

wouldn't cost the taxpayers a dime. In order to achieve this we would have to convert our power generation from fossil fuel to nuclear and hydroelectric, and switch to electric cars, trucks and trains. The technology for this exists now, although some of it is still in the laboratory. What is preventing its implementation is government regulation.

After World War II, the utilities put forward a plan to convert all of this country's power generation to nuclear and hydroelectric. The plan was eminently feasible, but was blocked by government regulation. During the 1970s, congress passed what was popularly know as the "small hydro bill".

This excellent piece of legislation sought to encourage cities and towns to take advantage of their local rivers and streams to generate power. This would have given local communities a reliable source of clean, low cost power, and reduced the need for long distance transmission lines and dependence on the grid. Implementation of this plan was blocked by the environmentalists.

Solar energy and wind power are not practical alternatives.

Nuclear power is safe. In more than fifty years of generating power in this country, not a single person has ever been killed or injured by a nuclear accident. So far as I am aware, not a single person has ever been killed or injured by a nuclear power plant with its reactor in a containment building. The accident at Chernobyl was possible only because the reactors there were not housed in a containment building.

Nuclear power is inexpensive. What is making nuclear power plants expensive is excessive and irrational government regulation, based not on sound science and engineering, but on a desire to appease the environmentalists. This was true as far back as 1967. The effect of this government regulation is not to make nuclear power plants safer, but to make them impossible.

Government regulation, especially NHTSA, is preventing entrepreneurs from making electric cars. There is not a single company manufacturing electric cars in this country for sale to the public. That is a disgrace. The FMVSS (Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards) are nonsensical gibberish. NHTSA needs to be abolished and the politicians and the bureaucrats need to stop interfering in car design.

In summary, the whole huge body of excessive, irrational government regulation which has piled up over that last 60 years needs to be repealed.

Government is the problem. The solution is for government to get out of the way.

Most respectfully yours,

STEFAN, PhD (aerospace engineering).

SENATOR CRAPO, I couldn't possibly disagree w/you more with respect to the current energy situation. I think that the high prices for gas/diesel that we're experiencing are a necessary evil. It is time for this entire country, but our politicians in Washington (yes, this means you!) especially, to wake up & realize that the amount of petroleum on this planet based is finite. The current problem with prices should not be dealt w/by some half-assed politically motivated Band-Aid.

The United States has a chance to be at the forefront of research into whatever technology will ultimately replace petroleum-based energy. Rather than subsidizing ethanol production from corn (absolutely no advantage in terms of use of petroleum—it's merely at a different phase of production), why not step up to the plate & provide incentives for research into alternative energy. Instead of the U.S. depending on foreign oil, why not make the rest of the world dependent on U.S. company patents for whatever

ultimately replaces petroleum as the leading energy technology?

Thanks for listening,

TODD, Boise.

DEAR MIKE, We appreciate this opportunity to share with you how energy prices are affecting us and hope this will help you convince your colleagues that something needs to be done NOW!!

We are farmers in southern Idaho. We are helping to keep this country fed. It is 40 miles to our nearest town where we shop for all our needs—from groceries to supplies to run the farm. Our fuel is delivered from 40 miles away as well. We have no public transportation to rely on so we have no choice but to keep driving our vehicles to supply our needs and to try to conserve where we can. Just today, we had to drive 90 miles one way to obtain a repair part for our hay harvesting equipment. That trip cost us nearly twice what it would have cost this time last year. Diesel for our tractors is nearly \$5.00/gallon. If Congress doesn't act now, this country is going to wake up to food shortages because we won't be able to afford to keep filling our fuel tanks to keep the food pipeline full. Trucks won't be able to afford to keep transporting food to the stores and one day in the not too distant future, the store shelves will be empty. What will Congress do then about the riots and other violence that will result? We want our energy companies to drill for oil NOW, both on and off shore! We want our energy companies to drill in ANWR, NOW!!! We want our energy companies to be able to utilize Coal-to-Oil technologies NOW!!! We want to be free of our dependence on the Middle East for our energy needs. If nuclear energy can be utilized safely, let's use it.

