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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, yesterday I joined people around the world in marking International Women's Day. Since the beginning of the 20th century, variations of this day have been observed as an opportunity to highlight the issues that directly affect the lives of women and girls. At the same time, it is a day to reflect upon the lives, accomplishments, and struggles of women in our personal and collective histories. Much has been achieved since the first celebrants of National Women's Day began advocating for voting rights, shorter working hours, and higher pay. I am pleased that this Congress has already added to those achievements by passing the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009 to help ensure protection from pay discrimination.

Nevertheless, the need for such activism continues and the theme selected by the United Nations for this year's International Women's Day reminds us of that. The theme is "Women and men united to end violence against women and girls." Throughout the world, whether in war-torn villages in eastern Congo or Darfur or Sri Lanka, this theme is tragically relevant. Here in America, too, this year's theme is tragically relevant. Despite all the progress we have made, gender-based violence and sexual assault remain a devastatingly regular occurrence.

We must do more to protect women and girls here at home and abroad whose lives are affected by this violence. I believe one way we can affirm our commitment to improving the status of women domestically and internationally is by ratifying the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women—CEDAW—now. The Convention was signed by the U.S. in 1980 and favorably reported by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in 2002 with several reservations, understandings and declarations clarifying the Senate's position. Nevertheless, it still hasn't been considered by the full Senate. Our ratification would send an important message to the international community about our commitment to the rights of women and girls.

We still have a long way to go, but International Women's Day reminds us that transformation is possible. We

recognize the awesome power of our heroes who have struggled for change, especially women who have refused to give in or remain silent in the face of injustice. Many famous women come to mind, but there are also so many more whose names may not be noted in the pages of history but whose courage and compassion have made a lasting difference in the lives they've touched. Let's commit today to honor their legacy and to work for a lasting end to violence against women and girls.

IDAHOANS SPEAK OUT ON HIGH ENERGY PRICES

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, in mid-June, I asked Idahoans to share with me how high energy prices are affecting their lives, and they responded by the hundreds. The stories, numbering well over 1,200, are heartbreaking and touching. While energy prices have dropped in recent weeks, the concerns expressed remain very relevant. To respect the efforts of those who took the opportunity to share their thoughts, I am submitting every e-mail sent to me through an address set up specifically for this purpose to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This is not an issue that will be easily resolved, but it is one that deserves immediate and serious attention, and Idahoans deserve to be heard. Their stories not only detail their struggles to meet everyday expenses, but also have suggestions and recommendations as to what Congress can do now to tackle this problem and find solutions that last beyond today. I ask unanimous consent to have today's letters printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

My husband and I are not feeling the effects as much as others, except perhaps at the supermarket. I use Valley Transit or walk because I am legally blind and cannot drive. My husband has been a cyclist most of his life and also has the mindset of using alternative transportation. We live close to his place of employment, so he walks to work. Our 19-year-old daughter, who has a vehicle of her own, has parked it for the most part and rides her bike to work from the Northwest Boise to Zoo Boise. We are pleased that she has been influenced by our lifestyle of not being tied to a vehicle for transportation.

It has been my opinion for many years that many Boiseans are greedy motorists. They must have their cars, a huge part of their image...too good for public transportation, and they are rude behind the wheel. As a pedestrian, I cannot tell you how many times I have almost been hit in the crosswalk when I had the walk signal. Many times a turning motorist has accelerated to beat me through the crosswalk. Also, I have been in the middle of a busy intersection with the walk signal and had to stop for turning drivers as they were not going to stop for me. That infuriates me!

And then, we have the air quality issues in the Treasure Valley that most greedy motorists totally ignore...it is not their problem, apparently. How irresponsible!!

So, to be honest with you, I am not so unhappy about the situation, and only hope

that people will start using alternative modes of transportation and that there will be less cars on the street for both the safety of pedestrians and the improvement of air quality. Maybe it will take a bigger price hike to alert citizens to their responsibility for the issues of their community and the environment.

MARILYN.

PS. I am a respected, educated native of Boise and my motto is, "If the bus is good enough for me, it is good enough for everyone." I know the local transit system is not the best, but if perhaps increased rider-ship increases revenue, perhaps there could be an increase in routes and efficiency.

