

the ones on fixed incomes, such as the elderly. If congress does not increase the benefit amount of LIHEAP considerably, I am seriously afraid that some people will literally freeze to death.

Of the 500 or so LIHEAP applications I do, about 300 of them are elderly (60+). Of that 300, probably more than half heat with oil or propane. Many of them were talked into converting to an oil stove (such as TOYO) several years ago, because they were considered very energy efficient, however no one could have predicted that the price of oil would quadruple in a few years time. To make matters worse, many oil and propane company's require a minimum delivery of 100 gallons, that is over \$400, and in many cases that could be half or more of their monthly income!

I intend to work with Clearwater County Social Services, and our local churches to see what can be done at the local level. I am hoping to be raise funds to purchase the most efficient electric heaters I can find to give out to our most vulnerable citizens. It certainly does not solve the overall energy problem facing this country, but at least it might keep a few people from freezing this winter.

Thank you for your interest and concern in this matter, and good luck!

BARBARA.

The American public is lazy! We should be holding all our elected officials responsible for OPEC and Big Oil's price gouging of the country through its outrageous fuel prices. We all should be continuously writing, emailing, and faxing our city councilpersons, county supervisors, state legislators, congressmen, and presidential candidates to make them support a comprehensive, alternative energy program.

It is OPEC and the Big Oil companies that are preventing the development of ethanol. And they will continue to not allow the development of ethanol unless they can monopolize that, too. It is common knowledge that they contribute thousands of dollars to congressmen so that our elected officials will drag their feet and not push through a comprehensive plan.

Brazil became energy self-sufficient within five years by converting sugar cane into ethanol. Sweden is also developing plants to turn grass and hay into ethanol. There should be laws enacted here, too, requiring every gas station to offer at least one pump for ethanol. The construction of ethanol plants should be subsidized by the government, and job tax credits should be given to those plants for hiring new workers. Our country should be ambitiously working to wean itself off gasoline so we can tell OPEC where to stick its oil.

Auto manufacturers should be mandated to sell an increasing percentage of flex fuel cars each year. Of course, it will not do you any good to buy a flex fuel car if you cannot find a station in your town that sells ethanol (I am told that there is only one station in all of San Diego that sells ethanol). And, forget it if you are traveling anywhere out of town!

You would think that with the internet, everyone would come together, pool their ideas and resources, and actually get something done. Instead, we just sit back and take whatever is dished out to us. The American public has clout it does not even realize! If this nation's work force banded together and refused to go to work until the price of gasoline went down, you can bet we would bring this country to its knees in a week or less! I am tired of working for nothing! I am tired of seeing my children not be able to make ends meet.

When the working public goes bankrupt from channeling its hard-earned money into

fuel, we will be ripe for another country to come in and take us over.

Legislate ambitiously for off-shore drilling! Stop the export of oil from Alaska. Enough is enough! Do something about it!

JOSIE, Nampa.

I do not have much of a different story than many other Idahoans. I work hard each day 11 to 12 hrs. I live in a rural area of Canyon County so ride sharing or car pooling is not a viable option for me. I have to drive 18 miles to work so riding a bike is not an option especially after putting in a 12 hr day. I drive a small pick up Chevy S-10 to help reduce my gas usage (as I mow lawns and do small pruning jobs on the weekends to make a few extra dollars), my wife in I traded in our ford tarsus for a KIA Spectra last November to help save money and protect our budget of the current (Nov 07) high gas prices.

What I can say is that the only way out of our current situation is for our congress needs to show OPEC, that we are willing to take back control of our oil dependence.

1. Congress must do something positive about drilling oil in the U.S., no arguing, no debating, no pork added to the bills, just action.

2. We need to open up oil drilling anywhere that will have minimal environmental impact, there is no place to drill that will have no environmental impact, but we have the technology to reduce any impact to the environment that will not cause permanent damage. It is off the east coast, west coast, Gulf of Mexico or Alaska we need to start drilling.

3. We need to build refineries through the country, but especially on the west coast. The west coast refineries need to be able to process the high sulfur oil from Alaska. These actions should put a halt to the escalating oil prices from OPEC, but they are only the first steps.

