

The above info blows me away. Why aren't we harnessing this energy?

I live in an older home with an oil furnace. We use it conservatively, turn it off during the day, down when we go to sleep for the night, use a couple of space heaters—and still my oil bill is pushing \$400 a month. . . . And winter went long this year.

We already have the technology to utilize solar energy, whereas cellulosic, or any viable, biofuel is years away. Why do not we put tax dollars into constructing power plants that will capture solar energy and give meaningful assistance to people to convert from oil-consuming applications?

CAROL, *Twin Falls.*

This letter is written with intent to describe our ever-diminishing economy from a manufacturer's point of view. FAB TEC, Inc is a small business that manufactures aggregate handling equipment, including; rock crushers, screening plants and material conveying products. We employ approximately 50 people. Our industry uses primarily steel. From raw stock steel products, to axles with wheels and tires and all the necessary hardware to complete this equipment.

Over the past two and a half years our company has endured huge price increases in our consumables needed to produce our products. Such as steel, and petroleum based products along with all other consumables needed to manufacture our product.

Steel prices have soared approximately 300% over the last three years. 50% increase since December of 2007 pricing. Fuel prices have also gone out of control. FAB TEC uses many petroleum based products such as large amounts of conveyor belting, tires and paint products. Not to mention the fuel it takes to bring in and ship out our products. The manufacturer, and also the end user of products like ours are absorbing huge costs due to the out of control pricing of the consumables we use in the production of the product we sell.

With the public's whispered word "recession" at hand, we think it is time our government steps in to control the price gouging large corporations have forced on all of us, especially including the individual standing in line at the grocery store to buy his bare necessities to survive the ever increasing cost due to out of control fuel costs. I would hope someone or entity would do something soon before it is too late.

These statements are solely based on my opinion, but I feel as many do, we must do something now before it is too late to reverse our dwindling economy.

FRANK, *Moscow.*

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR KATHLEEN NOVAK

• Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I am joined by my distinguished colleague, Mr. BENNET from Colorado.

Next week, several thousand city and town leaders from across the country will visit us in Washington, DC, to discuss the major issues of the day. They will be gathered under the auspices of the National League of Cities, NLC, whose president is one of our distinguished mayors—Northglenn, CO, Mayor Kathleen Novak.

Senator BENNET and I will have the honor of meeting with Mayor Novak and a group of other Colorado municipal leaders working through NLC and the Colorado Municipal League.

I want to take this opportunity to recognize Mayor Kathleen Novak. Mayor Novak was elected to Northglenn's City Council on July 11, 1991, after years of serving the community. She was elected mayor in November 2001 and then reelected in November 2005, serving two 4-year terms.

It was Mayor Novak's interest in planning for the city's future that led the city council to develop goals and adopt a strategic plan to help guide the city into the future. Each year, the Northglenn City Council identifies critical issues that can impact and shape Northglenn's future and develops an action agenda to prioritize and address these pressing issues. This has allowed the city to make tremendous progress on many fronts throughout the mayor's term in elected office.

Over the years, Novak helped continue to provide the top-notch services that residents have grown to appreciate while balancing the community's transportation and infrastructure needs through upgrades to the city's infrastructure and facilities. While Mayor Novak was in office, Northglenn built a new wastewater treatment facility and a new maintenance and operations facility and self-funded the 112th Avenue Overpass to make traveling from east to west easier for the city's residents. Northglenn was the first city in Colorado to promote water conservation efforts such as instituting a lottery system whereby city residents could secure free high-efficiency water features for their homes. Through these efforts, the city expects to save 20–25 acre-feet of water annually and thereby save the city and its citizens money from the conserved water.

Northglenn also applies biosolids from water treatment to fertilize farms in Weld County. Through such applications, the city grew, harvested, and sold 2,500 tons of crops. Since recycling conserves precious natural resources, over the past 9 years, the city has been heating two shop buildings with used motor oil that residents have placed at the curb for recycling.

In 2008, Mayor Novak's interest in reconnecting government to all age groups led the city to be the first in the State to be named a Playful City USA by KABOOM, as unique offerings of play continued to take shape in Northglenn. Early in Novak's tenure, Northglenn received America's Crown Community Award by American City and County Magazine for the rehabilitation and redesign of Webster Lake and E.B. Rains Jr. Memorial Park. The park included an innovative concept of providing unique opportunities of play for all—Northglenn's Sensory Playground. The playground offers children with a range of disabilities the opportunity to experience play and exceeds the Americans with Disabilities Act requirement of 50 percent accessibility by providing nearly 100 percent accessibility for people who use wheelchairs.

