

while he is guided exclusively by pragmatism (in economics, social policy, foreign policy) and science in medical ethics.

Science has everything to say about what is possible. Science has nothing to say about what is permissible. Obama's pretense that he will "restore science to its rightful place" and make science, not ideology, dispositive in moral debates is yet more rhetorical sleight of hand—this time to abdicate decision-making and color his own ideological preferences as authentically "scientific."

Dr. James Thomson, the pioneer of embryonic stem cells, said "if human embryonic stem cell research does not make you at least a little bit uncomfortable, you have not thought about it enough." Obama clearly has not.

#### KENYA

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, two human rights defenders, Oscar Kamau Kingara and John Paul Oulu, were murdered in the streets of Nairobi, Kenya 2 weeks ago. I was deeply saddened to learn of these murders and join the call of U.S. Ambassador Ranneberger for an immediate, comprehensive and transparent investigation of this crime. At the same time, we cannot view these murders simply in isolation; these murders are part of a continuing pattern of extrajudicial killings with impunity in Kenya. The slain activists were outspoken on the participation of Kenya's police in such killings and the continuing problem of corruption throughout Kenya's security sector. If these and other underlying rule of law problems are not addressed, there is a very real potential for political instability and armed conflict to return to Kenya.

In December 2007, Kenya made international news headlines as violence erupted after its general elections. Over 1,000 people were killed, and the international community, under the leadership of Kofi Annan, rallied to broker a power-sharing agreement and stabilize the government. In the immediate term, this initiative stopped the violence from worsening and has since been hailed as an example of successful conflict resolution. But as too often happens, once the agreement was signed and the immediate threats receded, diplomatic engagement was scaled down. Now over a year later, while the power-sharing agreement remains intact, the fundamental problems that led to the violence in December 2007 remain unchanged. In some cases, they have even become worse.

Last October, the independent Commission of Inquiry on Post-Election Violence, known as the Waki Commission, issued its final report. The Commission called for the Kenyan government to establish a special tribunal to seek accountability for persons bearing the greatest responsibility for the violence after the elections. It also recommended immediate and comprehensive reform of Kenya's police service. Philip Alston, the U.N. Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial killings, echoed that recommendation in his report, which was released last month.

Alston found the police had been widely involved in the post-election violence and continue to carry out carefully planned extrajudicial killings. The Special Rapporteur also identified systematic shortcomings and the need for reform in the judiciary and Office of the Attorney General.

Despite these official reports, there has been very little action toward implementing these recommendations. The Kenyan government has not taken steps to establish the special tribunal. The police commissioner and attorney general, both heavily implicated in these problems, remain in their respective posts. Meanwhile, reported scandals involving maize and oil imports suggest that public corruption in Kenya remains pervasive and may be getting worse. This is generating increased public resentment that can easily be exploited by armed militias and turn violent. I am especially worried about these heightened hostilities given the tensions expected to surround Kenya's census, which is scheduled for later this year and the potential for them to flow over into next year's constitutional referendum, and ultimately the 2012 general elections.

There is a lot of talk these days about conflict prevention. I see no greater opportunity for conflict prevention in Africa right now than in Kenya. The international community needs to coordinate its efforts to ensure the Kenyan government addresses these fundamental problems of governance and rule of law. The United States has a key role to play in this regard, especially given our longstanding and historic partnership with Kenya. To that end, I was pleased that FBI Director Robert Mueller visited Kenya 2 weeks ago and delivered a very clear message: "Public corruption should be a priority for all investigation and prosecution agencies in the country." We need to consistently reiterate that message and we need to back it up with concrete actions that both support reform and sanction individuals found guilty of kleptocracy.

In the months ahead, Kenya must get more attention from our senior government officials. I hope the Obama administration's nominee for Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs will be ready to give it that attention and develop an effective strategy for preventing conflict there. Allowing the status quo to persist will be far more costly in the long run. Kenya is an extremely important country for the stability of the Horn of Africa and East Africa; it is a country of great talent and entrepreneurship, rich history and diversity. With all those strengths, a promising and peaceful future is possible for Kenya and we must help its people to attain it.

