr. Marumoto became the first Asian American to serve at the executive level in the White House as an aide to President Richard Nixon responsible for filling Cabinet and sub-Cabinet level positions.

In 1973, he founded The Interface Group Ltd., a Washington, DC-based executive search firm which specialized in placing women and minorities in senior executive positions. He is fondly remembered for his efforts to ensure diversity within the most senior levels of government.

He was a remarkable leader as president and CEO of the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies and received numerous national professional awards for his work in higher education, fundraising, direct mail, events management, and publications.

My thoughts and prayers go out to Mo's loved ones. He will be deeply

missed and his generosity will forever be remembered. May he rest in peace.●

TRIBUTE TO C. EDWARD BROWN

● Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I wish to recognize a fellow Iowan, C. Edward "Ed" Brown, FACHE, on his election as the chair of the board of directors of the American Medical Group Association.

Mr. Brown has had a distinguished career in health care in Iowa where he has served for the last 15 years as chief executive officer of the Iowa Clinic, a multispecialty group practice in Des Moines. Ed has a long list of achievements in delivering cutting edge, quality focused health care to the benefit of Iowans, and his achievements include the Iowa Clinic's adoption of electronic medical records and information technology systems. He holds a master's degree in health administration from Washington University in St. Louis, and he is a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives with over 25 years of experience in executive and senior levels of health care management.

As the head of the American Medical Group Association, Ed's vision and management skills will be put to good use in leading an organization that represents some of the Nation's highest quality and most prestigious health care delivery systems. It is wonderful to see someone with such a distinguished health care record in Iowa recognized at the national level as a dedicated leader who is committed to improving health care at such an important time for our Nation's health care system.

Ed's voice will be a valuable contribution to the health care debate in 2009 in Washington, and I congratulate him on this new chairmanship.●

ZULUS 100TH BIRTHDAY

● Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, this month America reflects on a series of notable birthdays and anniversaries, including President Abraham Lincoln turning 200, and the NAACP celebrating its centennial.

In Louisiana, we are honoring a special birthday that is unique to our State. The famous Zulu Social Aid & Pleasure Club will enjoy its 100th year.

The Zulus have a special place in Louisiana's history, which is as colorful as the signature Zulu decorative coconuts. For 100 years they have been an integral part of our Mardi Gras festivities and New Orleans culture. Dubbing themselves "the everyman club," the Zulu Social Aid & Pleasure club is composed of African-American men from all walks of life.

While there are several stories about how the Zulus first came about, we know they made their first appearance in the Mardi Gras parade in 1909 when William Story led the Zulus as King.

That year the group wore raggedy pants and had a Jubilee-singing quartet in front of and behind King Story.

Just 6 years later, the Zulus used their first float. It was rather modestly decorated with palmetto leaves and moss. Of course, this first float gave rise to the more lavishly decorated Zulu floats that we are accustomed to seeing today.

Since 1916, the Zulus have given the first official Mardi Gras toast to King and Queen Zulu at the Geddes and Moss Funeral Home on Washington Avenue.

Since 1910, the Zulus have been famous for the Zulu Coconut, often called the "Golden Nugget," which they throw from floats during Mardi Gras parades. The tradition developed, and they began scraping and painting the coconuts—now an indelible part of New Orleans Mardi Gras culture.

In January, I was honored to receive from Zulu president Charles Hamilton, Jr., a special Zulu coconut as gift for President Obama. Mr. Hamilton traveled to Washington by train to hand deliver the gift, which I hope to present to the President very soon. It was hand-painted by Greta artist Keith Eccles and incorporates Mardi Gras colors and themes with the distinctive red, white and blue of Washington, DC. Mr. Hamilton has said that he wanted to give President Obama a piece of New Orleans and Zulu history. I can't think of a better representation.

In addition to the Zulu coconut, the Zulus' contribution to New Orleans is well-documented. The group proudly participates in the Adopt-A-School program and contributes to Southern University's scholarship fund. The Zulus also give Christmas baskets to needy families each holiday season.

Over the years, many famous Louisianians have taken part in the Zulu tradition. In 1949, Louis Armstrong was King Zulu. And in 1988, New Orleans native Desiree Rogers—now the White House social secretary for President Obama—served as Zulu Queen.

This year, that proud tradition will be carried on by Zulu King Tyrone Mathieu, Sr., and Zulu Queen Sheila Barnes Mathieu.

I congratulate the many generations of Zulus who have left their mark on Mardi Gras and our great city of New Orleans. I ask the Senate to join me in wishing the Zulus a happy 100th birthday—and all the best in the next 100 years.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:08 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 35. Concurrent resolution honoring and praising the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on the occasion of its 100th anniversary.

At 3:31 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, an-

nounced that the House agreed to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1) 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 the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes.

At 5:52 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, 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. 663. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 12877 Broad Street in Sparta, Georgia, as the "Yvonne Ingram-Ephraim Post Office Building".

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 1928a, and the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Speaker appoints the following Member of the House of Representatives to the United States Group of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly: Mr. TANNER of Tennessee, Chairman.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 663. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 12877 Broad Street in Sparta, Georgia, as the "Yvonne Ingram-Ephraim Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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-754. A communication from the General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Credit Union Service Organizations" (RIN3133-AD20) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 9, 2009; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-755. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulation AA, Regulation DD and Regulation Z" ((Docket No. R-1314)(Docket No. R-1315)(Docket No. R-1286)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 9, 2009; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-756. A communication from the Chief, Policy and Rules Division, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Unlicensed Operation in the TV Broadcast Bands; Additional Spectrum for Unlicensed Devices Below 900 MHz and in the 3 GHz Band" ((FCC 08-260)(ET Docket No. 04-186)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 9, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.