Our lives have been greatly affected by rising energy costs. My local store prices are high and we have been unable to afford gas to go 65 miles to a cheaper outlet grocery store.

Gas prices have made it almost impossible for us to visit our children and grandchildren who live 4-1/2 hours and 2-1/2 hours away respectively. We used to visit them (and they visited us) about once a month. Now we are reduced to twice a year.

Propane and electricity have risen too, making eating out or a movie impossible. We are a lower middle class family making about \$40,000 a year, yet we cannot afford anything but the basics. How are we supposed to "tighten our belts" any further?

These energy considerations should have been taken into account while President Clinton had his first term. At least then we would be in a much better position today. Not that I am excusing this Congress or President from their responsibility. Please do not wait any longer to protect our citizens from slowly going broke. Otherwise we may not be able to afford Congress at all!

RENATA, Kamiah.

I absolutely agree with your policy of using our own resources to keep America's economy going. Our electrical company has diesel-powered trucks to travel a six-state area, and we are not able to pass along all our overhead because of the tight bidding of jobs. Also, our employees have to have more wages just to keep even or we are not able to keep them. Bottom line—our net return is down.

The time to act was several years ago, but in reality ANWR and coastal drilling has to be on fast track along with oil refining capacities increased. Some time when we reach a crisis mode other alternatives are explored but in the infancy stage the timing is not here yet to allow an impact, although we need to proceed ahead with incentives so other forms of energy can come on line. Has the federal land bank been explored to use fees paid for no production to be applied to raise (example: safflower seed for diesel fuel)??

I appreciate the effort you are doing for our nation and state.

TOM.

I do not support more drilling or any other method of increasing the oil supply. Rather, I would see our money go to sustainable sources. Fund quality research and development of alternative energy (other than those that will compete with food supply) rather than throwing good money after bad.

SIMONSONS, Boise.

Like most Idahoans, the escalating price of gasoline is hitting my family very hard. We do not drive SUVs; we drive small 4-cylinder vehicles. But, when the price of gasoline is four times higher than it was a few years ago, and our wages have not increased, we are having a hard time, even living paycheck to paycheck.

I believe that the ban on domestic drilling for oil is another of many senseless acts of national suicide. Moreover, I believe that the idea of human-caused global warming is a grab for political power by the elites over our sovereign people. I watched a Nova program on PBS several years ago called "Cracking the Ice Age" where the statement was made that the majority of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere come from volcanoes and deep-sea geothermal vents.

The environmental policy implications of this statement are staggering. It means we are not harming the environment by driving our cars. The high price of gasoline may be making the radical environmentalists feel good, but it is destroying our nation's families. I admonish you to lift the ban on oil exploration and to firmly resist the idea of some in the Democrat Party to nationalize our country's oil companies, with the ensuing Soviet style rationing of gasoline that would inevitably result.

DUANE, *Hayden.*

The effects of rising gasoline prices are hugely negative!!!!

We chose to keep our home in Bingham County because of rural living expenses seem to be less than city taxes, etc. However that creates the need to drive 50 miles round trip for me and 100 mile round trip for my husband each day. Our budget is strangling as a result of the inflated fuel prices. They have removed the flexibility we once had to visit our families who live in southeastern Idaho. My father is approaching 90 and needs more visits. How do you prioritize visiting my father or saving the money so I can get to work each day? Or visiting my son and grandchildren or saving the money to get to work each day! Mind you, I am also in a carpool to help with the current gouge to the pocketbook as a result of the super-inflated gasoline prices. We are conserving in every way possible but it still is adding to the pain every time we need to put gasoline in our vehicles. Media refers to the prices and "feeling the pinch". That connotation does not even begin to describe the "pain at the pump."

My daughter and her family, who lives in Kansas City, Missouri, cannot afford to drive to Idaho due to the exorbitant prices of fuel. The gouging affects our basic needs of being with our family, caring for the aging people in our society because we have to cut back in every way possible. Where we used to feel like supporting local restaurants and other places, we do not anymore because we simply cannot afford to take a drive, go see a part of Idaho and support the residents in those locations. It is too expensive to enjoy simple pleasures such as driving to the mountains or to visit relatives.