#### 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:

Gas prices have not only affected our family for our vehicle but also in heating fuel. We live 15 miles from town and from our jobs, costing us an increase of \$400-500 a month. Our heating bills went from \$89 to \$389 a month. That has had great impact on our family. I am sure that it has on many families. Our hope is that our legislators will find us the resources that available to lower the costs. The cost of living is above our wages for many people. Be it the wind and solar power something needs to be done. Thank you for your time.

CINDY.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment. I am an architect and travel to construction sites. It is obvious. The cost goes up so I compromise with my clients; the price goes up a little to them and my already slim margin goes down. Everything is affected: transportation costs more so building materials cost more so we get less buildings and infrastructure for our money. My family gets to do less together.

The nonsense is everywhere. In Boise our Mayor wants to reinstitute a street car system. Why not create better bus schedules so people will ride and save billions? The "environmentalists" do not want us to recover our own resources because they are looking at the processes of oil, timber and mining of 50 and 100 years ago, not giving credit to the enormous progress those industries have made in their processes.

We have become a nation that consumes exponentially more than it produces. If we do not repair that imbalance, it will consume us destructively! Get the supply side in balance. Use our own resources. Bring much manufacturing home. (The unions have already priced themselves out of the market. They may have to give a little.) Extract our own resources in the environmentally safe and sound ways that are now known. Then do not export our resources.

Lastly, as I have been saying for 20 years, explore and support development of all logical alternative energy sources.

Thanks for the opportunity to do my own pontificating!!

DAVID, Boise.

Because all of the food in our area is trucked in the price of groceries is naturally going to go up. I worry about the young people that do not have large incomes and have

families to feed. Please be our voice of reason in this tough time our wages stay the same and everything else rises. Please do not let the rich run this country! Thank you for listening.

SHEILA, *Idaho Falls.*

Build nuclear energy plants.

Open ANWR, Wyoming, Utah and etc. The Great Salt Lake is covering a bed of oil, a little sludgy, but oil just the same, found by the only "off shore" rig set up there in the late 70s or early 80s.

Fight for our right to open up our off shore oil possibilities.

Tax incentives for solar energy for hot water, heating homes.

NANCY.

Thank you, Mr. Crapo, for this opportunity. In addition to my suggested impacts/solutions submitted yesterday, in addition to the obvious need to drastically streamline the NRC licensing process for nuclear reactors, perhaps the single largest improvement to dropping the costs of virtually all commodities, including crude oil, take all necessary measures to regain the value of the U.S. dollar. Its record weakness is impacting all market sectors virtually all commodities purchased abroad.

PAUL.

I think you should be pushing with all of your might to ramp up drilling for oil anywhere within our country and offshore. For too long, we have tried the policy of powder puff energy programs, ethanol, and environmentalist-led no drilling mandates. We are now trying to adjust our lives to survive the "raging successes" this policy has delivered to the American people. My family, my friends, and I are all getting really mad about this whole situation. It is blatantly obvious that our current policies are total failures. If this cannot be seen by our elected representatives, then maybe we need some new people capable of rational thought.

New technology, new power sources and innovative ways to address our energy needs are embraced and supported by the majority of Americans. However, the same majority fully understands that it will take years, even decades, to transition into these systems. While we are enduring this transition, why punish ourselves with ever-escalating energy costs by squandering our own natural resources.

Last September, I made a wonderful trip to Eastern Europe (former Iron Curtain countries). While enjoying a coffee at an outside café in "Old Warsaw", an old Polish gentleman walked up and politely asked if he could sit down and talk to me. He knew we were speaking English but was unsure if we were Americans, Canadians, Australians, etc. When I said we were Americans and he was most welcome to sit down, he was delighted. Without hesitation, he started in on me by saying "do not you Americans realize that oil is a global commodity"? We all pay the world price per barrel. He continued by saying that we were sitting on a ton of oil resources that we "smugly" refuse to develop and thereby raise the price of oil for everybody. Maybe, he said, you guys can afford it but we cannot. "We Poles simply cannot understand why it is not obvious to you what the production of 2 or 3 million barrels of oil per day by you Americans from your own resources would do to prices and your own reputation around the world". What could I say? He was right. Before leaving, the old man looked me straight in the eye and said "remember, no country is so rich that it can afford to squander it is natural resources".

