

IDAHOANS SPEAK OUT ON HIGH ENERGY PRICES

Mr. CRAPO. Madam 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 heart-breaking 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:

My husband and I live in Grand View on a cowboy's wages plus my disability. We were having a hard time just making it because of my medical bills. Now, with the cost of fuel, I have had to cut back on how many visits I make to doctors. It is a huge drain on our budget just getting to Mountain Home to buy the few groceries that we can afford, let alone go to Boise every month. We have horses to feed so our hay costs have more than doubled and the idea of just letting them loose on the desert is abhorrent to us. There are lots of people doing that because they cannot feed their animals anymore.

You know what is really sad? It is sad that all of these prices are based upon what might happen. A hurricane might hit the Gulf. I watch the stock market and wonder how they sleep at night when most of the decisions are based upon what might be or could happen. I understand paying more when there is a shortage or cost is high but why is it that in July/Aug we are being punished for what might happen in November? Maybe these people need to spend a year living off a cowboy's wage before they are allowed to make decisions that affect people they have nothing in common with?

KIM and LISA.

My husband and I are on fixed incomes and are having a very hard time making ends meet. My husband is 69 years old and is still having to work as I had to take a disability from my job with [the local] school district. I have worked in the special needs program for 22 of those years and have just worn my body out. I am on Social Security, but with them taking out almost \$95 a month for medical which does not cover vision or dental. I had to have a hip replaced besides all the other things that are wrong. If they keep up trying to take away or just quit having Social Security, what are we supposed to do? I have tried to get my disability from PERSI and they keep telling me if I can help my daughter with her kids two weeks out of the month, then I should be able to continue my job. I told them that there is quite a difference in lifting a 20-pound child who can help you to helping lift kids that weigh from

90 to 150 pounds and cannot help you. I dropped my granddaughter when she was six months old on her head because of my shoulders. I cannot afford to hurt a child at school or one of the other aides and be sued.

We do not have much as it is but we cannot start over again trying to if someone sued us because they will not settle for what the union would pay; they would want everything we owned. Most of us are in this desperate kind of situation and need the people back in Washington to understand that we do not have a retirement system like they do and need to be able to keep as much of what we have as we can. Please help us to at least keep what we are getting, it is not great but it is better than nothing which is what they seem to want for the working people. God bless you in your efforts to help all of us that are struggling and have worked all our lives to get nothing much and have those who get it all want to take it away from us. Thank you.

NANCY.

My view

No thanks to all of the Oil Companies.

1. The oil and housing speculators have impaired the logical pricing soundness of gasoline and diesel oil, now causing all wholesale and retail price of goods and services to rise, offsetting this rising cost in the national economy used in the economic activity through the business establishments as energy in and for mobility.

2. This mobility for the time and motion factor to create productivity and profitability through transportation and distribution in the gathering and production and supply within the GNP.

3. This use correlated to the employment of money capital and mankind capital used in the profit and loss sheets to generate business revenue through sales that maintains the national economy, and provides the base for the ultimate consumer for all of the desires and demands put upon it and is the base for private side revenue.

4. Private side revenue from money capital labor and mankind labor to be taxed by direct and indirect taxes for the revenue to maintain government for all desires and demands put upon it.

5. The government sector through the private sector depends upon maximum investment, maximum employment, maximum income, maximum spending thus maximum sales through all the profit and loss sheets to generate maximum revenue for governments operation to tax and for cost and expenses, profit, earnings and income.

6. [This will all combine to] destroy the United States of America, [simply] by consuming the very thing that gives the people the wherewithal by working the nation's capital to produce a viable national economy to support the nation's needs through business in the private sector and the government sector.

7. We the people have given you trillions of dollars in money, subsidies, and [yet Congress has not acted to resolve the problem].

A. This has put the economy in disarray, and capital through instability is not now productive enough to generate economic activity through all of the profit and loss sheets, to generate revenue to be taxed to [provide tax breaks for oil companies], along with all of the government operations (federal, city, county, states) for things the people cannot afford individually, only collectively through tax revenue. Then we also cannot afford for FEMA, the military, flood, fire protection, police protection, education, weather, all and any government agency to operate as they derive tax revenue, due to the inefficacy, lack of productivity within thru GNP through the economic system.

B. The people are not addicted to fuel as energy (gasoline and diesel); the people are dependent upon fuel (gasoline and diesel) to maximize productivity through mobility of and in the use of asset money as money capital and asset labor as labor capital invested and risked within all of the profit and loss sheets.

C. Gasoline and diesel creating a more efficient source in supply, manufacturing, and in use and consumption to maximize productivity through mobility are separate sources of energy, used in a completely different function within the GNP by the economic system for the purpose of and function from wind power, coal, oil for electrical power generators, yet dependent upon mobility.