The food prices are hugely affected, also. We are forced to cut back on what we buy at the grocery store. The food budget just does not go as far anymore. And for those of us who are trying to add a little each grocery visit to have a small food supply on hand, that just is not happening as a result of the gouging of fuel prices. It affects everything in our current lifestyle. And for why?

So those at the head of oil companies can continue to stuff their already over-inflated earnings. It is a travesty! The greed of [our leadership and the oil companies is] well-known. They should not be able to sleep at nights if they had any conscience at all.

Something must be done so that the rich governing bodies of the oil companies in their greed are held at bay. I have always respected free enterprise in America, but now, as a result of greed, I ask, "Why do they profit from crushing our economy, jobs, and destroy lives of the American citizens". It is not right! We are told American does not

have any fuel reserves yet other reports say we have a tremendous supply and oil companies are playing the game to drive up prices. Is anyone in Congress willing to stand up to the oil companies and special interests that control so many issues that are in disarray??

We aren't rich folks in Idaho. Most of us live a relatively simple life style and families all over are negatively affected because of the greed and dishonesty of our governing officials. They are raking and destroying the citizens of this great country and the economy for their own gain. They will have accountability for their greed at some point, whether in this life or the next. Feel free to pass along my opinion.

RONDA.

We will have to pay it, but with a 95-year-old mother 450 miles away and a very ill sister about 425 miles away. It is tough. We cannot fly to get to either so we have to drive. A couple of hundred dollars to get to either place is tough when you are retired on fixed income. Drilling is great but too late to do any good now. The speculators are the problem not so much the source or availability. We need new refineries too!

GEORGE, *Boise.*

Thank you for representing our family's interests on the Senate floor. We appreciate your diligent efforts that push for common-sense efforts.

Like most of our neighbors, our family has been impacted by the rising costs of fuel and groceries. My husband is a student at BSU, and I am a stay-at-home mom with our beautiful one-year-old daughter. My husband works hard in school and has a part time job, but it is getting harder to budget for the skyrocketing prices we see.

We are in support of energy conservation efforts. We ride our bikes to the grocery store and fill up the bike trailer with groceries. We walk, run or bike where we can. We support technology that reduces the need of oil. There are many things we can do to use less oil, however, we still need it. We support exploring U.S. oil reserves. We support corn and sugar ethanol exploration. We want the United States to prepare so we will be strong enough to stay true to the principles we were founded upon. We have plenty of opportunities within the States to drill for oil. Why do the environmentalist liberals care more for the caribou than for humans? We can have both. Dependence on foreign oil does not lessen pollution, it just means someone else will drill with less environmentally friendly machinery. We have better technology and can more efficiently drill.

Please keep up your hard work. We offer our support and gratitude for your service.

NATE and AMY, *Boise.*

Before all of the energy garbage, we had a pretty good life. My newly married wife and I both had good jobs, afforded everything we needed and did not have a lot of worries. Now with the energy problems, people have cut back on spending, so my wife may lose her job because of the lack of work. She is looking for a second job just so we can afford fuel to get to work. My job is getting more and more unstable being in the construction market. Our company is a small company, and the fuel is really making the work almost not worth doing. It is costing \$150 a week for each truck if it stays pretty close to town.

My wife and I are pretty young and have not built up a big savings to draw from so we now have to watch every penny like it is our last. We no longer can afford eating out, let alone eating at home. We are not sure how much longer we can keep up on our bills and such, especially if our jobs crash.

It is pretty sad and I do not see any reason for it, especially fuel. We did not just all of a sudden start using more fuel. Then when the demand drops even a little they cut back production and the cost shoots for the stars. I think it is time the government steps in and does something.

Idaho Power seems to be capitalizing on the fuel shortage. Knowing people will be staying home more, so they have raised their prices to get their extra dollars.

I think now we have more of a war trying to survive in our own country then we do across seas.

Thanks for your time.

BRYCE.