Drilling is a winner in many ways. By increasing supply we will temper, even lower

prices for crude. We will decrease our dependence on hostile foreign suppliers whose production can be disrupted at any time by a few radical people. New, well-paying jobs for Americans will be developed. National security will be advanced by not depending on anyone for our energy needs. Last, but not least, we will always need petroleum. I do not care what energy source drives our cars in the future, they will roll on tires made from petroleum, their bearings and moving parts will be lubricated and cooled by petroleum based products. Our homes will be built with plumbing pipes made from petroleum. The plastics used in cars and untold millions of domestic uses are all petroleum based.

It is finally time we let the radical environmentalists know that we gave them their chance to lead us to the energy promised land and they have failed totally. The environmentalists have always been a noisy bunch while the rational thinkers have sat in the background. This is starting to change; the regular people are getting worked up and involved. Some meaningful new direction is now being demanded. The one thing we have not tried is drill and increase supply along with some new refining capability. We, at last, are getting tired of paying unbelievable prices and sending all the money offshore. We are getting tired of watching a bunch of pompous politicians hold stupid hearings and try to lay the whole problem at the feet of "Big Oil". Contrary to popular opinion, we are a little smarter than that. I do not think the politicians realize what absolute fools they are making of themselves. Are we supposed to take our business to "Little Oil"?

Bottom line, this issue is so big and important, something is going to happen, and you can count on it. Pie in the sky dreams will not make it, business as usual will not make it, and only straight forward policies that address our real energy needs in the shortest possible time will make it. It is popular among the liberal opposition to say that we cannot drill our way out of this problem. Our answer should be that we have tried all of your ideas and things have only gotten worse. It is people like you liberals who say we cannot drill and succeed, why should the average American believe your analysis when you have done nothing but fail in a huge way.

DENNY.

I have no answer to the problem other than I know doing nothing is not the answer. If 80% of Americans are in favor of offshore drilling, then why are we not doing it? I would like to see the government say to auto manufacturer who are building cars in America with only 100% American-made auto parts, build a car that can run with whatever fuel that does not need gas and we will do something to help you. I am 80 years old and not smart enough to know what that is or how to do it but if the incentive was there it would get done and make jobs for Americans.

HAROLD.

I send this letter and information speaking for myself as an individual and not the INL. I am a senior engineer at the Idaho National Laboratory with 19 years of experience working here doing heat transfer modeling. I received a Masters Degree in Mechanical Engineering from BYU in 1989. I just recently submitted a patent to the U.S. patent office through the INL concerning a method to create all of our liquid transportation fuels with a new process we are researching. The process uses high temperature steam electrolysis (HTSE) to produce hydrogen, with electricity supplied by non-fossil power plants. Biomass is used as the carbon source and heat source for this cycle. When combining

the biomass gasification products with the hydrogen produced from HTSE, liquid hydrocarbon fuels can be created with such processes as the Fischer-Tropsch process. With this process, we could make 13 million barrels of liquid hydrocarbon transportation fuel each day that would go along with 7 million barrels produced from U.S. oil supplies for the total of 20 million barrels per day that we currently use. This means that we would not need to import any oil from anyone. The success of this process includes a huge amount of fossil-free electricity. This can only be done with several hundred large nuclear electricity power plants. These plants do not need to be the NGNP or GEN-IV plants, but would be beneficial if they are. The biomass gasification would supply the heat source for the HTSE. We do not need an NGNP to supply the heat source for the HTSE. This process converts more than 90% of the carbon in the biomass to liquid fuels, while cellulosic ethanol converts only 30%.

I am absolutely convinced after many years of thinking about this that this will solve our nation's energy problems. In order to accomplish this feat, the following needs to occur:

(1) Increase the DOE funding for researching this promising cycle by:

(a) Analyze, Develop, and Build a small scale version of this production facility using Eastern Idaho biomass and create liquid hydrocarbon transportation fuels.

(b) Drastically increase the funding for High Temperature Steam Electrolysis performance, reliability, mass production, and cost.

(c) Send funding to solve the nuclear fuel cycle for recycling nuclear waste.

(2) With this huge increase in electrical power production capacity, drastically increase the fleet of U.S. vehicles using the plug-in hybrid methodology. These plug-in hybrids solve our social need to be able to use electricity for short trips to work each day, or liquid hydrocarbon fuels in a long trip across the country. These are absolutely the way to go as they are very fuel efficient and let us keep our wonderful life-style that we enjoy here in America.