D. The oil companies will destroy this nation's economic system and the nation itself by their glut pricing for profits as the use of oil in the economic system is for mobility to create productivity for money capital, mankind labor capital for revenue from sales to create and maximize income and profits.

E. The use of oil in plant and equipment and mobility for production and supply are two separate entities but dependent upon each other as sales always leads production.

The national economy depends upon stability and responsibility and is relative to geographical location, environment, resources, man and money as capital invested in the domestic economy. (One P&L sheet to generate taxes will not pay government debt, it takes a collective million and more through the GNP.)

"1929" "The Starvation, the silent factories, the goods thrown away, the men standing idle, were the result of irresponsible human financial and economic activities."

"The whole class of people living on investments with fixed interest and annuities were pauperized and driven to the most abject expedients to live, all scientific, literary and educational activities endowments stopped. Officials, teachers, professional men and such-like living on fixed salaries or fixed fees were never able to increase stipends in proportion to the rise in prices. There was in fact a massacre of the poor educated."

A nation that cannot feed itself, maintain physical health and mental health and strength through the labor of capital and mankind for its survival of its people, maintain the viability, continuity of the economic system through all of the collective profit and loss sheets of Private enterprise is at a great disadvantage in social and economic stability in the international power field.

JOHN, Emmett.

[P.S.] Sales create revenue.

The national economy is what pays the nation's way, its government's way and debt through and by the people in the private sector through the collective profit and loss sheets of the Entrepreneurial interest. GNP is not a Perpetual Motion Machine: one has to work in order to have work done: thus motion.

1. The GNP is what the people produce as durables, non durables and service. (PRIME): The left-hand side is the supply side WORK; (+y -x -y), dependent upon mobility for productivity: This creating employment and income in the process of production, producing the Economic Goods or Service to satisfy human wants creating the demand object. When you put people to work one automatically puts money to work.

2. The GNP: (PUMP) to buy, durables, non durables and service, dependent upon mobility for productivity is the right-hand side and is the consumption side WORK DONE; (+y +x -y):

3. The left side and right-hand side reciprocating within the GNP through all of the collective Profit and Loss sheets from the -X

to +X time line through +Y (revenue earnings, income, direct and indirect taxes) by -Y sales (cost, value, expenses) then back to -X from +X.

The price of fuel has been affecting my family tremendously. I am currently enrolled in college classes and I live about 30 miles from my school. I have to live here because living in a college town means the price of the home is considerably too high. I drive 60 miles a day, and spend at least \$60 a week on gas for my vehicle alone. I am married and my spouse is in a carpenters' union. This requires he drive to wherever the employment is. Please do something, Congress. I have never had to reach my hand out for help before. My family believes in taking care of ourselves, but the food bank is becoming more and more of an option. I do not have a solution, but something needs to be done. Thank you for your time.

DIANE.

Thank you for your newsletter regarding the energy problem facing our nation. People are [frustrated with the inaction from Congress], and those of us in Idaho recognize how much harder this makes your work which is greatly appreciated.

Regarding the impact of gasoline prices upon me: I am a retired widow living on my Social Security income. As to my driving habits, they have practically come to a standstill. My car sits for days at a time, not driven due to the cost of gasoline, driven only for necessities. My tracking of the daily oil commodity prices does not paint a pretty picture.

Then there [are politicians who do] not favor drilling in ANWR or offshore. I agree with you that we must do all the things possible to provide sufficient energy for our own use. To think that Americans historically are known for innovation, one ponders "What has become of our ingenuity?" Is it politics as usual? Those more astute than I will figure out how to handle the problem of drilling for oil, the building of nuclear power facilities, the construction of windmills, the development of biofuels, the use of oil shale. The use of corn for ethanol is one of the crazier ideas put forth. Anyone suggesting penalizing oil companies or suggesting that they are making obscene profits needs to look at the dollar amount of taxes put on gasoline. The lack of understanding by some of business economics is sad. Stop putting restrictions on energy companies so that they can proceed without government red tape. Work with, not against, companies to proceed post haste.

There is no reason that America cannot move forward with programs to make us energy self-sufficient. It is embarrassing to read that France has nuclear power while we are sitting on our hands. It is upsetting to read that foreign countries have leases to drill for oil in the Gulf of Mexico. It is maddening to hear people say we are becoming a Third World nation. I am proud of my country but I am disgusted with [partisan politics]. It would seem that earmarks come ahead of doing what is right for our country.

Needless to say, the energy problem has impacted our food prices. This makes it hard for those of us on limited income. Families with children should not be limited when it comes to buying food for growing children.

In closing, we are at the crossroads of history. By not looking ahead in the past, we are suffering the consequences now. Now is the time to do something besides talk. The American public wants action now. Americans have spoken. Why is not Congress listening?

