

of oil and 55 trillion cubic feet of gas, which is equivalent to 25 years worth of imports from Saudi Arabia. ANWR holds 10 billion barrels or 15 years worth of imports from Saudi Arabia. Today we would have 1 million additional barrels of oil a day coming from ANWR had President Clinton not vetoed legislation in 1995 to authorize that production. Production from ANWR is entirely responsible. Compared to the size of Alaska, ANWR's 19 million acres is about the same size of South Carolina, and of that area, we propose opening about 1.5 million acres to exploration which is roughly 6 percent of ANWR. Of those 1.5 million acres, only 2,000—an area the size of Washington's Dulles International Airport—would be devoted to drilling. This is only one example of new production which can occur in an environmentally exacting manner.

The legislation also includes important regulatory reforms which outside the energy production components of this bill would be referred to the Environment and Public Works Committee for consideration. Some of the EPW related provisions include streamlining environmental considerations in the leasing of the OCS and ANWR and streamlining reviews for new nuclear power plant licensing. The bill includes language meant to ensure that Federal projects and actions are not needlessly delayed, and therefore made more costly, by required environmental reviews. Too often the NEPA mandated environmental review process is used as the means to slow or stop projects, not based on substantive environmental grounds but, rather, simply because selected individuals oppose the projects. We need to reduce the ability of these not-in-my-backyard interests to continue to manipulate Federal law this way. Too many jobs and economic resources are at stake.

The bill importantly excludes greenhouse gases from the definition of pollutant and prohibits the EPA Administrator from granting waivers to enforce their own tail pipe emission standards. Granting these States a waiver will only result in a patchwork of State regulations and compliance will vary greatly depending on product demand in each State. The U.S. auto industry, already on life support, faces a \$47 billion burden this year due to increased national fuel economy standards, according to the National Automobile Dealers Association.

Finally, the bill keeps activists from using the Endangered Species Act from hindering crucial energy exploration and production. Activists' efforts to list species and restrict human activities based on climate change are backdoor attempts to regulate greenhouse gas emissions under the Endangered Species Act. Directly linking species threats to climate change under ESA means that any increase in carbon dioxide or greenhouse gas emissions anywhere in the country could be subject to legal challenges due to arguments

that those activities are harming any species that is in decline. It allows endless litigation on major activities that are funded, carried out, or authorized by the Federal Government. The economic impacts of regulating greenhouse gases under ESA are enormous. For example, any permit for a powerplant, refinery, or road project in the United States could be subject to litigation if it contributes to total carbon emissions. ESA prompted lawsuits and bureaucratic delays could even extend to past fossil fuel-linked Federal projects if they could increase greenhouse gas emissions or reduce natural carbon dioxide uptake. The ESA is over 30 years old. Its only real success has been to provide full time employment for the radical activists and the trial bar. Most importantly, despite billions of Federal dollars spent, millions of acres of property rights restricted, and the years of red tape delays, barely 1 percent of listed species have actually recovered. If that is not justification to restructure an outdated, ineffective law, I don't know what is—there has to be a better way.

I have long said America is not running out of oil and gas or running out of places to look for oil and gas. America is running out of places where we are allowed to look for oil and gas. The American public has got to demand that the Democrats in Congress allow us to produce from our own resources without unnecessary and burdensome Government regulation.

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:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide opinion on our current problems. I work at the site, and was named the outstanding researcher for 2006. By way of further background, I hold a PhD in chemistry, and I have heretofore always voted [conservative].

It seems to me that the key question to be addressed is "what is the role of the Federal government guiding and fostering energy development and usage in the United States?" If I could ask one question of yourself, Mr. Risch, Mr. Obama, and Mr. McCain, that would be it.

It further seems to me that the de facto energy policy of our party is "the private sector will do it." I believe that what we have proven over the past 40 years is that this is incorrect. The current cost of energy supports my position: \$4 gasoline (with \$5 in sight), rising food prices (fueled by a nonsensical corn to ethanol policy), plus the cost of the war in Iraq (Alan Greenspan is correct: it is all about oil). Certainly the cost of electricity and other energy sources will follow suit. While the private sector has proven extremely adept at maximizing profits over a 3 month quarterly-reporting time frame, that appears to be the limit of their time horizon. It is sadly ironic that decisions made in 1974 by France regarding nuclear power and by Brazil (a dictatorship at the time!) in 1975 regarding ethanol, were vastly more far-sighted than what our country has chosen by abrogating energy leadership to the private sector.

