

us very little hope that our crisis is temporary (if nothing changes, nothing changes).

A perfect storm is brewing for our economy; government needs to allow the free market and investors opportunities to produce more energy. Aside from ANWR, there are plenty of places in the lower 48 to bring online (as well as refining capacity) to address this muddle in less than 10 years. Tell your colleagues to lead, follow, or get out of the way!

In the short-term we are going to see more foreclosures, dependency on state and federal aid, and hospitals like ours will see bad debt and charity care skyrocket. Not a time for inaction. Thanks for your interest in this cause, I hope you are able to rally the millionaire's club to some kind of rational response.

REV. MARK, Nampa.

You and Congress know what needs to be done. Drill now—drill HERE! Join China and Cuba off our own shores and become self reliant again. Start drilling in Anwar. Start drilling in Montana. Start using the resources in Colorado in shale. And build more refineries—and you—CONGRESS—loosen the hurdles that make it impossible for anyone drilling and/or building those refineries we need so desperately—loosen the restrictions that hinder providing alternatives (such as nuclear and solar). Stop wasting time telling “stories”—and loosen the restrictions that environmentalists have shackled us with! Do your job.

Just let us become a self reliant nation again!

DAVE.

SENATOR CRAPO, This is a Republic! We elected you and you fellow Congress men and women to represent us. So far all my family has seen is a lot of incompetency! No one in Congress has done anything to help the situation. Everyone is geared up to their special interests so that they can get re-elected to another term. You guys need to kick the lobbyist out of the halls of Congress and start representing us. My family cannot take trips to see fellow family members, an event that takes place each year, because we cannot afford the fuel costs. Put yourselves in a private room and figure this thing out without any outside forces influencing you. If you cannot do this, resign, and let us find someone who can. I personally do not care if it is nuclear power or Anwar or raising standards for the auto industry or rationing gas. Protect our environment but try to get us out of this mess and solve this problem. You guys are below President Bush in positive polling. Do not you get it???

DON, Star.

Dear Sir: My wife and I are retired and had planned to enjoy our retirement years by traveling all over the great state of Idaho and see the attractions we did not have time to see when I was employed. This included taking our boat out on the great lakes and rivers during Idaho's hot summers.

Now with the combination of high property taxes in Boise, and high fuel prices, we are unable to realize our retirement dreams. The property taxes are going to force us out of our home in which we have lived for 15 years and the high fuel prices will force us to stay at home.

We can no longer afford to take vacations to Yellowstone and the other National Parks. We cannot visit my two sons located in San Francisco and Texas. We cannot afford to drive our diesel truck so our boat towing days in McCall are over with.

The do nothing Congress has once again lived up to its name with respect to energy.

As you know, the US has huge oil reserves off shore along both coastlines, huge deposits of oil in the the Alaskan arctic, but the useless Congress will not lift a finger to allow for exploration of this oil. This forces us all to be held captive by the Middle East, Mexico, and Venezuela since we are so dependent on their oil. The Democrats in Congress place a higher value on politics and listening to the tree hugger and special interest group minorities than on the wishes of the vast middle class of Americans who want the US to be more self sufficient in oil.

We have vast coal reserves which cannot be used for the same reasons.

I am opposed to the use of nuclear power due to the nuclear waste disposal problem and Congress reluctance to open Yucca Flats.

Please—cannot you do something to allow drilling on our own land to rid us of our dependency on the Middle East?

Yours truly,

ED AND CAROL, Boise.

What's the matter with all the Bozos in Washington? As they sit finely with all of their “not hard-earned” tax dollars paying them for what? They sure have screwed up America. Special interests, etc . . . We have our own energy sources right here, right now. Let's use it. . . . NOW!!! The polar bear is on the brink of extinction? I do not think so, since their population has increased from 5000 to 35000 worldwide in the last 25 years. Why we let the elite environmentalists erode our backbone in America is beyond me. Stupid politicians have no idea what it means to live paycheck to paycheck. I have no idea how I can afford furnace oil for next winter. There is no way I can pay these prices for furnace oil, let alone gasoline for the cars. It gets damn cold here in the winter and last winter lasted like 9 months. Tell those asses sitting on their asses to get off their asses and open up our country to what we have available right here. . . . Do I sound mad?? No kidding. . . . I am sick of politicians being stupid. Time to stand up and take our country back. Time to weed out the enemy within. Time to do what we should do and be self sufficient as a country.