We are frantically searching for some other way to heat our home. Our home was built in 1916 and there is no space for a furnace. We have never heated our 4 upstairs bedrooms, even the year we had 45 days in a row of below zero weather. We have no heat in our bedroom on the main level or in our bathroom. We heat by propane. We used to heat by coal but could not find replacement parts for our Stokermatic coal stove. We switched to propane. In January, it cost us \$702 for a fill-up on our tank and, just last week, it cost us \$847 for a fill-up because the price is going up. We are trying to find a way to get our old, old, wood-burning stove repaired so we can heat our kitchen by wood but have to do some serious thinking to find a way to get the heat into our dining room and living room so we only turn on the propane stove when we have to leave for a few days in the winter. We are making enough to get by but no more. My husband is 67 years old and retired, but still reads meters for Rocky Mountain Power three days a week so we can try and keep warm in the winter. Something needs to be done. We do not qualify for assistance because we make too much money. We had to buy a new car and are still paying house payments. We barley make ends meet. We do without a lot and we do spend our evenings, in the spring fall and winter, covered up in blankets because our house is cold. That is without heating the whole house, just the kitchen and dining room and living room and what little heat trickles into the bathroom.

GRANT and DIANE, *Liberty.*

As a native Idahoan I have always loved the rural, small-town lifestyle of living in the country, enjoying the beauty of the quite, still landscape and the aroma of pure, clean air. Yet the distance I have to travel in order to shop at the store, visit friends or family, or go to the doctor places me at a definite disadvantage to those who dwell in larger cities and more populated states when one considers the astronomical price of gasoline. Visiting family in distant cities has now become a greater challenge as we spend more and more of our family's single income to buy fuel for our car. As I reflect on alternate forms of transportation in my rural area, I find that I can either walk or ride a bike several miles to accomplish my daily tasks. I would not consider this a problem until I factor in my infant who accompanies me everywhere and the extreme temperatures we have in the Rocky Mountain States, which range below freezing in the winter to near 100 degrees in the summer.

Generally I do not believe in turning to the government to solve problems, but since Congress has helped create our current energy crisis and has put into place roadblocks that require citizens to address her for help, I am writing to urge the United States Senate to act. I believe that we can drill for oil in our own country safely and without endangering our environment while we explore other energy options. Someone once raised

the concern that logging endangered forests and the environment but we have found that simply removing access to certain areas has not solved the problem. Instead new problems have risen in the form of diseased trees and ruined forests. Similarly, removing access to areas that house oil reserves does not solve the problem. It only creates a much larger problem in the form of dependence on foreign oil. The reality is that our country cannot remain dependent on other countries. We need to drill domestically while exploring other forms of energy production. Hybrid cars, while presenting themselves as a wonderful alternative to gas only cars, would also create problems of electrical shortages if everyone drove them. Not to mention the fact that the vast majority of citizens cannot afford such expensive cars. We need to look at real solutions and not just more band aids and temporary fixes.

One Congressman stated that our country could conserve a large amount of energy if every individual would telecommute to work one day each week. While it is true that we could conserve much energy, I question how they plan for individuals who work in farming, retail, production, construction, and transportation trades to telecommute. Simply stated, not all individuals have jobs suited to telecommuting.

I hesitate to support the creation of an incentive program to reward those who conserve energy because it most likely would reward those who live in metropolitan areas who do not have to travel very far to work or shop and would punish those who live in spread out areas of the country where alternate forms of transportation (subway, light rail, buses, etc) do not exist. Of course, our Idaho farmers could cut back on crop growth in order to return to the use of horse and plow in order to receive conservation incentives, but then what would the urbanites eat?

KIMBERLEE, *Burley.*

ANWR must be opened to drilling. This \$4+ gasoline is going to stop our already fragile economy in its tracks. It is bad enough now with gas prices this high, but add to that this winter the cost of natural gas doubling, and most families are going to have to decide—heat or eat.

We have enough energy in the ground in the United States to become nearly energy independent. Let us use it and in the mean time continue to develop alternative fuels and allow proven technologies such as nuclear to be built.

A majority of Americans support using our own supplies. Congress needs to get out of the way and open things up and make it easy for us to develop these resources. Stop being a hinderance.

MARK, *Boise.*

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING WYMAN HICKS

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I wish to share with my colleagues the memory of a remarkable man, Mr. Wyman Hicks of Marin County. Mr. Hicks passed away on February 4, 2009, at the age of 90. Mr. Hicks was a passionate activist, educator, and inventor who contributed selflessly to the military, government, and his community.