Alternatively I believe that strong interaction lead by the Federal government and involving the private sector can solve the problem. While I understand that sounds socialistic, that is exactly how we were able to harness our power to address the challenge of the second world war and the cold war.

I would recommend that you set a goal to have the country be free of imported oil in 15 years. To accomplish this, we will need to find another way to power the transportation sector, and electricity is the only viable alternative. The government should subsidize mass transit and utilization of electric cars and development of next-generation electric cars should be subsidized. Financing for subsidies should come from taxes on the egregious profits realized by oil companies, which we are subsidizing in the form of military defense of the middle east. Clearly the supply of electricity will need to be greatly augmented, and nuclear fission is the best answer for this. While I do not believe that wind or solar have the efficiency to supply the amount of electricity needed, research into improving these technologies should be fostered.

In the process of implementing these policies, a highly desirable collateral effect would be to greatly spur American science. Federal support for basic and applied research would stabilize the funding base, and improve the desirability of the scientific disciplines, which are not in favor with young Americans, because the return on mastery of the fields of math, biology, chemistry and physics are not currently commensurate with the investment required to learn them. To fund this, you will have to figure out how to reign in health care, another item which will require forceful government intervention.

While I am encouraged by your interest in my opinion, I am dismayed by the timing. At this point, the horse is long out of the barn, and if you have done anything to address the situation, it has been invisible to me. Yet, you still have a good fraction of your term remaining, enough time to start acting in the best interest of the United States and her institutions, and to start de-prioritizing those of [individuals] who are only interested in their bottom lines.

Best regards and good luck.

GARY.

To quickly preface my story, I am a professional that nets a salary of roughly \$38,000/year with a small family. We have made the

decision that raising good kids and having a mother in the home is more important than making more money. With my salary and my wife's very part-time job, in the past we have been able to absorb minor blows such as unexpected medical situations, needed vehicle repairs, and other unforeseen bills. With the way things are now, such as gas and food prices, we have had to strategize and make every dollar count. There is no complaint on my end, although if and when the next unexpected medical bill happens, it will be difficult. Fortunately we have faith that all will be okay and that we will always be able to pay our bills and enjoy life.

By no means am I asking for a handout. On the contrary, I wish the elected officials that act as our government would step out of the way and allow the hard-working Americans do what they do best; use their intellect to solve problems. Please allow the free market do what it was designed to do. We firmly believe that God created this beautiful Earth for our "responsible" use. What I mean is that we should use the resources that are available to us (which are in wonderful abundance here) while at the same time replenish what we can for our posterity. We never bought into this "Green" movement and have since discovered that it was all a hoax with horrible intentions.

We will survive whatever comes our way. My family has the "American Spirit". I wish that Congress would adopt that same spirit.

DILLON, *Meridian*.

Thank you for asking those you represent what we think and feel about this crisis. The cost of oil going up has affected so many more things than just filling up our tank. We are faced with the choice of going to the doctors, (we have insurance), or get gas or groceries!! We have been unable to have children on our own, and we decided for me to go back to work to save up money for fertility treatments. But now that the gas, food & utility prices have shot up, we are beginning to wonder if we will be able to get to work let alone ever achieve our dream.

I see my siblings trying to raise their children and make ends meet with gas prices the way they are. I hear it in the voices of my co-workers, family, and friends. This is not right! We elected our politicians to be our representatives, not to go to Washington and do what they want. Listen to the majority not the minority. "For the people by the people." We the people are talking. Are you all listening????

First: Drill off shore and in Alaska. Second: Keep working on alternatives like hydrogen, coal to oil, nuclear facilities etc. This country is full of the best and brightest. We ought to show that.

ANNETTE, *Meridian*.

Subject: Final Destination of Alaska Oil is—?

American taxpayers paid to have the Alaskan pipeline built to relieve dependence on foreign oil in the 70s. When oil prices started to drop, the oil companies, BP, Exxon, and etc. cried poor-mouth. They were not getting an adequate return on their investment in the North Slope oil fields. [Congress gave approval for the companies] to take American oil to Asia for a better price than they could get on the West Coast of California or other American markets. Then prices in America started rising, but the oil (our oil) was still being shipped to Asian countries. To my knowledge, this is still where a lot of the Alaska oil is going.

Question: Is Congress still letting these greedy ruthless oil companies ship desperately needed American oil to Asia for higher prices? If not, when did it stop and where is it being shipped? If they are still

shipping American oil to Asia, why the heck hasn't Congress stopped the process?

