

every five to ten miles. Here we must travel sometimes 50 to 80 miles between towns. Sometimes farther to purchase items from larger cities.

I think it is wise to look at the bigger picture and try to figure out where we can save fuel and where we cannot. I think that shipping products by rail is one very, very efficient way to use fuel. Unfortunately for most shippers the slow movement of products by rail discourages most of us from using this efficient means of transportation. If our government provided railroads with the funds needed to improve their infrastructure by double, triple, or even quadruple tracking the most efficient corridors, we may divert the thousands of inefficient trucks from using so much diesel fuel. It is possible to move products by rail nearly as fast as trucks can. This may in turn reduce demand and thus reduce the cost of fuel for the average citizens of Idaho.

DIRK.

I think that the oil companies should increase the production because it is putting our nation's truck drivers out of business and without truck drivers who will carry our freight.

CHARLIE, *Boise*.

I am from Burley, but am presently teaching English in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. I am sure you know that these gasoline prices Americans are now paying have been this high, or generally, much higher, in Europe, Asia, and Africa. We Americans do not have any room to whine, but rather we simply need to learn how to cope, like the rest of the world. Gas is ten bucks a gallon in the UK. Thailand is around the same, as is Japan. I say let us Americans experience what the rest of the world has been experiencing for many years.

BOB.

I am a retired federal employee, after 40 years of federal service as an air traffic controller, and six years military. I feel I have a voice as to what should happen in my retirement. My fuel costs have now exceed my food costs, which means less food. Having a small retirement fixed income means sacrifices in food, medical treatment, and other necessary expenses. The irony of it all is it is not necessary. Stop China's offshore drilling into our oil, authorize ANWR, stop exporting our Alaskan oil, listen intently to the Governor of Alaska and her solutions for some of our energy problems. Get all of our alternative energy systems up and running now, not next year, now. Just because other governments have failed, is it just fashionable that we should cause ours to fail??? Also, we as a people should be very embarrassed, with the way we have conducted our political fiasco the last few months. It has been a total disgrace.

GENE.

I am sending you this email in response to your questions on how energy prices are affecting me. I have a family of eight. We cannot downsize to a more fuel-efficient vehicle. We will have driven about 5,000 miles this summer just for family vacation, family reunions, and church camps. That is about \$1,300 in gas, assuming it averages \$4.00 per gallon. In addition, we are the kids' taxi for soccer, piano, guitar, dance, scouts, and other activities. Rising energy prices are causing a noticeable rise in the food prices for a family of 8. I am also a small business owner struggling to keep my business going. I have to travel. Airplane and rental car prices have gone up noticeably.

To address this issue, I think first priority is to increase drilling in the Gulf and ANWR

and build new domestic refineries. We know how to do that—we can do it relatively quickly. Once our foreign oil sources see that we are serious about domestic production, they will lower the prices to get us to forget about it and be complacent again. It will be a few years before our new oil rigs and refineries come online but the message to the world will be clear. Do not let the government impact big oil with extra taxes or limits. Nuclear and other alternative energy sources are good but will take too long to come online and have an impact. But we need to foster companies to develop those sources. Conservation by getting people to change their behavior is impractical and temporary. Conservation by developing new technologies will help our energy situation. I am helping develop technology with a client, Green Plug ([www.greenplug.us](http://www.greenplug.us)), that will conserve electrical energy. In summary, let big oil and other energy companies flourish. Let capitalism work its wonders.

GARY, *Boise*.

My husband and I returned from Arizona yesterday, after being away from home for six weeks. The reason that we went to Arizona was to visit the Mayo Clinic, since the ailment my husband had was unable to be treated here. We are blessed to have family in the Phoenix area, so we were able to stay with them. The very big expense was the price we had to pay for fuel going and coming back. We live in McCall, and any time we need to see a specialist we have to drive to Boise which is a 100 miles away. Again the price of gas is choking us. It is sad to know that we have oil available in this country, but that Congress does everything to stop us from getting it. We listened to President Bush's speech today, and agree wholeheartedly with what he said. Our view is also that we need to develop nuclear power, and any other means of keeping this country self reliant.

LOUISE, *McCall*.

I am writing concerning the high cost of fuel, and in hopes that you and your fellow Senators will act and do something to give us relief. My husband and I own a small business doing demolition and excavation. We own one tractor truck and several pieces of heavy equipment. We are a "one-man" operation. Just the other day we paid \$4.34 a gallon for off-road diesel. On road diesel is even higher. It takes almost \$1,000 to fill the tanks on the truck. Because of the slowdown in the building market around here, jobs are hard to come by. We can only afford to raise our rates so much—then we lose the business all together.

On a different note, my mother and sister have both been unemployed for a few months. They both just got jobs in another city about 15 miles away. They both get paid \$9.00 an hour and work about 30 hours a week. We are very excited that they are now able to stop receiving government aid. However, with the price of gasoline over \$4 a gallon in the end they will hardly make enough to pay their rent and other bills. (They work in different places doing one-on-one care for special needs children and are unable to carpool either.) This, to me, is a sad state of affairs when people should be excited about supporting themselves, but are still unsure of whether they can.