Let's use wind turbines. Let's utilize solar farms on our vast acreages of public lands here in Idaho. We must act before our economy is destroyed. It will take decades to repair the damage if Congress doesn't act NOW!!!!

Feel free to share our story.

Sincerely,

KIRT AND JANET, Malta.

You've got this one about right.

Our problems as usual are the result of allowing political expediency to make bad policy.

We can no longer afford to genuflect at the green altar. By all means let's streamline the approval process for new nuclear plants and begin drilling ASAP in ANWR and off both coasts. THE STATES DO NOT HAVE SOVEREIGNTY OVER THEIR COASTAL WATERS. If the federal government can tie up half of Idaho, it should also be able to approve drilling off the coasts of FL, CA et al.

In your letter, you skip over another aggravating factor inflicted on our economy by Congress. I refer of course to the ethanol mandate. The primaries are over. Iowa has once again been shamelessly pandered to. Repeal the ethanol mandate, eliminate tariffs on imported (Brazilian sugar based) ethanol. Watch fuel and food cost drop simultaneously. This should be a no brainer even for Congress.

STU, Donnelly.

SENATOR CRAPO: I first want to thank you for even being considerate enough to ask my opinion. Not asking constituents is a major problem with our politics these days but that issue is for another email.

My family is fortunate enough that the rising energy costs are, at this point, a frustrating inconvenience and not a major issue as it is with many. What is of concern to me is our country's willingness to be held hostage by others in the world. We have vast re-

serves of our own fossil fuel that we refuse to develop in addition to our refusal to develop nuclear energy, wind and solar sources. As I understand it, we do not want to "damage" the environment. I don't want to "damage" our environment either but GOD has blessed this country with resources and the technology for developing those resources has changed for the better in the last 50 years.

I am also tired of the rhetoric that 'in Europe energy costs have been much higher than here for decades'. Well, the plain truth is I don't live in Europe. The USA has been, until outsourcing became our corporate goal, the most advanced, the most productive, the most ingenious, the most prosperous, the most giving nation in ALL of history. Besides, why don't I hear the cost comparison with Venezuela? Gasoline there is \$0.25 per gallon. Why don't we become more like them? Not that I would want to, but you get my drift.

Not to belabor the issue, but the rising cost of energy is only one of the visual symptoms of a much deeper problem. The problem of being stripped of our national identity, of falling victim to the erroneous global warming scam, of the socialist philosophy of wealth distribution, just to mention a few elitist liberal doctrines.

Anyway, I want to thank you again for your interest in my thoughts. Keep up the good fight.

RUSSELL, Hayden.

Fuel prices are devastating every section of our economy. A family reunion trip from Nampa to Seattle and Return in my diesel pickup and camper cost \$460 for fuel alone. Idaho Power has implemented two major price increases since the first of the year. Intermountain Gas has raised their price recently by nearly 9 percent. Our food prices are skyrocketing while our government tries to substitute fuel from food for ample resources of energy in the ground we walk on but aren't allowed to drill for.

Congress and the administration should be ashamed that we are not utilizing safe nuclear energy and expanding use of our coal resources. You (collectively) have stopped the development of nearly all natural resources available to us and also stopped the building of refineries to keep up with the U.S. demand for oil.

It has made life much tougher for those of us who aren't depending on the public to take care of us.

Shame on all of you.

LARRY, Nampa.

#### COMMENDING MOUNT OLIVE TROJANS

Mr. BURR. Madam President, I rise today to congratulate a college baseball team that won a national title last month.

I am speaking of Mount Olive College in Mount Olive, NC. They beat Ouachita Baptist in a 6-2 victory to win the NCAA Division II National Baseball Championship—the first national championship title of any kind in Mount Olive College history.

The Mount Olive Trojans finished the season with a 58-6 overall record. The Trojans ended their season strong winning 24 out of their final 26 games.

This win marks an especially extraordinary one for Mount Olive College Trojans. This is the Trojans first-ever national championship win in any sport. In a town made famous for their