Most recently, the renovation of the Croke Reservoir Nature Area earned

the city the 2009 Colorado American Public Works Association Award for Engineering and Construction Management for medium-sized communities. The project included stabilization of the eastern shoreline, removal of sediment to improve fishery and wildlife habitat, and improvements to stormwater detention in the area.

Throughout her service, Mayor Kathleen Novak has worked hard to ensure that the city of Northglenn maintains its high quality of life. Last December, in recognition of her efforts, Mayor Novak was unanimously elected by her national peers to serve as the president of the National League of Cities, the voice of municipal government in this country. Senator BENNET and I thank Mayor Novak for her leadership and dedication to Northglenn, CO, and to the Nation.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

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-834. A communication from the Chief of Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridges (including 3 regulations beginning with USCG-2007-0172)" (RIN1625-AA09) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 26, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-835. A communication from the Chief of Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Security Zones (including 27 regulations beginning with USCG-2007-0083)" (RIN1625-AA87) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 26, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-836. A communication from the Chief of Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulated Navigation Areas (including 2 regulations beginning with USCG-2008-0468)" (RIN1625-AA09) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 26, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-837. A communication from the Chief of Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S.

Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulations (including 2 regulations beginning with USCG-2008-0268)" (RIN1625-AA08) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 26, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-838. A communication from the Chief of Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zones (including 50 regulations beginning with USCG-2007-0162)" (RIN1625-AA00) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 26, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-839. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States 2007"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-840. A communication from the Acting Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the progress made in licensing and constructing the Alaska natural gas pipeline; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-841. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pollution Prevention Equipment" ((RIN1625-AA90) (Docket No. USCG-2004-18939)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 9, 2009; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-842. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, two Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) for documents that the Agency has recently issued, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 9, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-843. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extension of Deadline for Action of Section 126 Petition from Delaware" (FRL-8774-6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 9, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-844. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Area Sources: Electric Arc Furnace Steelmaking Facilities" (FRL-8774-1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 9, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-845. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; New Hampshire; 2009 Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets for the Boston-Manchester-Portsmouth (SE), New Hampshire, 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area" (FRL-8771-3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-846. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Authorization of State Hazardous

Waste Management Program Revision" (FRL-8771-8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-847. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Outer Continental Shelf Air Regulations Consistency Update for Florida" (FRL-8769-5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-848. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Outer Continental Shelf Air Regulations Consistency Update for North Carolina" (FRL-8769-6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-849. A communication from the Chief of the Border Security Regulations Branch, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Technical Amendment to List of User Fee Airports: Addition of St. Augustine Airport, St. Augustine, Florida" (CBP Dec. 09-04) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 9, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-850. A communication from the Program Manager, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Changes to the Competitive Acquisition of Certain Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics and Supplies (DMEPOS) by Certain Provisions of the Medicare Improvement for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (MIPPA)" (RIN0938-AP59) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 9, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-851. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revenue Procedure: Safe Harbors for Sections 143 and 25" (Rev. Proc. 2009-18) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 9, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-852. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Calculation of Volume of Alcohol for Fuel Credits; Denaturants" (Notice 2009-06) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 9, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-853. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Automatic Contribution Arrangements" (RIN1545-BG80) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-854. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "RRTA Desk Guide" (LMSB-4-0908-048) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-855. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the

report of a rule entitled "Applicable Federal Rates - March 2009" (Rev. Proc. 2009-8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-856. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the elimination of the Danger Pay Allowance for Kuwait; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-857. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed technical assistance agreement for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services in the amount of \$50,000,000; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-858. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed manufacturing license agreement for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad with Japan; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-859. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed manufacturing license agreement for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more with Canada and Mexico; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-860. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed manufacturing license agreement for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad with France; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-861. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed manufacturing license agreement to include the export of technical data, defense services, and defense articles in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more with Belgium; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-862. A communication from the Ombudsman for Part E, Energy Employees Compensation Program, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2008 Annual Report of the Ombudsman for Part E of the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program of the U.S. Department of Labor"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-863. A communication from the Director of the Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Requirements for Submission of Bioequivalence Data; Final Rule" (RIN0910-AC23) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 9, 2009; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-864. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel and Designated Reporting Official, Office of National Drug Control Policy, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy and designation of acting officer in the position of Director of National Drug Control Policy, received in the Office of the

