

fails to do so, will inevitably take until the eve of the next deadline to try again. And I am willing to predict that after a semester with Rich, his students will know well that a gorilla in an idiom should always weigh 800 pounds and that they will pay close attention to the President's appraisal of the State of our Union.

For one more glimpse of Rich's great accrued wisdom, look at his office. Inside Rich's office, he has posted a quote from Confucious. It reads: "When you know a thing, to hold that you know it; and when you do not know a thing, to allow that you do not know it—this is knowledge."

That is the brand of excellence that Rich brought to all his work in the Senate, and that approach is why he has been such a trusted and important adviser to me, as well as to other Senators. And when he does not know a thing, he figures it out. Rich, thank you for your work on behalf of the people of the State of Michigan, mastering their issues, applying your legislative skills to their benefit. Thank you for your service to the Nation in the Senate, advancing the spirit of thoughtful bipartisanship that makes this body work. Thank you helping me navigate the murky waters of Senate procedure and precedent for all these years. And thank you for your friendship and for being—day-in and day-out—the kind of staff member that a Senator can be proud of.

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:

I am a college student in Pocatello at ISU in the Physician Assistant Program. My husband is a real estate agent and we own a few rentals in town. I wanted to comment on the effect that rising energy prices have had on the real estate market. Generally spring and summer are boom time in Idaho's real estate

market. But we have noticed a sharp downturn in the market in Pocatello this spring. There are a glut of homes on the market and nothing is moving. It is as if everyone is holding their breath, glad to have a home, and not ready to move. I am sure things will move, but prices have dropped significantly.

I am glad to hear you are concerned about this. Both my husband and I agree. Drill here, drill now. If we have untapped energy reserves in the United States . . . we are fools! We need to be accessing our own resources, creating jobs, growing our economy, and saving ourselves money. I am sure we can do it in a responsible way with minimal effect on the environment. I do not want to damage our environment, but if it costs us our economic liberty to do it . . . I say drill.

ANNIE and JASON DIXON.

Thank you for your email. Most citizens do not feel that Washington is aware of our concerns or listening . . . and here you are asking . . . thank you.

To Whom It May Concern:

Our family is a 5th generation Idaho family. We have worked hard for 40 years to teach our family to accept responsibility for themselves and their success. There are no free-loaders in our family. Now, because of the current economic trend, we are all very concerned about our future in spite of our hard work and sacrifices. Higher energy prices have caused concern in every corner of our lives and every time we go to the pump or pay our utility bills our concerns are heightened and reaffirmed. Fear is a great motivator . . . unfortunately it is a negative motivator and we are seeing the results dramatically.

We have seen the negative impact in every household in our family. Our son-in-law is a very successful Realtor and his business is off 50% from last year. Another son-in-law has his own construction company. His business is off 40% from last year. My son and I have a very successful commercial real estate business and typically earn over \$400,000 a year. We have only had one closing this year. Buyers are hesitant to move forward because of the current economic concerns. Our youngest son was planning on starting his own business using the degree he obtained from college but now he feels he must find employment elsewhere. Another son began building his own home this winter and is now questioning whether he should move into his dream home or sell it and find something much smaller.

These are not minor inconveniences. These are life changing concerns and we can do nothing to change or control them.

The economic status of our country is critically out of control because of poor judgment and planning on the part of the policy makers in Washington. Because of years of doing nothing to plan and prepare for the future the security and success of our entire family is now being threatened. We are fearful, we are disappointed and we are angry.

It is alarming to think that the policies of our government leaders have caused such a life altering situation. Wouldn't you think that the country who championed capitalism would understand the law of supply and demand? Wouldn't you think that the brightest and best that have been sent to Washington would have seen this crisis coming?

We do not blame the oil companies. The government has kept their hands tied for years. We blame you . . . the policy makers and leaders of this nation. Now the light of truth is shining brightly and we can all see the results of listening to the special interest groups who only care about their own selfish interests. Washington has put this country and its citizens in a perilous and

fearful situation. Fear leads to anger. Anger leads to anarchy.