MAGGIE.

I could not agree with you more that Congress needs to get moving and do something productive about our country's energy plan. Should we increase our own domestic production—absolutely. ANWR, offshore drilling etc should be used immediately. Enough of the environmentalists blocking every attempt to increase our own production. Nuclear power is a no-brainer. We have the proven technology to produce clean efficient fuel. Again, enough of the environmentalists trying to block every move to store the nuclear waste. How many 100's of millions of dollars have already been spent on Yucca Mountain to use it for the safe storage of nuclear waste—let's use it!! Wind and solar are definitely alternatives but being able to produce the quantity of power we need may not be reality. Use them to supplement more reliable sources such as Nuclear.

In summary it is time we take back our own country and for Congress to do something—leading, not political bickering, would be a refreshing idea.

Thank you

DALE, Meridian.

We do not want nuclear!!

Idaho is already a dumping ground. Nuclear is dirty, dirty energy!

Nuclear waste issues must be resolved first.

Stick to wind, solar, clean and renewable energy.

YVETTE.

SENATOR CRAPO, Increased domestic oil production or an expanded nuclear energy research are not the best directions for Idaho or the country. If we are talking about the health of our land and people then we should concentrate our research dollars on technical innovation and alternative energies. Just one outcome of technological innovation, the Toyota Prius, has saved more oil in a few years than we would get in over twenty years of drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Idaho has incredible alternative resources available. With thermal waters less than a mile below surface throughout the state, we would be an excellent choice for leading the nation in geothermal energy. We have desert areas of the state where the sun shines almost 365 days a year, and plains areas where we could harvest wind power.

We do not need lower gas taxes. We need better public transportation. We need leadership that encourages conservation. We need investment in education and research that has the promise of providing a future for our children that is not dependent on nations who do not have our best interests in mind. We have always had independent minds in Idaho. Lets have clean, sustainable energy independence as well.

PATRICIA.

The rate of increase in fossil fuel cost is unprecedented and demonstrates that the current administration and prior congresses have failed the American Citizens and for that matter the world by not properly addressing this issue. The energy crises has been a long time in the making and many good people, much of the scientific community and a rare politician or two (i.e. Al Gore) have been trying to do something.

I recently bought a home and am watching a minimum of \$100/week in fuel cost going to the moving. This has been going on for a few months and will do so for a few more. I rarely take trips from my home in the Lenore and Orofino area to Lewiston to shop. It is just too expensive. Plus the cost of everything else is ramping up due to the fuel cost increases. It saddens me that so much profit is being realized by a few. The economic profits are being controlled and directed to those who also control the flow of public resources. This is capitalism at its worst.

Throughout your career, you have demonstrated an indifference to the problem and have associated yourself with those who mischaracterized environmentalists rather than working with them. Your rating by the League of Conservation Voters is a paltry 13% for this year! Now you want to say you are on the same side. Do you really think we can believe or trust you? The biggest part of conservation is reducing demand—not simply looking to pump up more carbon from fragile environments. I think it would be best if you step aside and allow a new generation of thinkers without your baggage and not linked to pollution-generating industries to take the lead.

If you truly want to see all America and the world prosper in the future it will take a commitment on your part, to accept a change in the cultures of people, corporations, and government—away from use-up, me only, and profits as the bottom line, to a sustainable economy within the framework of a sustainable healthy environment. This, obviously, does not detract from a major goal of this nation—the pursuit of happiness. Happiness is a personal issue that is influenced by outside factors. Consumerism has made many people believe that more leads to happiness, but the experience of the last half century should speak for itself. Some of the old values such as free time, time with family and friends, having simple hobbies, pursuing knowledge, etc are all examples of low environmental impact ways to be happy.