(3) Absolutely under no circumstance invoke the "carbon tax". This will only send money from the rich nations to the poor nations. If I ever hear anyone use the phrase "carbon tax" again, it shows how uneducated they are on this topic. The only source of carbon to the earth's atmosphere is the combustion of fossil fuels. This is a one way street for the carbon from underground to the earth's atmosphere where it will stay for many hundreds if not thousands of years. This phrase needs to be renamed "fossil tax". You can only tax people that take the carbon out of the ground and sell it to be combusted and put in the atmosphere. All of the other carbon in the world like ethanol production needs to be left alone, because it only recycles carbon from the atmosphere back to the atmosphere again.

Thank you for your attention to this email. I would dearly love to go over all of this with you in person. Please let me know how we can meet together.

GRANT.

I thank you for the opportunity to share with you my views on climate change. My husband and I recently made the decision for me to stay home with our 9-month-old daughter. Even though this has impacted our monthly income, we nevertheless feel the increased fuel prices are a good thing for our nation. It is about time we start paying the real price of oil. When I hear stories of friends selling their trucks for smaller cars, I grin ear-to-ear. For me, the high prices have caused me to limit my trips to town

and purchase more goods online (especially from sites where the shipping is free). For my husband, he will begin commuting to work by bike two days/week. The concept of drilling for more domestic oil is a Band-aid approach to our need for more oil. We would not see the results for years and they would only be short-lived. Instead, states should be focused on building city infrastructure and public transportation systems to accommodate the new reality of high fuel prices. As a nation, we should provide incentives for alternative energy research. As a resident of Boise, I am more than willing to utilize the bus system. However, Valley Ride severely lacks what the Treasure Valley would need to make it an appealing option. I came from a city where I utilized two forms of public transportation a day (bus and light rail). It was a inconvenient in some ways but mostly wonderful considering I saved on gas money, read my book and felt great about doing 'my part' to help the environment. Besides helping residents, a new and innovative public transportation system appeals to those visiting our beautiful valley as well. Our infrastructure and public transportation system in the Treasure Valley lacks the innovation, efficiency and foresight to become a real option for those feeling the crunch of high gas prices. It is too bad that as a nation, state, and county we are so reactive to issues like this rather than leaders! Why not address the local changes that we can make right here and now that will only continue to benefit and serve us going forward?

ALLISON, Boise.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to tell how the rising cost of gasoline is affecting my family. Just yesterday, I had to cancel reservations I had made back in March for a family vacation to the Oregon Coast in September. This "yurt" vacation was going to be the highlight of our year. In fact, we had been planning it since early in March. Already living on a tight budget, this simple vacation would have been an extravagance for us. But I was only able to budget up to \$4 a gallon for gas. Now that the price of gas has reached the \$4 mark and is expected to be much higher by September, we had no choice but to cancel. We will be taking a "staycation" instead.

My husband and I share one automobile and are already conservative with our driving. Most days, he drives from our house to the nearest bus stop (about 3 miles) to take a crowded bus to work in downtown Boise. On the one to two days a week that I need the car to drive to work, I have to get him to and from the bus. We have been doing this for over a year now. Our budget already required this of us when gas prices were under \$3 a gallon. We seem to have no other way to cut back. My husband has been trying to get a job near where we live which would enable him to ride his bicycle to work but, so far, he hasn't been able to. For us, driving less to save dollars at the pump means giving up some time we would usually spend visiting with family and friends, most of whom live 30 miles from us.

Perhaps the biggest way this has affected my family is that we have continued to be unable to afford health insurance. Though my husband has had a couple of good raises over the past year and a half (and is insured through his employer), those raises were eaten up in rising fuel and grocery prices. So, I have been unable to budget in the nearly \$400 month it would cost to put myself and our two boys on health insurance.

Again, thank you for this opportunity!

SUSAN, Meridian.

I do not know if this will really help you, but anything is worth a try, especially for the whole of the United States.

My story begins about a year ago, when I discovered I was pregnant. My husband is blind! He receives SSI. Because of this, if I work fulltime and gross \$1,400 in a month, the United States government takes away his SSI. OK, no problem. If I claim our daughter and my husband, then not enough taxes will be taken out, and I will owe at the end of the year and struggle to pay what I will owe. If I do not claim our daughter and my husband, then to survive every month will be a challenge because my net income (take home) will be roughly half and then that leaves little to pay the bills (as if we have enough now). So I work parttime, and we still cannot pay all our bills.