A response to this situation, and/or a clarification of what is the present status of Alaska oil shipments would be appreciated.

JOE, *Boise*.

I am against increasing domestic production of oil in sensitive areas such as the Arctic. It has not been made clear to me that it would have any other than a minor affect on prices and supply.

I am adjusting to the high gas prices by driving a fuel efficient vehicle and parking the others and using them only when absolutely necessary. I also am careful in my driving habits such as keeping my speed at or below 60 and avoiding undo acceleration. I turn my engine off at stop lights when I expect the wait will be long. I coast down hills when it is safe to do so with the engine off although this can be a dangerous practice.

Here's what I feel our government including congress could to help the situation:

1. Set a national speed of 55 or 60 as was done in the 70s. I think that many people do not understand that higher speeds require more gas than lower speeds to go the same distance because of air friction. This is not publicized. It should be.

2. Stop all speculation in oil trading by whatever means necessary. For me, the frequent (mostly) up and down variations in price at the gas station are more unsettling than the high price.

3. Declare new fuel efficiency standards under emergency conditions. Not some silly minor improvement by 2020! As has been done [in the past]. The auto manufacturers demonstrated how rapidly through research and development just how fast they could come up with catalytic converters in the 70s to meet emission standards. Give them credit! They can perform miracles if they are forced to. Force them!

4. Keep oil prices high but stable. Painful as it is, it seems to me the only way to effect the needed changes. I have no longer any confidence in energy leadership by either government or industry. Government just does what industry wants and what industry wants is to keep things as they are. Our government needs to take a leadership role. For a long, long time, congress and the administration have failed miserably in that role. It is time for a change.

5. Require new cars to have a fuel consumption meter clearly visible to the driver. This would encourage efficient driving. When the driver sees how his miles-per-gallon drops to near zero when accelerating up a hill—well, he might learn to drive more conservatively.

It seems to me that this is our second warning regarding the consequences of our dependence on oil, the first being in the early 70s. Perhaps this is our last warning.

DAVID, *Viola*.

I am but a young college student. I currently live in Middleton with my family for the summer. I will be headed back to University of Idaho this fall for my sophomore year. The \$4 per gallon gas prices are ridiculous. While living here in the summer, I begin to realize how lucky I am to be headed back to Moscow where I can get anywhere in town just by riding a bike or walking. Living in Middleton, I need to drive 15 miles to go to work seeing as there are not very many job opportunities located in my town. Some people have to drive even further to get to their jobs. I have seen my parents struggle with the prices. They always consider how much it is going to cost us to drive somewhere if we plan on going on a family trip. It definitely complicates things.

I am currently studying Wildlife Resources at my school and have learned much about

how environments are affected by polluting toxins that come from coal plants. This should not be an alternative. Also, corn ethanol is not effective, because in order to create enough fuel for everyone in our country, we would need to drastically increase the corn production. Nuclear power, on the other hand, I am unsure about, but what I am sure about is that we are in a decade of change—one that is challenging us. People need to realize that "global warming" is not a farce and people should not use excuses such as "Well, Idaho had a higher average of snowfall this year than in the past 5 years." There is a reason it is called "global warming" and not "Idaho warming". It has to do with average global temperatures and the changing of these temperatures cause climate changes, which could be why we saw so much snow this past winter.

Anyways, to get back on track, we need to shift to cleaner ways of generating energy. We have all heard of harnessing wind, water, solar, and geothermal energy. These are all very costly, but run clean. The solutions are not to use more coal or drill for more oil. Those solutions are just prolonging the problem, which is our dependency. If we open up more drilling sites in America then the gas may be lowered a little bit, but American oil is still finite and will eventually deplete which will put us in the same situation we are in now. The \$4 per gallon is a wakeup call that we need to change the way we are doing things and progress; not regress. Hopefully you will help to make this progression that we so desperately need.

DYLAN, *Middleton*.

Thank you for letting me express my frustrations.

This is a very simple problem to solve. Start drilling and alleviate the problems we are currently seeing at the gas pumps, food prices, and other high prices that are occurring with the high prices of fuel. If streamlined and the ability of Congress to cut red tape that is currently enacted, we could start pulling oil out of the ground in 18 months and not 5 to 10 years. Pulling oil out of the ground will make the prices fall plain and simple. [Some] will say that more oil will not cause prices to fall due to the oil companies, but basic economics 101 will tell you that more supply equals less prices plain and simple. It is not rocket science, but [some groups have] been more interested in the redistribution of wealth rather than letting the free market take it is course.