I grew up in Texas during the oil boom in the 80s. Drilling for oil there did not hurt anyone I knew. I am sure that technologies have improved over the past two decades, so any environmental concerns should be taken care of. I do not understand why we are not taking advantage of the resources we have in our own country to provide for ourselves as well as provide much needed jobs for our

citizens. Please lift the ban on off-shore exploration, oils shale production, and drilling in ANWR. Also, has the idea of suspending the federal fuel tax for period of time been dismissed? This would provide immediate short-term relief. Please encourage your counterparts to consider the working class of America. We need a break!

SHELLI.

I am very concerned about ever-increasing energy costs. I completely agree with your policy of searching for alternative sources of energy. Also, [I am concerned that Congress is out of touch with regular Americans] Please talk to your peers about doing whatever it takes to get things going on alternative means of energy and increasing exploration and refining facilities for oil.

ROBERTO, *Payette*.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES DURING ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of March 26, 2009, the following reports of committees were submitted on March 27, 2009:

By Mr. CONRAD, from the Committee on the Budget, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 13. An original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2010, revising the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2009, and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2011 through 2014.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS DURING ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE

On March 27, 2009, under the authority of the order of the Senate of March 26, 2009, the following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CONRAD:

S. Con. Res. 13. An original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2010, revising the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2009, and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2011 through 2014; from the Committee on the Budget; placed on the calendar.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mr. BEGICH):

S. 734. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the capacity of the Department of Veterans Affairs to recruit and retain physicians in Health Professional Shortage Areas and to improve the provision of health care to veterans in rural areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 735. A bill to ensure States receive adoption payments for fiscal year 2008 in accordance with the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself and Mr. VOINOVICH):

S. 736. A bill to provide for improvements in the Federal hiring process and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. UDALL of Colorado):

S. 737. A bill to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to authorize the Secretary of Energy to conduct research, development, and demonstration to make biofuels more compatible with small nonroad engines, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mr. BOND, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. 738. A bill to amend the Consumer Credit Protection Act to assure meaningful disclosures of the terms of rental-purchase agreements, including disclosures of all costs to consumers under such agreements, to provide certain substantive rights to consumers under such agreements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. 739. A bill to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to study drywall imported from China in 2004 through 2007, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SPECTER:

S. 740. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the homebuyer tax credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SPECTER:

S. 741. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose a flat tax only on individual taxable earned income and business taxable income, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CHAMBLISS (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. PRYOR):

S. 742. A bill to expand the boundary of the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site in the State of Georgia, to redesignate the unit as a National Historical Park, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. UDALL of New Mexico:

S. 743. A bill to require air carriers to provide training for flight attendants and gate attendants regarding serving alcohol, recognizing intoxicated passengers, and dealing with disruptive passengers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BURR (for himself, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. Res. 89. A resolution expressing support for designation of a "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. DODD, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. NELSON of Florida):

S. Res. 90. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the Fifth Summit of the Americas, held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, April 17, 18, and 19, 2009; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. Res. 91. A resolution calling on the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to take action on issues relating to drywall imported from China; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. LINCOLN (for herself and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. Con. Res. 14. A concurrent resolution supporting the Local Radio Freedom Act; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 42

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 42, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to preserve and protect Social Security benefits of American workers and to help ensure greater congressional oversight of the Social Security system by requiring that both Houses of Congress approve a totalization agreement before the agreement, giving foreign workers Social Security benefits, can go into effect.

S. 146

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 146, a bill to amend the Federal antitrust laws to provide expanded coverage and to eliminate exemptions from such laws that are contrary to the public interest with respect to railroads.

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 146, *supra*.

S. 148

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 148, a bill to restore the rule that agreements between manufacturers and retailers, distributors, or wholesalers to set the minimum price below which the manufacturer's product or service cannot be sold violates the Sherman Act.

S. 253

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 253, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the application of the homebuyer credit, and for other purposes.

S. 254

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 254, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of home infusion therapy under the Medicare Program.

S. 372

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 372, a bill to amend chapter 23 of title 5, United States Code, to clarify the disclosures of information pro-

tected from prohibited personnel practices, require a statement in nondisclosure policies, forms, and agreements that such policies, forms, and agreements conform with certain disclosure protections, provide certain authority for the Special Counsel, and for other purposes.

S. 388

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WEBB) was added as a cosponsor of S. 388, a bill to extend the termination date for the exemption of returning workers from the numerical limitations for temporary workers.

S. 414

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 414, a bill to amend the Consumer Credit Protection Act, to ban abusive credit practices, enhance consumer disclosures, protect underage consumers, and for other purposes.

S. 423

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 423, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize advance appropriations for certain medical care accounts of the Department of Veterans Affairs by providing two-fiscal year budget authority, and for other purposes.

S. 428

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 428, a bill to allow travel between the United States and Cuba.

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) were added as cosponsors of S. 428, *supra*.

S. 448

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 448, a bill to maintain the free flow of information to the public by providing conditions for the federally compelled disclosure of information by certain persons connected with the news media.

S. 455

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 455, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of 5 United States Army Five-Star Generals, George Marshall, Douglas MacArthur, Dwight Eisenhower, Henry "Hap" Arnold, and Omar Bradley, alumni of the United States Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, to coincide with the celebration of the 132nd Anniversary of the founding of the United States Army Command and General Staff College.