4. Big Oil Tax breaks for exploration and research, I do not believe that these tax cuts are ever going to go away, but I heard a news report over the weekend the Exxon Mobil was exploring off the coast of the Philippines. This is totally insane they are spending our money in tax cuts outside the U.S.? If we are going to allow large profits and tax breaks for exploration and research then they can do in the U.S.

5. One of the biggest projects big oil could be spending our money on is research for liquefying oil shale to minimize any environmental effects of this process, but again there is no way not to have some impact on the environment, but as a country we must give a little to survive in this world situation.

6. To reduce using our oil, coal and natural gas reserves to generate electricity, we need to build Nuclear Power Plants where the need is and where it will cause minimal impact on the environment.

7. Long term measures would be to develop wind, water and solar and other alternative power satrapies, it is too late right now to impact the strategies hold OPEC has on our country, and in the long term these straggles could play an important role in our overall energy policy.

8. Please relay to your fellow Congressmen that if #1 and #2 are not acted on immediately there will be a lot on incumbents who will lose their seats in November. As the American public and trucking industry can afford the daily gas price increases. If the trucking industry falters then our whole economy will collapse. This is not a idle threat by one voter but a culmination of our elected officials doing nothing about our energy policy for the last 30 years, and within the last 6 years ignoring all the signs that

OPEC now has us by the neck in a strangle hold. The big oil companies really do not care as they make money either way.

ROBERT.

Thanks for the opportunity to respond to your newsletter on energy costs. My view, as expressed even before 9/11, was that we were subconsciously willing to sacrifice our children due to our selfishness, NIMBY mentality, and uncompromising positions regarding siting of energy facilities and development of energy resources. Our inability to develop a unified, effective energy policy is reflected in our addiction to oil, and just like a drug addict, we are selling out our country to those who least care about the future and security of our children. Like street drugs, the demand driven by our oil addiction is pushing up the price that further enhances the wealth of many rouge nations that support terrorism against us and would like nothing more than to see our demise. I attribute the deaths of our beloved service members on the battlefields in the Middle East to this issue. The cost to me in terms of high gas prices lowering my standard of living is nothing compared to the sacrifice of their lives caused by our ineptness to come together as a nation with a program for energy independence with an urgency akin to President Kennedy's national commitment to put a man on the moon in a decade. Anything short of that is treating a symptom and not the disease.

There are no quick fixes. It took several decades of selfishness to get us into this predicament, and it will take at least a decade of committed effort to fix it. We, as a nation, have the intellect and the resources to achieve energy independence if we unleash our federal and private institutions from excessive regulation. Decisions of such national importance must be based on sound technical and economic evaluation, not on how we can siphon more tax dollars to benefit our constituents and enrich our political standing or how we can enhance our personal wealth. The future of our nation and our children is in our hands.

NOEL, Idaho Falls.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MILLARD FULLER

● Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to Millard Fuller, a great American entrepreneur who dedicated his life to sheltering the poor. Millard passed away on February 3, 2009. He leaves behind a great legacy of leadership and of service to the world's most vulnerable residents.

Millard was born in 1935 in Lanett, AL. It was in this town that Millard, at only 6 years old, earned his first profit by selling pigs and chickens. His entrepreneurial spirit would certainly carry him far. After some time working as a door-to-door salesman selling silk hosiery and underwear, Millard attended Auburn University to study economics. Following his graduation, Millard attended my alma mater, the University of Alabama School of Law, and it was there that he married his wife Linda.

While a law student at the University of Alabama, Millard expanded his entrepreneurial horizons and began selling Christmas trees and mistletoe with

our fellow student, Morris Dees. Together, they would go on to form a lucrative direct marketing business selling cookbooks and other items. This business would make Millard a millionaire by the time he reached the young age of 29. When his work and devotion to monetary success began to threaten his personal relationships, however, Millard and Linda made the decision to simplify their lives by selling their possessions and dedicating their lives to their Christian values.

In 1965, Millard and Linda moved to Koinonia Farm in south Georgia. It was there that Millard and Linda met and became close friends with the farm's founder, Clarence Jordan. Clarence and Millard had much in common and together they developed the concept of a housing program that would provide no-interest loans to people to build modest homes. This idea eventually grew into Habitat for Humanity.

