

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 an 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.

The government isn't going to help out long-term if they go after the gas and oil companies. Okay, maybe their profits seem a bit high in light of what everybody else is going through, but ultimately, conservation will affect the market and they'll have to turn down the prices. Government can subsidize mass transit and price it so that it's the economic choice. Government can reward conservation. Incentives for auto manufacturers to produce energy conscious vehicles will inspire research and could result in some little guy creating the next great automotive company, one whose main focus is energy conservation. We can change the ethos that drives our American reliance on petrochemicals. We must change the ethos, for the good of our planet and the social structures that it supports.

That is my story. Thanks for asking, Senator Crapo.

MIRIAM I. LYNGHOLM, *Moscow.*

Thank you for your proactive email on a critical issue. I am usually the one emailing you (along with Larry Craig, and Bill Sali) about whatever issue it is that I feel needs attention . . . line the still porous Southern border!! My husband and I have not done our usual weekly lunch out and our pizza night. I find, if I am lacking something for a recipe, I just do without it. Before the insanity of the current pump prices, I would just hop in the car and head to the store to get the missing item. That usually interpreted itself to a minimum \$20.00 purchase, because you always see something to just "pick up while I am there". But, no more. I find I incorporate as many errands in one trip as possible. I am definitely driving less, eating out less, and shopping less, even at the grocery.

Do I like this? Not one bit, especially when it is as unnecessary as it is. We have resources in this country that have not even been explored. Drill off the Atlantic. I have lived on the Florida Gulf coast. I know what a spill does, but the technology and safe guards are far superior to what they used to be! Move the limit out a bit, then explore. How about the shale available in Utah, Wyoming, and Colorado? I do not advocate destroying beautiful places at all. There are ways to return the earth to its previous state. We don't "scalp" the forest anymore with clear cutting. We have learned forest management. The same can be true of retrieving the oil from shale. Why then, does it take 2 years just to get the air permit to start up in those states? We won a world war in just twice that time. Surely, we can push paper faster in this crisis. Our economy is being crippled . . . one family at a time.

I hope you will vote to start exploring/drilling at a sensible distance off our shores . . . but START! The other issue is the free reign of the futures/commodity speculators and their part in all of these inflated prices. This has not happened before on this type of scale. Wasn't there some regulation in place that was done away with in the late 1990s that opened the way for this pillaging that is happening today? I implore you to take measures to stop these people who are inflating these prices and lining their pockets at the pain of others.

Thank you for writing and for your vigilance on the border (even though nothing is happening), and the gas price issues.

VIRGINIA CARTER, *Boise.*

Should be an easy one for your office to track. Follow a bbl of oil from AK, MT, WY, ND, SD, PA, TX or CA from the wellhead to the service station. You may not be able to publish what you come up with. . .

RODGER COLGAN.

I read with sadness your email on the poor plight of us Americans being consumed by

rising Energy prices. Your aim at getting more exploration for energy reserves misses the entire problem.

The problem is not that Gas prices, have gone up. Nor have housing prices or food prices increased.

You are looking at the symptom of a much bigger problem. What has changed is that the value of the dollar has decreased. As pegged by the price of gold, silver and the euro the dollar is worth less than it was in 2000. At that time gold was about \$250 per ounce, the Euro was \$.92 and Silver was somewhere around \$5.00. Today Gold is near \$900, Silver around \$17 and the euro is around \$1.55.

So Gas should be about \$5.76. Given that the price of gold has gone up over 3 times and so has silver.

The problem Senator is that the value of the Dollar or more accurately that Federal Reserve Token that most Americans refer to as the Dollar has declined.

It has declined because of the overprinting by the Federal Reserve who at Congresses request asks them to print more so they can borrow these fictitious dollars and pay back the private bankers called the Federal Reserve at an amazing profit.

When you measure gas prices and food prices against real money as defined by our constitution, i.e. Gold and Silver, gas in real terms is about a \$1.60 in 2000 terms.