President of the Senate on February 9, 2009; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-865. A communication from the Staff Director, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Commission's recent appointment of members to the Alabama Advisory Committee; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-866. A communication from the Management Analyst, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Employment Authorization and Verification of Aliens Enlisting in the Armed Forces" (RIN1615-AB78) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 23, 2009; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-867. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer of the Regulations and Rulings Division, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Expansion of the Paso Robles Viticultural Area (2008R-073P)" (RIN1513-AB47) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2009; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-868. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer of the Regulations and Rulings Division, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of the Snipes Mountain Viticultural Area (2007R-300P)" (RIN1513-AB51) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2009; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-869. A communication from the Acting Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "USERRA Quarterly Report to Congress; First Quarter of FY 2009"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-870. A communication from the Acting Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "USERRA Quarterly Report to Congress; First Quarter of FY 2009"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. KOHL (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, and Mrs. LINCOLN):

S. 502. A bill to promote labor force participation of older Americans, with the goals of increasing retirement security, reducing the projected shortage of experienced workers, maintaining future economic growth, and improving the Nation's fiscal outlook; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. BEGICH):

S. 503. A bill to authorize the exploration, leasing, development, and production of oil and gas in and from the western portion of the Coastal Plain of the State of Alaska without surface occupancy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. ROBERTS:

S. 504. A bill to redesignate the Department of the Navy as the Department of the Navy and Marine Corps; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself, Mr. MARTINEZ, and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. 505. A bill to establish a National Catastrophe Risks Consortium and a National Homeowner's Insurance Stabilization Program, and for the other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mrs. LINCOLN (for herself and Mr. WICKER):

S. Res. 59. A resolution designating April 4, 2009, as "National Association of Junior Auxiliaries Day"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 251

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 251, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to permit targeted interference with mobile radio services within prison facilities.

S. 424

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 424, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate discrimination in the immigration laws by permitting permanent partners of United States citizens and lawful permanent residents to obtain lawful permanent resident status in the same manner as spouses of citizens and lawful permanent residents and to penalize immigration fraud in connection with permanent partnerships.

S. 488

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 488, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans to provide coverage for individuals participating in approved cancer clinical trials.

S. 499

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 499, a bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to repeal the ultra-deep-water and unconventional onshore natural gas and other petroleum research and development program.

S. 501

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 501, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to prohibit the marketing of authorized generic drugs.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. BEGICH):

S. 503. A bill to authorize the exploration, leasing, development, and production of oil and gas in and from the western portion of the Coastal Plain of the State of Alaska without surface occupancy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation that I believe represents a true compromise to end a three-decade dispute over oil development in northern Alaska. Today, I am introducing legislation that would permit oil and gas to be siphoned from underneath the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in northern Alaska but without there being any permanent roads, wells, buildings, pipelines, or structures erected that may interrupt the beauty of the Coastal Plain.

Today, I am happy to announce that I am being joined by my colleague from Alaska, Senator BEGICH, in introducing the No Surface Occupancy Western Arctic Coastal Plain Domestic Energy Security Act.

For 29 years since passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act in 1980, there has been a controversy that has raged over whether oil and natural gas development should occur from within this 1.5 million acres of the Arctic Coastal Plain. This is located right inside the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in northern Alaska. According to the USGS, the area has a mean chance of containing 10.36 billion barrels of oil and 8.6 trillion cubic feet of natural gas and a high chance of producing 16 billion barrels. This is the largest likely undiscovered onshore conventional oil deposit in North America.

Over the years, environmentalists have argued that this area cannot be developed without causing disturbance and perhaps environmental damage to the surface of the Coastal Plain which could harm the Arctic porcupine caribou herd that roam in the area and also harm the bird life that utilizes the Refuge during the brief Arctic summer.

Over the years, this argument and controversy has been fought with near religious intensity. But now what we have is a technology that has been developed that offers a compromise solution that may allow much of the area's energy to be produced without surface damage or disturbance when wildlife is in the area. The solution is to permit oil and gas development to occur without any surface occupancy, meaning without construction of any structures above the ground within the area of the Coastal Plain protected by section 1002 of ANILCA. This is possible since the extended-reach directional drilling technology now permits oil wells to be drilled on the western Alaska State-owned lands, outside of the Refuge's boundary, or from the State waters up to the north, and still be able to tap oil and gas deposits located between 8 to 10 miles inside the Refuge.

Some have suggested this is incredible. How can you place a well and be