

States will continue to stand by its close ally to ensure that fairness is not sacrificed in the interest of expediency. For it is not just the rights of the Greek Cypriot community that are at stake, but the viability of the human and civil rights that all democracies—that most enduring of Hellenic institutions—hold most dear.

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 over 1,000, are heartbreaking and touching. To respect their efforts, I am submitting every e-mail sent to me through energy_prices@crapo.senate.gov 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:

Thanks for the info. And thanks for asking for input. My family is seeing the pinch somewhat. We live 20 miles from Boise, and since work and shopping are in Boise, that puts us on the road a lot during the week. We have been forced to consolidate trips, which is not that bad an idea. We also drive our little car (Honda Civic) more, which, for a family of large people such as ours, is not a small problem. We do not drive my pick-up as much as we have in the past, either.

I think that it is about time we developed our own resources regardless of the impact of individual families. It is a strategic decision since the world's oil reserves are being used at an ever-increasing rate because of the growth of the economies of different countries around the world. The U.S. is not the only consumer any more, and we have to live with that. So, drilling in ANWR, off the coast and developing oil shale is a good thing, especially since we have proven that we can do it with very little impact on the environment (as is the case of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline). Of course, we can expect accidents, but we have to deal with that if it happens and engineer a plan for that contingency to prevent it from happening.

I think solar power is something we really have to look at. Why not require that every new house built have solar collectors on the roof. This will do a number of things:

It will create a new industry which will create a fertile environment for R&D, which will, in turn, improve the efficiency and branch into new areas where solar power can be used that have not been considered yet.

It will use a resource that is not being utilized because of inefficiency. But, regardless of how inefficient our use is, if we do not use it, it is going to waste, anyway.

It will open a new realm of thought where American ingenuity can take over branching into other areas.

If we could offer tax or other types of incentives to home owners who choose to retrofit their existing houses to solar power, we could further increase the possibility of development of the use of the resource.

I think nuclear energy has proven itself to be a great source of power. Its increased use would foster research into uses of the spent fuel, which seems to me to be the most controversial area. Again, I am sure that with the increased use of nuclear power comes the increased possibility of accidents, but also comes the increased knowledge base from which to work, keeping the possibilities of accidents to a minimum.

One of the important questions I would like to raise is the viability of ethanol. I think it is going to do too much damage (we are seeing it already) to our food-producing industry. It is already causing an increase in food costs in the grocery store, and further development will cause, I am afraid, an even larger cost increase. We are already importing foodstuffs from other countries, something we have not had to do before.

UNSIGNED.

You write that my country is too dependent on foreign oil and we must develop alternate energy sources. You, your party, and many of the Democrats have voted consistently against all such alternatives for one reason or another. [I disagree with your assessment of the problem.] It is of no use to write about my experience with the rise in gas prices. If Congress and this Administration need stories, then it further proves that our elected government [is not responsive to its citizens][Congress has] held hearings with the oil representatives, which [has not resulted in anything.] Thank you for your inattention to this response.

HARRY.

I am a small business owner in Meridian. I will put this succinctly: My government is allowing OPEC to put me and other businesses out of business! If I understand this correctly, we import most of our oil from Canada and Mexico. If I also understand this correctly, they import a lot of food and technology from us. Therefore, if we get little to no oil, then understandably, they should get no food or technology and keep [their own] citizens in [their] country. I cannot afford to pay higher taxes for these illegal people. No oil = no food. I can live longer without their oil than they can without our food. Stop all Alaskan pipeline oil to Japan; why should we be in critical shortage and continue to supply them?

We can build refineries, too. Obviously the OPEC cartel does not want to since they are raping our bank accounts with the few that are working. Drill off-shore; China is [doing so] in our own gulf, and drill in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

[I am tired of all the talk without any action. Congress must get this country moving in a positive direction.]

Support the troops.

Secure the border.

Drill and process our own oil, build refineries.

Secure English as our language.

No foreign aid to countries hostile to the U.S.

Practice some ethics in government service.

[I am very unhappy with the inaction of Congress on this matter.]

Sincerely,

DAVID, *Meridian.*

DEAR SENATOR CRAPO: I received your e-mail and just wanted to respond in kind to it.

I also heard President Bush's speech this morning that he would like to lift the ban on

offshore drilling, begin shale drilling in Wyoming, Colorado and Utah, and also begin drilling in ANWR. My husband and I are 100 percent in favor of this happening, and hope that your vote will likewise be the same in the Senate. What a shame that this country has not built a new refinery in thirty years. It is hard to believe that we have let ourselves become so dependent on foreign oil, and it is a disgrace to this country. We would also be in favor of nuclear energy, and affordable hybrid cars (electric and gas) to lessen the dependency on oil.

My husband and I are both retired and on fixed incomes so the sky rocketing fuel prices affecting the cost of food, and anything else shipped by truck, has not only cut into our income, but also into our savings.

We thank you for all the good work you are doing on our behalf as Senator of Idaho. Please keep up the fight so that our voices can be heard.

Sincerely,

SHEILA.

It is time that we must remind Republicans that if we do not drill, we will no longer be the strongest nation in the world. I am sure that the Liberals and Environmentalists want us to suffer. We are a "can do" nation and we can start drilling off the coasts and in ANWR. We need to show, the Americans, that we are still a "can do" nation. Maybe we should tell all those who do not support drilling that we should not support them in Congress. We are a nation that has always had a "can do" attitude. We do not [want people in Congress who do not support drilling and new jobs; we need people who will allow us to develop our own resources without reliance on foreign countries.] We have plenty of oil and oil shale in our country to start drilling now.

MARY.

Good for you, Senator Crapo!! Thank you for not falling for the illogical environmental hysteria that is taking over the political landscape right now. We need long-term planning, not short-term panic.

MARV.

I have presently read a report written by a retired engineer from Exxon. This engineer has proposed a change from oil to coal-oil. That can be produced at \$40 a barrel and within EPA standards. To me, this is a no-brainer for the interim until a permanent solution is available.

HERBERT.

My wife and I live in Hailey and are octogenarians, so the impact of high energy costs is felt through home heating and cooking and limitation on driving. Perhaps the greatest impact is the rising cost of food and services relating to costs of energy. We have canceled out two vacations this summer and fall, and go into town to shop and pick up mail just 2 or 3 days a week.

If Congress actually gets serious, I feel we would be well served by 1) offshore drilling and new refining and 2) a serious long-term effort to diversify into nuclear power, and other economically correct alternatives, including coal and shale oil.

Keep your eye on the ball.

JIM AND MARTY.

"This year alone, the average American family will spend more than \$200 a month on gasoline."

YOU are now paying about half what Europeans pay for gas—so this is what you chose to call a "crisis." But then of course you do not walk in my shoes. The Europeans apparently have learned to live with outrageous