I hear lies and intentional misstatements of the truth coming from [some politicians]. When [will truth-tellers start] educating the public on how much oil we currently have in North America (more than Saudi Arabia), and letting extreme environmentalist entities that they bow to run the show on our energy policy.

I keep hearing from [some] that we cannot drill our way to energy independence. What is their solution then? I have not heard of anything that they are coming up with to alleviate the problem. They do not want nuclear power plants, they do not want to burn coal, and drilling offshore and in ANWR would be horrible for the environment. I have some news for [those folks]: their French buddies have nuclear power plants that are safe and provide clean energy for the people of France. Burning coal or emitting carbon dioxide does not create global warming; it is a natural effect that has occurred over and over again throughout the history of the Earth. Sport fisherman fish off of oil rigs in the sea, and caribou do not care about an oil rig, or pipeline laying on the ground either.

It is time [that we had some leadership and challenged the false information] on energy

policy. If not, the [conservative voices will] have less leadership in Congress, and we will have an energy crisis in the greatest county in the world.

P.S. Can we get some more oil refineries as well?

CORY.

First off, thank you for soliciting comments from your constituents.

Everyone is concerned about, and affected by energy prices. Gas prices are just the tip of the iceberg. Food prices, goods and services prices, utility bills, natural gas up double from last year, airline prices, the housing/credit crisis and a very weak dollar are all affected by our energy emergency. This is not a matter of choice. Either we pursue energy independence or we risk losing the America our forefathers created and our brave soldiers have died fighting for.

Why are we the only civilized country not aggressively pursuing energy independence? France is over 70% nuclear, the EU has plans for over 20 coal plants across Europe, Canada is drilling near our northeastern border, Russia recently gave major tax breaks to oil companies to explore inside their borders and find alternative energy, Brazil is aggressively drilling, China is building dozens of coal plants, nuclear plants and hydroelectric dams, they have also secured a lease (from Cuba) 50 miles off the shore of Key West, Florida. The US hasn't built a refinery in over 30 years. There is something wrong with this picture. Is everyone else on the wrong energy path? Or could it be we are falling behind? I think the answer is obvious.

To me the solution is twofold. Short term and long term. Short term: Allow private industry to aggressively pursue all sources of energy within our borders. We are sitting on billions of barrels of oil, oil shale and coal. Go get it now! We have nuclear technology, coal to oil technology, wind, solar. Long term: Offer incentives to private industries to create new alternative energy sources. American innovators have proved time and time again they are capable of getting the job done. Get the government out of their way and let them lead the world into the next generation of energy production.

DENNIS.

I am writing concerning your call for Idahoans to tell about how oil prices are affecting us. Fortunately I live very close to work so I do not drive much to commute. I do however have to transport children to day care, school and other activities. Trips are almost out of the question now.

Having looked into the facts I fully support drilling in ANWR and OCS. I find it disturbing that we are not already doing so when I hear that other countries, especially some that are not overly friendly to us, are permitting to drill off of our coasts. I think the U.S. should pursue all avenues of collecting domestic fuel sources including coal shale to oil and nuclear. This country should pursue nuclear power in large scale, hydrogen, and other alternatives as well. The fact remains, as you know, that we will need petroleum-based fuels for the foreseeable future and we should produce some of our own.

I think the ethanol projects are a joke as corn is a food product that has so many other uses.

BRANDON, Idaho Falls.

The most difficult part of paying so much at the pump is feeling that the whole situation is—at best—the fault of our Washington politicians who have been influenced by environmentalists who seem determined to return our lifestyle to the horse and buggy era.

The most vital step in all you propose is to start claiming our drilling rights in the gulf

and to pass legislation which allows us to take advantage of our own oil reserves. The environmentalists have hijacked this whole country by tying the hands of oil companies, who would doubtless do everything possible to lessen our dependence on foreign oil by drilling within our own borders.

DEBORAH.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING JOSEPH SONNEMAN

• Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I wish to commemorate the life of a very special resident of my home State of Alaska, longtime political activist Joe Sonneman.

Dr. Sonneman passed away March 8, 2009, from Lou Gehrig's disease. He was 64.

He made his unique mark on Alaska beginning in 1971, when he first visited to research a doctoral dissertation on the relationship between oil revenues and state government. He returned after graduate school and lived in the 49th State for most of the rest of his life. In true Alaskan fashion he proved himself to be a jack of many trades. Dr. Sonneman—known most often around his adopted hometown of Juneau only as “Joe”—was a photographer, postal worker, public policy analyst and taxi driver. He also earned a law degree from Georgetown University and was a frequent candidate for Congress.

