

members have 20 or more years of service. "It is like a family here, the staff cares for the residents and relationships are developed that are important to the residents."

One of the most unique attributes of Bourbon Heights is the support from the community and the volunteers who are in the floors every day providing support and help to the regular staff.

"As I travel around the state attending meetings," McKenzie said. "Other Activity Directors are amazed at the level of community support that we have at Bourbon Heights."

The giant trophy in the lobby is awarded for one year and will be passed on next year to a new recipient. A trophy cup will remain at Bourbon Heights as a reminder of this year's honor of being named the best nursing home in the state.

Bourbon Heights was chartered in 1965 when it opened as a senior care center. It is a non-profit organization. The land is owned by the county and the buildings and improvements are part of the Bourbon Heights Corporation and under the direction of the board of directors that oversee the non-profit organization.

#### CONGRATULATING THE SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I wish to send my congratulations to the San Diego Chargers for the remarkable way that they turned around their 2008 season in the National Football League.

During difficult economic times, as they face hardships and uncertainty, millions of sports fans across America turn to their hometown teams for solace and inspiration.

Few teams this year faced as many hardships as the Chargers, and few teams in any year have overcome adversity with such inspiring tenacity.

Hampered by injuries to star running back LaDainian Tomlinson and other key players and suffering through a series of heartbreaking losses, the Chargers began the 2008 season with just four wins in their first 12 games. With 3 weeks to go in the regular season, they trailed the division-leading Denver Broncos by three games. Though their fans remained loyal and the team remained confident, few outside observers gave them any chance reaching the NFL playoffs.

Over the next 5 weeks, though, the Chargers made an amazing run. Beginning on December 4th, three consecutive San Diego victories and two Denver losses left the Chargers just one game back entering a December 28 showdown with the Broncos.

In the decisive game, the Chargers staged an awe-inspiring offensive display to crush the Broncos 52-21 and win the AFC Western Division championship. They became the first team in NFL history to have been 4-8 and make the playoffs and the first team ever to win their division after being three games behind the leaders with three games to play.

Six days later, on January 3, the Chargers faced a terrific Indianapolis Colts team in the playoffs. In perhaps the greatest NFL game ever played in

San Diego, the Chargers beat the Colts in overtime, 23-17.

Every playoff tournament ends sadly for every team but one. Last Sunday, on a snowy day in Pittsburgh, the mighty Steelers ended the Chargers season.

But nothing can dim the luster of the Chargers' late-season run. Their dramatic turnaround is an inspiration to sports fans everywhere.

Mr. President, I grew up in Brooklyn, in the shadow of Ebbets Field, where baseball fans endured years of frustration with the annual cry of "Wait Till Next Year." When I was in high school, our dream finally came true, and "next year" became this year.

With a talented young team that has triumphed over adversity, the San Diego Chargers can look forward to next year with pride and confidence. I salute the Charger players, coaches, staff, and ownership along with their loyal fans—for a great 2008 season.

#### WHITE MOUNTAIN LAND MANAGEMENT

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I rise today to speak briefly about the White Mountain National Forest and the U.S. Forest Service's efforts to manage these lands for the benefit of all Granite Staters. In particular, I wanted to extend my appreciation and support for the agency's commitment to implementing its 2005 management plan for the forest, including the Mill Brook timber harvesting proposal.

It goes without saying that the White Mountain National Forest is a special place for all New Hampshire residents. Drawing millions of visitors each year, these lands have long appealed to those who enjoy the outdoors, while also providing natural resources that support communities across the State. Through balanced, multiple-use management policies, I remain confident that the White Mountain National Forest will remain one of the crown jewels of the National Forest System for generations to come.

As such, I was pleased when, in 2005, the U.S. Forest Service released its new management plan for the White Mountain National Forest. Striking a delicate compromise among stakeholders, it was overwhelmingly supported in New Hampshire and established a consensus-based blueprint for how this natural resource will be managed. I applauded all of the hard work and public outreach that the Forest Service put into this plan and was pleased to coauthor legislation that implemented its wilderness recommendations. Signed into law in December 2006, the New England Wilderness Act designated nearly 35,000 acres of new wilderness in the Forest and strengthened our nation's commitment to land conservation.

The 2005 management plan also included timber harvesting, which is critical for both regional economic activity and wildlife diversity purposes. The

timber industry is one of the largest manufacturing industries in New Hampshire, supporting well paying jobs and local communities, especially in the north country. Carefully managed timber harvesting can also play an important role in maintaining habitats that are critical for certain types of wildlife.