LAVERGNE, *Hayden*.

I appreciate your desire to at least try to find answers to this energy debacle. I am

greatly concerned over the attitude of our lawmakers and their passive attitude toward this vital issue. There is a great feeling of uncertainty as to whether we will be able to afford visiting families, harvesting crops, and the myriad of other activities that are vital to our livelihood. I believe environmentalism is accomplishing what communism could not. It has brought our economy to its knees. It is destroying our way of life, and most disturbing it is denying us access to our own resources, which then makes us hostages to foreign nations for our hand-to-mouth existence. I fear the next step they will take will be the nationalization of the oil industry as they try to make the people feel they have the answers instead of letting private enterprise and the free market, the very principle that has made us great, have free reign. The American people have been sold a socialistic bill of goods in the name of saving the environment. They have been conditioned to think that man has no place in nature, that their meat comes from a package and their shoes from a box, with no realistic understanding of the realities of production. These are very trying times. Failure to properly address this issue could destroy our status as the hope of nations and a light to all free thinking people of the world.

DELL, *Idaho Falls*.

Over 63 years ago, Japan was using all electric cars/taxis/buses/street cars because they had no oil—duh!

UNSIGNED.

I am responding to your request for specific impacts the cost of energy is having on individual families in Idaho. In my view, targeting individuals is something like fiddling while Rome is burning. As usual, [politicians do] not seem to understand that inaction over the past 20 to 30 years in regards to a realistic energy policy will at some point destroy the country's way of life. Everything we have achieved in the past 100 years is tied to energy in one way or another. Farming, manufacturing, healthcare, transportation, building, etc. could not have been achieved without energy. [There has been a dramatic lack of leadership in] addressing the energy problems. They, like you, are focusing on how gas prices affect individuals while you should be looking at how the energy situation could shut down our whole economy. Our enemies have long ago determined that they could not defeat us and destroy our country in a traditional war, but they can destroy us from within. A few hundred people acting as environmentalists have been able to lock up our abundant natural resources. We have spent hundreds of billions of dollars for oil purchased from some of our most dangerous enemies, some who preach our death and destruction. We have with our oil purchases enabled these enemy countries to arm themselves and at some point in time our young grandsons will probably need to stand up to the use of these arms.

No one says we do not want to protect the environment because we can. The technology and proven performance is being demonstrated all over the world. The Congress must remove the road blocks to our own natural resources—now! Atomic energy must be allowed to develop and be an integral part of the solution. Some say we cannot drill our way out of this mess, which should have been done 25 years ago. If the road blocks were removed, oil prices would drop like a rock, because the speculators would need to consider the eventual increase and volume of marketable oil. There are so many things that could be done, however based on the performance of our government nothing will be done.

[I do not believe our Congress will address this problem effectively and that politicians

will continue to profit from this disaster for the American people.]

GARY, *Meridian*.

This fuel price is out of hand. I do think Congress needs to step in and do something. I think we need to drill for oil where they know it is. I am like another person who wrote in and said that it should be up to the U.S. citizens. Let us vote on whether we should be drilling in the U.S. and its coastal waters. It should be our choice.

My husband and I own a big rig and he hauls potatoes into [a processing plant] in Nampa. He gets a fuel surcharge but it does not come close to covering the amount that the fuel has gone up. We are slowly going under. We own our rig and do not have payments so I do not know how anyone could survive with making payments. My husband hopes to retire in the next couple of years and we do not even know if we can make it until that time. Then when we do retire how are we going to afford to do anything? We would like to do some traveling but with fuel so high, we will not be able to do so.

Our Senators and Representatives need to represent the people!

MARY.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATING RIVERBANK HIGH SCHOOL

• Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Riverbank High School, a school in West Fresno County with an enrollment of 540 students, for earning the prestigious College Board Inspiration Award. Riverbank High School is the first California school to receive the College Board Inspiration Award in 5 years.

Each year, the College Board presents Inspiration Awards to three secondary schools nationwide in recognition of their college preparation programs and the partnerships among the schools' teachers, parents, and community organizations that foster students' academic achievements and advancement.

Riverbank High School has consistently strived to provide its students with a challenging and rigorous curriculum. Despite its location in a traditionally underserved portion of the San Joaquin Valley in central California, Riverbank High School, where 76 percent of the students receive free or reduced lunches and 38 percent of its student body is comprised of migrant students, is an all college preparatory high school that offers 12 advance placement and honors classes. Riverbank High School's 2008 graduating class produced a 91 percent acceptance rate to a 2 or 4-year college. The school has averaged an impressive 98 percent graduation rate over the past 3 years.

As the administrators, teachers, parents, and students of Riverbank High School gather to celebrate this outstanding and well-deserved achievement, I thank them for their commitment to education and academic excellence and wish them continued success.●