It is time for Washington to stop "looking" at the situation like spectators and start "fixing" the problems with real solutions that work. It is time for Washington to wake up to the reality of where we are at and the impact of their neglect. Washington has neglected reason and ignored the writing on the wall. At what price?

Americans can make this country strong and independent again if the bureaucrats and the special interest groups will just get out of our way.

We are very grateful that we have our faith and our family. We will weather this unnecessary storm but what about the rest of the people who call this nation home? I guess if Washington fails to stop the insanity we can always feed our children spotted owls and polar bears.

Please Senator Crapo. Do not let us down. This is just the tip of the iceberg. If we do not do something now who knows what the next crisis will be and how far this country will fall into chaos.

DENNIS and JANETTE STEVENS, *Idaho Falls*.

I am 22 years old and when I first started driving only a short 7 years ago, at that time it cost me 35-40 dollars to fill my truck, today it cost just over 100 dollars. Do the math that is a huge increase and most of which has been in the past few years. I am currently spending 400+ dollars a month on gas. This new cost is taking a big hit on me and my savings account which I am relying on since I will never see all that money I pay into social security. You guys in Congress just don't seem to get how angry the American people are at your lack of caring on how we feel. Remember we are the ones who elected you to represent us not your own interests or lobbyists. Please start doing your jobs and look out for the interests of the greatest country in the world. Drill for our own oil now. I know it will not be an immediate help but imagine if we do nothing, we apparently never learned from the 70s. Thanks for at least asking our opinion and please relay the messages to the rest of Congress.

ANDREW.

I'm a bit disappointed in the way you have phrased your plea. You are only asking for horror stories and looking for support to find ways to decrease fuel costs and increase fuel supplies. I am affected by fuel costs as much as the next person, but I try to look at the larger picture and I wish you would to. Easily available and cheap fossil fuels has been a major problem for our country and for humanity in general. It got us through the industrial revolution and was responsible, in no small way, for much that is good in our society. Unfortunately, it also causes much harm. Some examples:

- (1) Global warming
- (2) International policy driven by a need to ensure a continuing oil supply
- (3) The loss of great public transportation systems, such as the light rail system that served the treasure valley for decades
- (4) The loss of our freight rail system in favor of an enormously powerful trucking industry that is much more costly to the environment and dangerous to the public.

I am sure the list could go on.

So, I propose that we look at the opportunities created by high oil prices—the opportunity to develop alternative energy sources, the opportunity to emphasize public transportation, the opportunity to begin weaning ourselves from dependence on foreign sources of fuel. I know that my opinion is not popular, but I believe we have not yet got to the point where fuel costs are painful

enough to effect the changes we need. I would be happier if you put your considerable weight behind legislation for real change rather than patching a bad system.

Thank you for your concern, Senator. I just wish you shared mine.

DAVE.

As a full time student working two jobs, paying outrageous prices that continue to rise makes it difficult to manage. College education is extremely important to my future and my success in life, yet with the increases of gas prices and school tuition work is a priority over education. Many, including myself, are feeling the pressures of paying bills, working, and going to school forces us to choose work over our education. Some ideas to decrease the prices of gas (oil) would be to drill off the coast line, provide better public transportation in and around Boise (trains, metros, etc), better access to roads for bicycles, or use some of our oil reserve. I also think that we need to hold oil/gas industry accountable. I also think that banning plastic bags would help with energy and the environment. Promoting closer vacations or trips within Idaho would be a good idea. Through a mass transit system (trains, etc) that would link our cities together would help increase tourism and would help encourage our own to venture out without the worry of high costs.

REBEKAH WEST.

Sometimes it appears that the United States Congress, charged with taking care of the needs of the People of the country, is instead preoccupied with representing the few and the extreme—the special interests and the so-called environmentalists. I cannot believe that we would prohibit our own country from drilling for oil off of our own shores, but other countries are doing so. Where is the logic behind barring oil exploration in Alaska while our nation is bleeding economically due to buying oil from our avowed social and political foes abroad? Other, equally destructive policies arise from the hoax of global warming and the thought that, even if it is real, that we can combat it unilaterally. Considering that China, for instance, is ramping up its energy demands with no concern for its unbridled pollution. We are frittering away our competitive edge on the economic and political theaters. Our irrational fear of nuclear power and the thought that hydrogen powered cars will cure our need for fossil fuels (where do we believe the electrical power to accomplish this inefficient process comes from?) will continue to bankrupt us.