On behalf of his family and his many friends I ask today that we honor his memory. I ask that his obituary, published March 10, 2009, in the Juneau Empire, be printed into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The information follows:

[From the Juneau Empire, Mar. 10, 2009]

(By Joseph Sonneman)

Longtime Juneau political activist Dr. Joseph Sonneman died early March 8, 2009, at Providence Regional Medical Center in Everett, Wash., after a three-year struggle with ALS, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. He was 64.

He was born in Chicago in 1944, and attended Chicago public schools.

After serving in the U.S. Army from 1963 to 1966, including service as a radar repairman in Korea, he earned a Bachelor of Science in economics from the University of Chicago, and master's and doctorate degrees from Claremont graduate school. While in the master's program in government finance, he was an intern at the NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston. He first came to Juneau in 1971 to conduct research for his doctoral dissertation on the effect of oil income on Alaskan government financial decisions.

When he finished graduate school, he returned to Alaska where he worked as a photographer, budget analyst, taxi driver, heavy equipment oiler on the Alaska pipeline, postal worker, and university instructor. He became interested in the law and earned a J.D. degree from Georgetown School of Law in 1989. He was a member of the Alaska, Hawaii and Washington, D.C. Bar Associations and conducted a law and legal research practice in Juneau.

He was active in politics all his life, and served on numerous local and state Demo-

cratic Party committees and as Alaska Democratic Party treasurer. He ran for Mayor of Juneau in 1973. He also ran in the primaries for the U.S. House in 1974, and for the U. S. Senate in 1978, 1992, 1996, and in 1998 succeeded in becoming the Democratic Party nominee for U.S. Senate but lost the election to Republican incumbent Frank Murkowski.

He was a member of Veterans of Foreign War Post 5559; Pioneers of Alaska Juneau Igloo Number 6; Juneau World Affairs Council; Juneau Chapter of AARP; and Paralyzed Veterans of America, and served on the Juneau Commission on the Aging.

As a photographer, he followed the example of Klondike Gold Rush photographer A. E. Hegg, and documented the construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline with an 8-by-10-inch view camera. Over his career, he had one-person shows at the San Jose Museum of Art, the University of Oklahoma Museum of Art, the Alaska State Museum, the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry and Harper Hall at Claremont Graduate University.

After his diagnosis of ALS, he moved to Washington to be closer to family members. He lived for two years at the Washington State Veterans Home near Seattle and was also an intermittent patient at the Veterans' Administration hospital in Seattle.

Survivors include his mother, Edith Sonneman of Chicago; and sisters Eve Sonneman of New York, Toby Sonneman of Bellingham, Wash., and Milly Sonneman of Sausalito, Calif.

Burial will be at the Sitka National Cemetery with Jewish graveside services at a date yet to be determined. Arrangements are also pending for a Juneau memorial service.

Donations in Dr. Sonneman's memory may be made to the Joe Sonneman Prize In Photography Endowment c/o David Carpenter, Claremont Graduate University Advancement Office, 165 10th St., Claremont, CA 91711.●

2009 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

• Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I would like to recognize the St. Catherine of Siena girls' varsity cheerleaders for being named the 2009 National Champions at the National High School Cheerleading Championship held in Orlando, FL, on February 8. I would like to take a few moments to congratulate them on their tireless efforts to bring their school and our State success.

The event was held at the Walt Disney World Resort and is produced by the Universal Cheerleaders Association. It is the most prestigious event for cheerleaders. Close to 8,000 of the Nations top cheerleaders from 400 teams in 33 States were invited to participate in the competition, including St. Catherine of Siena.

The St. Catherine squad is under the direction of Sandy Spitale and Debra L'Hoste and includes 22 students from the fifth, sixth, and seventh grades. Its members are Lauren Artigues, Ashley Barbier, Brooke Caldwell, Caroline Caldwell, Kaitlyn Coman, Elizabeth Cousins, Claire Crumb, Elise Delahoussaye, Rachel Douglass, Tiffany Forest, Callie Frey, Thia Le, Krista Liljeberg, Kelli Murphy, Allie Nicaud, Tessa Norris, Rachael Poissenot, Jessica Pottinger, Sophia Serpas, Kelsey Singletary, Kyla Szubinski, and Victoria Varisco. They were the only team from Louisiana to take home the title this year.