Fully consistent with the 2005 plan and its timber harvesting guidelines, the Forest Service has proposed logging projects which have been subject to environmental review, are limited in scope, and have the support of well respected groups across the spectrum such as the Society for Protection of New Hampshire Forests, Appalachian Mountain Club, the National Audubon Society, the New Hampshire Timberland Owners, and the North Country Council. Two of these proposals, the Batchelder Brook and Than Brook Resource Management Projects, have been unsuccessfully challenged by certain environmental groups such as the Sierra Club that do not represent the view of most Granite Staters. Even though they seemed fine with the 2005 management plan when it was released, these groups now want to undo it via lawsuits and other challenges that use up taxpayer resources and stymie economic activity in New Hampshire. Fortunately, the courts have so far ruled in favor of the Forest Service and have allowed these two timber harvesting projects to proceed. With each ruling against these challenges, it has been my hope, as well as the hope of many others in our State, that all parties would now act in good faith and respect the 2005 management plan's timber harvesting guidelines.

Unfortunately, this has not been the case, and it is why I am once more speaking on the Senate floor about the White Mountain National Forest. Once again, we now have the Sierra Club and its allies trying to tie up yet another important timber harvesting proposal, the Mill Brook project. This project, which consists of around 1,000 acres, is wholly consistent with the plan's timber harvesting guidelines. It is also supported by a large number of well respected environmental groups and the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. But this is apparently not enough. Recycling some of the same legal arguments that have proven unsuccessful in the past, the Sierra Club and its friends are trying to thwart the good intentions and popular support of the 2005 plan, choosing the path of antagonism over the spirit of compromise.

Now of course, I recognize that it is within these groups' rights to file an administrative appeal and try to hold things up. And I also recognize that such tactics may appeal to their partisan supporters. That being said, I also feel that these groups' actions are meant to undermine the longstanding consensus approach that New Hampshire has taken to environmental protection and the management of the

White Mountain National Forest specifically. During these challenging times, I also find it hard to understand why some groups are trying to thwart the Mill Brook proposal when their previous attempts to block similar projects have not succeeded, especially when timber harvesting in this area will provide an economic boost for the Granite State.

As I have said in the past, the White Mountain National Forest can and should be accessible to a wide variety of uses, including timber harvesting. While I certainly agree that the Forest Service must follow the law and carry out certain environmental reviews, I also believe that this administrative appeal runs counter to New Hampshire's interests. I therefore hope that this appeal process is resolved as soon as possible and that we can all support the Forest Service's management of the White Mountain National Forest, including the Mill Brook project.

#### 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:

HONORABLE MIKE CRAPO: My name is Brian Gross and my wife Kelly and I have lived in Idaho since January as I graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and received a job at Idaho National Laboratory in Idaho Falls. We settled into a comfortable fifteen hundred square foot town home and own two cars that we both drive to work every day. Our extremely short commute of 4 miles and 3 miles respectively requires that we spend around \$160 per month on gasoline. Though both cars achieve no less than 20 miles per gallon in the city and upwards of 32 miles per gallon on the highway, we would use more than our entire month's budget for gasoline if we made a trip to visit our relatives in North Dakota 800 miles away, making a trip for the holidays a rather expensive venture.

One would think after seeing the Hubbert curve peak near the earlier part of this decade, you would want to begin the move to-

wards other sources of fuel for our vehicles. If the OPEC embargo of 1973 was not enough, what will it take before we make the shift? The wonderful businessmen of Toyota and Honda appreciated the coming situation and conveniently developed a car that would contribute greatly in allowing the former to surpass all of the big three companies in sales of automobiles for the first time ever in April 2007. Even though GM and Ford have turned around with several hybrid and electric car projects, that still leaves the transportation industry vying for even more expensive diesel fuel. In my opinion, the first step for Congress would be to drastically subsidize the expansion of domestic biodiesel production. I mention only biodiesel, because of the issue with corn based ethanol cutting into our food supply. To counter that issue, why don't we revitalize methanol, which can be produced from garbage, as a fuel? Ford produced several vehicles subsequent to the oil embargo which ran on methanol, so the concept is proven, we just need to reestablish the fuel production industry.