Now, for the direct, personal impact of our irresponsible energy policies: We are a middle class family with six children. Our standard of living is being constantly driven downward by the rising costs that energy imposes on food, heating, travel, and just the cost of doing business. While the buying power of my dollar continues to fall, and many necessities have recently risen in cost by double digit percentage points, my salary has remained stagnant. Even such an important event as visiting my elderly parents in an adjacent state has been curtailed due to outrageous gas prices. We live in Idaho and my parents moved from California to northern Utah to be closer to us. While in the past, our visits to look in on and help them were typically monthly, now we visit them only a couple of times a year. We feel that we are not meeting our obligations and this situation is prone only to further deterioration. We are struggling with keeping our oldest son in college and the prospects for higher education for his siblings are dwindling, although this is a priority for our family.

Everywhere we look, we observe negative trends. Where can we look to for help aside

from our government, which appears not to hear our pleas? In fact, our understanding of the energy and trade intentions of Congress convinces us that things will get far worse. We are striving to live responsibly and within our means. We do not note the same disciplined approach from our national and local governments.

ERIC and MELANIE KUNS.

I am contacting you with a story I thought would be of significant value to the people of the Treasure Valley. The outrageous gas prices are killin' everyone—us included (Boy Howdy.). Remember a few months ago, a story hit the news about a guy in Weiser trying to develop a "green technology" device to place inside your engine? He's hoping to have his research done in one year, then begin the developing process. Boy, do I have some news for you.

Living Green Hybrid Kits (that's us) is proud to offer a Complete, Ready-To Install Water-Burning Hybrid Unit. Now. Today. We are running a unit right now, in my husbands' POJ (piece of junk) work truck . . . all I can say is wow. We are so excited about what this will mean to countless others . . . Just imagine increasing your Miles Per Gallon 37 percent to 150 percent while preventing pollution and the resulting global warming.

Want more, how about a \$2,000.00 Tax Refund for using "Green Technology" in your vehicle. Please visit our website: buyhybridkits.com for more info. Feel free to call me at 549-8083. I look forward to speaking with you.

Have a Green Day.

DONNA DRUMHELLER.

I think we all know that our government has done nothing for long enough. My son is a finish-carpenter and has to spend the night in his truck at jobs he has not completed because he cannot afford the gas to go back and forth. If we had a government concerned about us, we wouldn't need to send emails to tell you how much poor people are suffering.

And another thing—My house and barber shop were reappraised this year, so my taxes could be increased.

Don't you think it is about time the government cut some jobs and programs like the rest of us are having to?

Thanks for listening.

TOM SMITH, *Parma.*

The Country's present economic condition mandates immediate action. The oil companies have had consecutive years of record breaking earnings. It is time for the industry to reinvest some of those earnings in the country and the people that have "Demanded the Supply". The United States needs to show that we are capable not only of producing but producing a quality product that will aid the environment and provide jobs for the population at the same time. I grew up in the Southern California area where the undulating pumps helped to produce the oil that was refined into the end product. Again we are hearing we must maintain a global economy. It is very hard to think global when local (friends, family, and neighbors) are working twice as hard and ending up with half as much.

PAT, *Middleton.*

As an Idaho public educator, the increases in energy and food costs have made life increasingly difficult. I may have to give up my career in public education and seek employment in the private sector to be able to meet my financial obligations (such as student loan payments).

I have not seen any benefit from the government's expenditures on alternative fuel

sources (such as bio-diesel). I believe that we should work to end our dependence on foreign oil by taking advantage of our domestic resources. I believe we should increase domestic drilling (using environmentally responsible practices). I appreciate you seeking the opinion of your constituents. I hope that our opinions will be taken into account on a national level and that action will be taken soon.