One could argue that the price of Gold has also gone up in price but that is missing the point. Money as defined is a store of labor. A dollar as defined by our constitution is 25.8 grains of gold. You cannot inflate or deflate gold or silver. They are what they are. Sound. The Federal Reserve Tokens most Americans refer to as dollars, on the other hand is printed as fast or as slow as the government who borrows it. The Federal Reserve then charges interest on something that has been created out of thin air. What a business that has got to be. That is why the founders established a sound currency backed by gold. In 1913 Congress fell for a scheme to take the people's money. In 1929 Roosevelt created a banking holiday to convince the people that taking sound money from them would save the country. The people obviously confused by the recent events and nearly 20 years of advertising by the Federal Reserve Banksters were convinced that they should give up good money for worthless paper currency.

Let me give you an analogy most Americans might understand. Let us assume you are playing monopoly. We will give you a special player's piece let us call it the pig. The pig is playing like all the other players, however you, as the pig get to the coveted piece of real estate called Boardwalk. On realizing that you don't have enough money to buy Boardwalk you simply take some from the bank (Federal Reserve) and buy it. Now the other players (THE People of the U.S.) that you are playing with do not see you do this. However, after many more rolls of dice you seem to never run short of money. You simply go to the Federal Reserve and grab some more monopoly money. Now other players cannot seem to keep up. Their money is worthless. IN fact you have so much you simply bid up the price of anything you want to buy. This of course creates a huge disadvantage but you don't care you are the Pig, er government. Now the bank is asking for you to begin making those huge interest payments so now rather than the other players getting \$200 when they pass go you pass a new rule and the other players get a bill for \$200. Doesn't seem fair does it? Well that is what you and the other congressmen have been doing for the last 90+ years.

So here we are today with Congress borrowing paper currency or debt instruments

that the Federal Reserve gets to charge the people interest on. This Business by the banksters is something for nothing Banking Scam.

Real Money, Gold and Silver, does not change over time. It is sound, it is fair and when this country was founded some 230 years ago it changed an economy that was in the shambles to one of stability.

Today what does change is how many dollars Congress borrows to fund the occupation in Iraq, Afghanistan and the other 700 bases we have around the world.

The only real solution to this is to go back to a Gold Standard, and abolish the Federal Reserve, which is neither Federal nor are there any reserves. This private banking system, coupled with you and congresses overspending is what has put our economy in a tailspin that is much like the created disaster of 1929 and 1979.

Now the world no longer wants our debt and since we have no real money to pay it back with. The solution is to get back to a gold backed currency that the world can respect and trust.

It is nice that you congressmen and women point fingers as to the symptoms of the problem but you need to be pointing the fingers at yourselves who have allowed the problem. You have allowed President Bush and Dick Cheney, to run amuk with a blank check book spending money on a war that was never approved by the spineless Congress.

You can pass all the laws and resolutions you wish but they are just window dressing. Until we get sound money and Congress takes responsibility for allowing Dick Cheney to run the white house then we will continue to see our wealth erode.

My hope is that you pull all the troops home, shut down all the bases and put this country on a sound money system by eliminating the Federal Reserve. Until you stop printing and spending Federal Reserve Tokens on guns and butter the dollar will continue its free fall until the people's wealth has been confiscated by the over printing of the currency.

May God bless you Congressman if you stand up to this charade created so long ago. For our country to survive you must take a stand.

If you don't take a stand, if no one stands up for the values our founders instituted so long ago, then I fear that our country will become just like other 3rd world countries whose governments have stolen the people blind with fiat currencies like what we have here in the United States.

Good Luck.

DAVID DEHAAS.

Like you or any other politician in DC really cares about the common folk who sent them there. You all could have set forth changes to allow more exploration and development of our own oil/gas in such areas as off the coasts and in ANWR but you didn't. So I ask you again why bother acting like you care, you don't pay for gas in your car or try to buy fuel to run your farm or truck.

ALBERT MORRISON, *Ammon.*

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-435. A communication from the Chief Financial Officer, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department's competitive sourcing efforts during