In 1976, from a tiny house in Americus, GA, Millard and Linda established Habitat for Humanity. Today, the organization has built more than 300,000 houses around the world, providing more than 1.5 million people in more than 3,000 communities with safe, decent, affordable shelter. In April 2009, Habitat for Humanity's Alabama State Support Organization will celebrate the completion of its 1,500th house.

Millard is loved and will be missed by his wife Linda and their four children. He will also be missed by the thousands of volunteers who found inspiration through his dedication. It is because of Millard that thousands of people across the world have a place to call home. I ask this entire Senate to join me in recognizing and honoring the life of Millard Fuller.●

HONORING MAINE OXY

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, at a time when our Nation is involved in a global war on terrorism, thousands of lives are disrupted as members of our armed services head off to war. One aspect that is often overlooked is the profound impact a deployment can have on a servicemember's civilian career. I wish today to commend a small business from my home State of Maine that has made a veritable commitment to ensuring that those serving our country are seamlessly reintegrated into the workforce upon their return from Active Duty, and their families taken care of while they are gone.

Maine Oxy is an Auburn-based company that specializes in welding, as well as industrial and specialty gases. A third generation family managed firm, Maine Oxy was founded in 1929 by Joseph W. Albiston as Maine Gas Service, which at that time provided sales and service to home propane customers. Six years later, Maine Oxy began providing welding supplies and industrial gases for customers throughout Androscoggin County, in central Maine. Since that time, Maine Oxy has expanded to serve three States in eight

locations, including a state-of-the-art acetylene production facility. It has also established a cutting-edge Spec Air gas manufacturing laboratory, as well as the New England School of Metalwork, with programs in welding and blacksmithing, as part of its sustained growth.

As a company that truly looks after its own, Maine Oxy has excelled in assisting its employees who serve in the military. Three such members from Maine Oxy's Auburn facility—Robert Smith, Kirby Touchette, and Scott St. Pierre—were all recently called up to Active Duty as combat engineers. During their deployment, Maine Oxy assisted the servicemembers by sending them care packages, and also aided their families by helping them with various chores, including chopping firewood for one the families that needed it. Even now, Maine Oxy continues to send dozens of care packages to troops in Iraq.

Upon their return, the three deployed employees were encouraged to make use of their maximum allocated 90-day entitlement of time off before returning to work. Moreover, the company was flexible in allowing for follow-up medical appointments. Finally, the firm rehired the employees and promoted them to new positions, thereby allowing their replacement workers to maintain employment as well.

Maine has one of the highest percentages of veterans in the country at roughly 16 percent of the State's population. Our State is seeing hundreds of new veterans each year returning from combat in Iraq and Afghanistan. As such, it is heartening to see companies like Maine Oxy standing ready to assist its veteran employees in such a broad and altruistic manner. Thank you to Bruce Albiston, Maine Oxy's Chief Executive Officer, and everyone at Maine Oxy for their selfless support of their colleagues, and best wishes for their future success.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:30 a.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. 1127. An act to extend certain immigration programs.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following measure was discharged from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 44. An act to implement the recommendations of the Guam War Claims Review Commission; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 146. An act to establish a battlefield acquisition grant program for the acquisition and protection of nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. LEAHY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

David S. Kris, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

Elena Kagan, of Massachusetts, to be Solicitor General of the United States.

Thomas John Perrelli, of Virginia, to be Associate Attorney General.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 386. A bill to improve enforcement of mortgage fraud, securities fraud, financial institution fraud, and other frauds related to federal assistance and relief programs, for the recovery of funds lost to these frauds, and for other purposes.

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. THUNE (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 527. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to prohibit the issuance of permits under title V of that Act for certain emissions from agricultural production; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. KERRY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. DODD, Mr. BROWN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 528. A bill to prevent voter caging; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. KERRY, and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 529. A bill to assist in the conservation of rare fields and rare canids by supporting and providing financial resources for the conservation programs of countries within the range of rare felid and rare canid populations and projects of persons with demonstrated expertise in the conservation of rare felid and rare canid populations; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

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

S. 530. A bill to extend Federal recognition to the Muscogee Nation of Florida; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 531. A bill to provide for the conduct of an in-depth analysis of the impact of energy