Wyman Hicks was born in Oakland, CA, on June 25, 1918. A bright child whose family experienced the hardships of poverty, Mr. Hicks developed a

strong sense of justice and community service early in life. While attending the University of California at Berkeley, Mr. Hicks spent his summers in Alaska helping laborers and workers form a union.

In 1938, Mr. Hicks traveled to Germany, where he helped German Jews find sponsors to help them escape to America. After receiving warnings from the U.S. consul that the Gestapo wanted to arrest him, Mr. Hicks returned to California to help farm workers in the Central Valley.

During the Second World War, Mr. Hicks enlisted in the Army. He became a captain in the Signal Corps serving in New Guinea and the Philippines, and worked to rebuild Japan after the war. Mr. Hicks returned to Berkeley on the GI bill, where he received his bachelor's and master's degrees in economics. Later, as the director of new product development at Crown Zellerbach, Mr. Hicks contributed to the development of the strap-handled shopping bag.

Wyman Hicks demonstrated a lifelong dedication to education, community governance, and civil rights. He served on the Sausalito City Council and the Bay Area Air Quality District Board, and was an active member of the American Civil Liberties Union and the Congress of Racial Equality. Mr. Hicks served as president of the Marin County Day School, and later became a professor in the management department of Sonoma State College. In 1987 he married Diana King.

From 1988 until 1991, Mr. Hicks was a member of my staff. His service to the U.S. Congress was invaluable, and for that I am grateful. Mr. Hicks was a generous man who dedicated his life to public service. He will be deeply missed.

Wyman is survived by his wife Diana King; his sons Kevin Hicks and Todd Hicks; his wife's sons Avi Rappoport and Richard Haven, and his five grandchildren.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. SAM HOLLAND

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize the career of a remarkable veterinary professional who has influenced livestock health in the State of South Dakota and across the Nation: South Dakota State veterinarian Dr. Sam Holland. Dr. Holland has earned the respect of his colleagues, farmers and ranchers, and Congressmen and Congresswomen and government officials on a national basis. His talent and commitment to his profession have not only influenced the physical health of our livestock herds but also improved the economic health and viability of agricultural communities across America.

As South Dakota State veterinarian since 1995 and most immediate past president of the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials, Dr. Holland's guidance and extensive expertise have helped to effectively navigate

livestock health concerns. As a practicing large-animal veterinarian for 15 years, he made monumental impacts to a sector of the animal health front that, now in the midst of shortages of veterinarians for underserved populations, especially has needed his contributions. Dr. Holland's involvement has shaped responses on a national basis to a number of livestock health issues, from developing a national model to respond to chronic wasting disease to a Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps for emergency situations. His expertise has also influenced discussions and action to diseases such as brucellosis, pseudorabies, and trichomoniasis, just to name a few.

Dr. Holland's involvement in South Dakota's State-based meat inspection program is arguably no small factor why this most recent Federal farm bill finally included language to allow for the transportation of State-inspected meat across State lines. And he has long adopted a commonsense approach to trade, to maintain and address the integrity of our livestock herd health before opening our borders to more food imports.

On the subject of trade, I am particularly grateful for the time and knowledge Dr. Holland dedicated to shaping the Foot and Mouth Disease Prevention Act to ensure this legislation was targeted and effective on the animal health front. I am confident that the successes we achieved on this measure as a team would have been impossible if not for his input and leadership.

I am very pleased to hear that Dr. Holland will continue to be involved with the South Dakota Medical Examining Board, through which he will maintain a presence on the South Dakota animal health front. Dr. Holland, thank you for everything you have done for the health of our livestock sector and agricultural communities in South Dakota and across the Nation. I wish you the very best in your retirement.●

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF VERMILLION, SOUTH DAKOTA

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Vermillion, SD. The city of Vermillion will commemorate the 150th anniversary of its founding this year.

Located in Clay County, Vermillion was founded in 1859 on the banks of the Vermillion River. Originally settled by French fur traders, Vermillion's name was translated from its native title Wase Wakpala, which means red stream. The city is home to the University of South Dakota, the State's oldest institution of higher education, which was founded in 1862. Since its establishment 150 years ago, the community of Vermillion has served as a strong example of South Dakota values and traditions and I am confident it will continue to prosper.

I would like to offer my congratulations to the citizens of Vermillion on this milestone anniversary and wish