ERICA HARDY.

I would love for you to have Congress and those who are opposing drilling for our own resources what a low income family faces. My family has struggled to make ends meet and when we finally figure it out gas prices go up, or someone needs to go to the doctor. My husband drives 150 miles a week for work, we are now looking at \$200 plus, a month on gas just for work forget running to the store to get things we need. We have received help from our church but they can only help so far. We just barely make too much to get food stamps or health care help. Our level pay on our power and gas keep going up whenever we get behind and finally get it caught up again. I do not understand why Obama and other Democrats will not drill for oil because "it takes too long" as I have been told they were saying the same thing about ten years ago and if they didn't have their heads up a certain body part then we probably wouldn't be in this position. Senator you have asked us for our opinion please don't let those who have voted for you and have taken some faith in your interest down. My family lives in the South Eastern part of the state and when we traveled down the first of March we were paying \$2.97 in gas and now that we are looking at another trip down we are looking at paying over \$4.00 a gallon for gas. My mom is paying our way. Not to mention that where she lives gas is the first to go up and the last to go down because the closest town for gas is 30 miles away. You asked us now please try to make a difference I want someone in Congress to please show me how I am supposed to make ends meet with DAILY rising fuel prices. If they refuse to do what is needed to help because it will take too long then by all means please come to my house and live on my income for a few months and show me how I am supposed to make ends meet.

KIM, *Meridian.*

This was an email sent to me by my father, a former Idaho resident who now lives in Nebraska. You may even be familiar with his name. He was quite an advocate for you. I have an Expedition that we purchased only this past December. It cost us \$60 to fill it then, now it costs me over \$100. I know that the answer to high fuel costs will not come immediately, but we must act now. Or we will not have a future. We must start drilling. The ANWR in Alaska must be opened to us. This country is filled with oil rich deposits. We must increase our refining capacity, we must create new oil fields. The level of environmental awareness is so far beyond that of 30 years ago that the concerns of big business doesn't exist the way it did then. The oil spills of the 70's aren't our future. Times have changed and the environmentalists have to be made to see that and that they are destroying our freedom and way of life. I have five grown sons and I fear for their future. I am grateful that I am not raising children in this day and age, but I am sorry for my children that they have to face such a future. The liberals and environmentalists of Washington D.C. are destroying our future, you must be counted and stand up and fight for us. I no longer vote for the lesser of the evils, I now vote for the person who I believe is the best leader for our

future. That means I'm voting for Ron Paul. Will he win? Not a chance, but will I vote for someone that will continue the selling of this country down the river? Not a chance! Please help be a part of changing our future.

SONJA STRONG, *Payette.*

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

FASHION WEEK CLEVELAND

• Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to recognize the importance of an upcoming event in my State—Fashion Week Cleveland—and its unique contributions to Ohio.

Fashion Week Cleveland is an annual convention and conference that will be held May 1-9, 2009, at cultural institutions throughout northeast Ohio, including Cleveland, Akron, Canton, Elyria, and Lorain.

The event, known as an educational fashion week, incorporates traditional runway shows, as well as exhibits, lectures, films, and seminars, to inform consumers and industry leaders about the history, cultural importance, and economic contributions of the fashion industry. Its educational events will be held at area galleries, libraries, museums, theaters, and universities, bringing positive attention to many northeast Ohio locations.

This year, Fashion Week Cleveland will highlight "green-sustainability" in a special show that coincides with the United Nations' Year of the Natural Fibre. This event will feature garments made of natural fibers produced in Ohio.

The Cleveland Fashion Show, the central event of Fashion Week Cleveland, is recognized across the country as a distinctive showcase for American designers. Fashion Week Cleveland is also nationally recognized as the third largest fashion industry event in the United States, after events held in New York and Los Angeles.

I am proud that Fashion Week Cleveland will contribute significantly to the economic growth of Ohio. Restaurants, hotels, stores, and other retail establishments will benefit tremendously from the patronage of Fashion Week Cleveland attendees. This event will serve a positive catalyst for achievement in fashion design, manufacture, education, and retail growth, as well as an important occasion to showcase northeast Ohio as a center of vibrant innovation and creativity.●

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL ROBIN E. SQUELLATI

• Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I would like to recognize a great American and a dedicated Air Force officer who has diligently served in my office for the past year.