As for electricity production, I as a nuclear engineer strenuously support the expansion of nuclear power. The loudening drum beat for action against anthropogenic climate change, though I am not a advocate of the theory, has drawn support for nuclear and public opinion is shifting in its favor. Assuming that you are an avid supporter of the INL and the nuclear industry, I would like to address my frustration with Senator Harry Reid's ignorance and stubbornness of the Yucca mountain repository. I hope you are asserting the fact to him and his supporters that it is a repository, not a dump as they keep calling it. I'm sure you've used the example of the French as the right thing to do considering 80% of their electricity is generated by nuclear, their waste is reprocessed, and most importantly, they are energy independent.

Lastly, I would like to thank you for addressing the issue of energy with the people of Idaho. I hope you will carry our message to the Senate with great fervor and it will not fall upon deaf ears.

BRIAN J. GROSS, *Idaho Falls.*

Our family is affected very little. You see, Senator Crapo, a year ago I was anticipating something like this and bought a 35mpg Kia Spectra, with which my wife and commute to our jobs 60 miles round-trip every day.

About a year ago, I noticed how the value of the dollar was on a steady decline due to Bush Administration policies (Chinese debt to fund the war, flooding the globe with USDs, unregulated futures commodities) and expected that since the value of a barrel of oil was based on the USD, and the value of the USD was on the rapid decline, I had better do something fast. So I bought the best value in a high MPG automobile that I could find, a Korean car. I would have bought an American car, but again, I was looking for value, and no American manufacturers could offer the same value as South Korean made Kia. A shame.

So, to answer your question—it has not affected us that much at all. We were prepared because we could see the future based on our analysis of Republican policies.

BRUCE BACON.

DEAR SENATOR CRAPO: Thank you for wanting to know what the people think. Energy prices really haven't changed my life at all. I produce almost all the power and hot water I need with solar panels and have a solar charging electric car.

Producing more oil in the U.S. will solve nothing as any new supply will be bought by China and India. We need to change fuel sources. Electricity will be the future fuel

source and it must be generated in Idaho by hydro/geothermal/wind/solar. Renewables are: Free fuel forever.

Nuclear will only make us more dependant on imports. We import 58 percent of our oil which is not a good thing. We import over 92 percent of the uranium used to fuel nuclear power plants. So, we should be talking about getting off our dependence of imported nuclear fuel with the goal of shutting down our nuclear power plants when the renewable generation is in place.

JOHN WEBER, *Boise.*

I'm not going to bore you with sad tales of my life today. I want all you folks in DC to tell the enviros they're killing a country whose life and economy are based on oil. If they want a perfect world in one national park from coast to coast, find another country to do it in.

Next, I want you to take crude oil off the commodities markets. All that is is people making all the money they possibly can and not having a care about what they are doing to people worldwide.

Is this asking too much of people elected to represent us instead of listening to a minority that makes a lot of noise. And if you're making money off of crude on the commodities market, then I guess you'll get rid of this E-mail.

MIKE ARNOLD.

I am lucky enough to work only 10 miles from my home. My husband got a job at the same place as I, so now we can carpool to work, saving on fuel. However, he is in the process of getting hired on with the police force. We have an SUV that we are in over our heads on in payments, as many Americans are. We also have a dodge diesel that gets 18.0 miles to the gallon. We leased this vehicle and have 2 more years left to go. The only reason we did this was because gasoline was \$3.00/gallon and diesel was \$1.99/gallon. Then, prices soared. We are no longer allowed to go camping, hunting, riding our ATVs, or even go fishing. It costs too much.

Not only are we feeling confined to our home, but businesses are suffering too. We are willing to pay a campground fee to have fun, but we cannot even afford to leave. We take our children to daycare, go to work, pick our children up from daycare, and go home. On Sunday, we go to church and come home. We do not have the luxury of going to the store for fun anymore with the spare change we have. Our stimulus check went into the bank to pay for future fuel costs. By the way, it's gone now.

I fully support the means of finding alternate energy not only for fuel, but for electrical power as well.

STEPHANIE L. ROVIG, *Middleton.*

I was around for the first "energy crisis" in 1973. A few years later, Americans were again reminded that our oil comes from "over there," is a finite resource, and should be conserved. But we did not listen. So here we are, thirty-five years later, with another opportunity to change our driving habits and our energy consumption. Switching to biofuels and electricity is not going to help much: the production of both consumes huge quantities of fossil fuels. Americans must conserve energy. We must learn to think differently about our energy consumption. We are like the dieter who loses fifty pounds, looks great, feels great, and then slowly gains all the weight back because he had not changed the way he thinks about food. Americans get into "feel good" mode. We walk conservation, talk conservation, and sometimes even drive conservatively. But when the newness of higher gas prices wears off, we go right back to overconsumption.