Our electricity bill was over \$200 in one month, during this last winter. With our daughter being a newborn, we just did not want to risk the temperature lower than 65 degrees, which is where we kept our thermostat, just to try to keep the electric bill down. We did receive energy assistance; that helped. However we are still behind in our electric bill, and, to be perfectly honest with you, if I was to work fulltime, I could not afford the fuel in the car. My car is a 1989 GEO Tracker which gets up to 25-28 miles per gallon. So where does that leave my husband, our daughter and me? Broke and completely reliant on the government to survive, especially with the cost of food going up. Our \$900 stimulus check is not going to the economy; it is going to pay credit card debt, just as my income tax return did.

Well, hopefully this will help you in your fight on Capitol Hill.

CHRISSEY, Sagle.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### RECOGNIZING DUKE EYE CENTER

• Mr. BURR. Mr. President, today I recognize the Duke Eye Center in North Carolina for its determined efforts to promote awareness, treatment, and prevention of glaucoma. Glaucoma, an optic nerve disease, is the leading cause of incurable blindness in the United States. Worldwide, 70 million people suffer from the disease, 2.2 million of those in the United States. Because the disease does not usually show signs until the point that irreversible vision loss occurs, the development of early detection and prevention strategies is imperative.

We recently observed World Glaucoma Day, on March 12, 2009. In light of this important observance, I express my thanks for the researchers and staff at the Duke Eye Center, who are devoted to the task of uncovering the cause of glaucoma. Historically, most research and treatment has focused on reducing elevated pressure within the eye. However, not everyone with glaucoma has elevated pressure, and not everyone with elevated pressure develops glaucoma. Researchers at the Duke Eye Center are working diligently to uncover other possible causes of the disease. Researchers and clinicians have excellent working relationships, collaborating on genomics, oxidative stress, and even links to Alzheimer's disease. They are performing cutting edge research, while at the same time delivering cutting edge patient care.

In 2008, Ophthalmology Times ranked the Duke Eye Center fourth best

among U.S. ophthalmology programs. I applaud their hard work and achievements in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of glaucoma.●

#### HONORING BANCROFT CONTRACTING CORPORATION

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize a Maine small enterprise that epitomizes the values and commitment necessary to excel not only as a business, but also as a leader in the community. Bancroft Contracting Corporation, located in the western Maine town of South Paris, is one of the leading general contractors in Maine, and does superb work in industrial and commercial markets throughout New England. I am extremely proud to report that the Small Business Administration has named Bancroft's president, Mark A. Bancroft, the 2009 Maine Small Business Person of the Year.

Bancroft Contracting is a second-generation, family-owned company that provides a wide range of construction and industrial maintenance services to an array of diverse markets. Founded in 1977 by Al Bancroft, the firm's customers include pulp and paper manufacturers, power-generating companies, State transportation departments, and cement and plastics manufacturers. Additionally, Bancroft Contracting supplies thousands of cubic yards of reinforced concrete every season for a variety of projects that include dams, bridges, and large commercial foundations. The company employs more than 130 construction professionals in the winter months and upwards of 200 in the summer. Bancroft's employees represent a wide spectrum of construction professions, from structural welders and pipe fitters, to riggers and ironworkers, and they all possess an extraordinary level of expertise in their specialized areas.

Bancroft Contracting prides itself on relationship-based customer service, and the company responds diligently to all customer requests in a prompt and efficient manner. In a similar vein, Bancroft takes care to contribute significantly to the well-being of the western Maine community. Organizations and institutions that have benefited from Bancroft's generous contributions and services over the years include the University of Maine, the area school department, the Boy Scouts, various local sports teams, Kiwanis, and the Rotary Club.

As Bancroft's president for the past 7 years, Mark Bancroft has had a significant impact on the company's direction. He is a graduate of the construction management technology program in the School of Engineering Technology at the University of Maine. Notable, he started his tenure at Bancroft Contracting at the age of 14 and continued working for the company throughout high school and college. Mr. Bancroft learned the business at an early age and received critical training