Colonel Squellati was born in San Rafael, CA, and entered the Air Force in 1986 after earning her bachelor of science in nursing from New York

State University. She earned her master of science in nursing from California State University, Dominguez Hills. Her assignments include commander, 47th Medical Operations Squadron, 47th Medical Group, Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas; commander, 321st Expeditionary Medical Group, Masirah, Oman; commander, 72nd Medical Operations Squadron, 72nd Medical Group, Tinker AFB, Oklahoma; and deputy group commander, 72nd Medical Group, Tinker AFB, Oklahoma.

Colonel Squellati served as a principal legislative adviser to myself and the congressional committee staff on health, nursing and defense health. She drafted health related authorization and appropriations language for introduction to the Senate. She collaborated with committee staffers, constituents, and Tri-Service military personnel, attended committee hearings, prepared background information and questions for witnesses, and coordinated the development of Senate bills and amendments through Senate committees and conference committees. In addition, she made recommendations to the Senator on floor proceedings, funding requests, report language, and cosponsorship legislation.

Colonel Squellati served with valor and profoundly impacted Federal nursing issues within the 110th Congress. Her performance reflects exceptionally on herself, the Air Force, the Department of Defense, and the United States of America. I extend my deepest appreciation to Colonel Squellati on behalf of a grateful Nation for her year of dedicated service in the 110th Congress.●

TRIBUTE TO CALDWELL AUTO PARTS & TOWING

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, there are many ways in which businesses can and do give back to their local communities. From companies whose employees volunteer at food pantries to firms that sponsor teams in their town's Little League program, America's small enterprises are magnanimous forces in the cities and towns where they operate. I rise today to highlight the tremendous gift of one business, Caldwell Auto Parts & Towing, to the town of Limestone, a small town of roughly 2,400 in far northern Maine.

Caldwell Auto Parts & Towing has been in Limestone for the last 10 years, under the ownership of brothers Scott and Robbie Caldwell. Prior to that, the company was located in Caswell, one town north of Limestone, on the U.S. border with New Brunswick, Canada. A family-owned small business, the company is dedicated to providing quality auto parts to its clientele, as well as responsive and safe towing.

Caldwell's has long been known for its generosity within town, but its latest act of kindness was a true surprise. Robbie and Scott Caldwell, wanting to celebrate the tenth year of their busi-

ness' operation in town, decided to give back to the community in a unique and lasting manner. They determined that donating one of their vehicles—a 2006 Ford Explorer—to the Limestone Police Department would represent an unparalleled gift. After contacting the town manager and police chief to make the gift a reality, the Caldwells fitted the vehicle with a full police package, making it ready to use without any investments by the town.

What makes the vehicle even more special is that it is replacing one of Limestone's police cruisers that suffered significant damage during whiteout conditions last winter. The new vehicle has four wheel drive and studded tires, making it more effective to drive during the long and snowy winter months in Aroostook County.

People in Limestone have long known the Caldwells for their kindness and charity. Active members of their community and the local chamber of commerce, Caldwell's has been critical in assisting the town's recreation department, including sponsoring T-shirts for youth basketball teams. Additionally, Caldwell's has made significant donations to Project Graduation, a Maine-wide program that promotes safe, drug-free graduation parties, including contributing one of their vehicles for the group's use in the Limestone Fourth of July parade.

Caldwell Auto Parts & Towing understands the meaning of being a good neighbor. Over the years, they have sought new and distinctive ways to make a difference in their community, and have garnered much good will. As Donna Bernier, Limestone's town manager, noted, "The Caldwells have made significant impacts on the community and they continue to do so." I wish Scott and Robbie Caldwell and everyone at Caldwell Auto Parts & Towing the very best, and thank them for their contributions to a safer and stronger Limestone.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting nominations which were referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The nomination received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

At 9:33 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by