

and have encouraged them to find another way to make a living because the cost of starting up and the cost of farming are too prohibitive. There is no way that they can make it with the price of fuels. I guess my story is that the family farm is on its way out of Idaho. The families of America hold this nation together. If you break up the family, the United States will break as well. I guess the only way to get Congress to do anything is to wait for their stomachs to growl. Otherwise, if you eat you are involved in farming. No farms—no food!

LORN.

First, thank you for some leadership on this issue. I will be brief. My family and I just completed an auto trip to Montana and back. Fuel costs were averaging \$4.05/gallon of regular. The costs of travel will have a significant effect on my family's recreation this year. We also have a small airplane and AV gas is now \$6.30 in our area meaning it now costs \$63.00 per hour just in fuel costs to fly the airplane my family and I have enjoyed for years. Unfortunately at these prices our boating costs have risen considerably. Grocery costs have risen. Freight costs are going up along with the airfares for the airlines. The selling price for my airplane and boat if I were to sell them are going down. Many families are selling their RVs because they just cannot afford to recreate like they used to.

Finally I have just retired after 31 years in my company. I have a small pension and have had to cut drastically on my anticipated lifestyle already. I had planned to teach flying lessons as a part-time job but the marketability of flight instruction may very well be priced out of the range of many prospective students.

I feel that the government and Congress have had since 1972 to get a grip on this problem and have done nothing except band-aid and pass the buck. We need to get real, drill whenever and wherever we need to immediately and reverse our current bad policy on nuclear energy. We cannot remain forever relying on petroleum but we need cogent policies to help us get to the next best thing for our energy needs.

We also need to put a cap on the speculating by the commodity traders that are driving up the prices daily. And, although I hate to say it, maybe we need to regulate a few more of those items that affect us working people so much on a daily basis, like utilities, phone service, cable costs and fuel.

MIKE, *Pocatello*.

Thank you for providing this forum to express my views about energy prices in our fine state, their impact, and solutions. I unequivocally believe that our present asset-depleting condition is a direct result of 30-plus years of disastrous, foolhardy legislation from Congress that has made it impossible for America's brilliant innovators to make us energy independent. Yes, the price of gas is leading my family to really think about every trip in the car, but I do not want a band-aid government solution to replace the free market. The following is what I believe is critical to our national security, as well as comfort at the pump:

(1) Deregulate and allow drilling in all its forms everywhere, right now! Admit to decades of failed, self-destructive policy and move on.

(2) Encourage, through generous incentives, the building of refineries everywhere, right now!

(3) Remove all legislative obstacles to the building of nuclear plants and encourage, through generous incentives, their construction everywhere, right now!

Senator, what is frightening and of tremendous concern for myself and many citi-

zens, perhaps yourself as well, is our global competitors, friend and foe alike, are rapidly growing and tapping into their own energy sources, nuclear and petroleum, and America has become weak and dependent. It is sickening and dangerous. This must be reversed, immediately! Congress needs to remember that American interests, both short and long-term, must at all times be placed above those of other countries or the so-called "international community." There is no one else on the globe looking out for us. Senator, you need to do it. Thank you for your excellent work on behalf of your constituents.

MICHAEL, *Post Falls*.

My husband and I live in the country outside of Rexburg and have to drive almost ten miles to get to town. My husband is a full-time college student and works part-time. I also have a part-time job and it is a struggle to fill up our gas tanks every few weeks. Gas prices are shooting up but our incomes are as small as ever.

My father is a farmer and has tractors, trucks, and other machinery to fuel. He has no choice. He needs those machines to do his work, but it is just so expensive.

Something needs to be done about the cost of fuel and energy and it needs to be done now! We need to stop relying on other countries to fuel our cars. We need to start using more alternative fuel and energy sources. We have the means but do we have the motivation? I hope so.

REGENCY, *Rexburg*.

You are correct regarding the adverse affect that the rising cost of fuel has on the lives of all Americans including the citizens of Idaho.

We must drill for oil on American soil and pump from the wells we have capped, mine clean coal in Utah and elsewhere, use wind for energy where it pays, create more fuel efficient engines, engineer better batteries for electric cars, make affordable solar power options available where possible . . . and thank God for the clean source of power we get from our hydro-electric dams.

We are a nation that was blessed by God with an abundance of natural resources. However, if we don't develop them and use what we have been provided with, and yet continue to complain, we are fools.

The cost of fuel is showing its effect on our small business in that orders are down and costs are up. It now costs double what it did two years ago to get to and from work, purchase some of our materials, and pick up those materials from our suppliers. We have tried not to pass the rising cost of shipping on to our customers as it is already high and keeps some people from purchasing our product. Therefore, we take a cut in our normal profit and that means less money in our pockets to spend on other products and services that we would like to have and use locally.

I work in town and there is absolutely no public transportation available in this area. It is a small town in the mountains of Idaho and I drive seven miles each way to work every day. Many workers must drive ten to twenty miles each way and it is eating into their family budgets. Now the price of fuel is taking its toll on food costs. Prices are getting ridiculously high and I cannot imagine trying to feed a family these days. I believe in less government. But there is something wrong with these high fuel costs; they are unjustified and the government does need to get to the bottom of it and put a stop to it now.

The last thing that should be done is to put a higher tax on our fuel and energy costs. The people who suffer the most from this problem are our elderly population (and dis-

abled) who are on fixed incomes. Now they must choose whether to fill the oil tank (pay the electric bill) or to eat . . . we have gone sadly astray from the United States of America in which I grew up, and we had better get back to our roots of belief and our Constitution.

I believe in helping others and it is a fact that Americans are the most generous citizens on earth, giving to others even in other nations freely on a regular basis; no nation on earth gives more. However, as a country we must stop sending money to other countries in the world that have problems or disasters and start taking care of our own problems, infrastructure, and disasters. I do not believe in socialism, but we should provide for our elderly who provided for us. I am sick of seeing our government pledge billions of dollars of taxpayer money to countries that hate us. It is wrong and foolish. . . .

We have got a mess on our hands. Our Congress and Senate need to stand up for what is right . . . and protect and defend the U.S. Constitution as they swore to do. Quit being swayed by interest groups, and money. Stand for what is good for our Country not what is good for their pocketbook. We need some men and women with character and honor . . . I hope you will be a man of character and honor and serve this nation as is needed. May God bless and help you in this fight.

MRS. KENNETH.

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

## 90TH BIRTHDAY OF MAURY ALBERTSON

● Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, today I honor Colorado State University professor Maury Albertson in recognition of his 90th birthday on August 30, 2008.

Dr. Albertson has distinguished himself in countless ways throughout his extensive and renowned career. He has been a devout champion of civic responsibility, a selfless servant to others, and a man who has changed lives worldwide through his compassion and understanding of other peoples and cultures.

As a young professor in 1960, Dr. Albertson and his team of scholars and students won a contract to study the option and assess the likelihood of creating an International Youth Corps, which laid the groundwork for the creation of the Peace Corps. He later went on to coauthor "New Frontiers for American Youth" that put forth the basic design for the Peace Corps.

Throughout his many years as a consultant for the World Bank, the United Nations Development Program, the Agency for International Development, and others, Dr. Albertson organized and advanced innovative projects involving sanitation, water resource development, village development, small industry development, and research and education.

A true believer in the philosophy of local empowerment, Dr. Albertson founded and currently serves as president of Village Earth, an international organization that has trained villages and NGOs in 15 countries in the methods of sustainable village development. Remarkably, in 1993, Dr. Albertson