

Public Lands Council. He now serves as the executive vice president of the 135-year-old Wyoming Stock Growers Association.

One of many noteworthy efforts, Jim directed the implementation of the Wyoming Stock Growers Agricultural Land Trust. The trust provides farmers and ranchers with conservation opportunities to remain productive and independent. Jim's dedication to the interests of Wyoming agriculture has created a legacy that will serve Wyoming well for decades to come.

It gives me great pleasure to honor Jim Magagna, a true Wyoming cowboy. He continues to uphold one of the most trusted, respected, and revered ways of life in America.

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:

I am a widow with a disabled child. Our family lives on social security payments and what I make as a substitute teacher. My son's condition requires frequent trips to the doctor both in Idaho Falls and to Salt Lake City. The rising cost of gas has significantly impacted our ability to travel.

The cost of electricity is another issue that affects us each month. As electricity costs rise our discretionary income, already limited, becomes less.

These problems, in combination with the rising cost of other services dependent on transportation, have put our family in an increasingly desperate situation. The future does not look good from where we sit!

KARY.

We are 70 years old and active seniors on a fixed income. Energy costs are becoming a burden for us and we will begin to go into our reserves for future years. Gas prices are obviously a problem but the cost of groceries is also a big item. We have one car and my husband rides a bicycle as much as possible. I walk to places when destinations are close enough. We are concerned about being good stewards of our environment and do what we can, e.g., recycling, using less gas, using fans instead of an air conditioner when practical, raising some of our own food, planting trees on our property, and conserving water.

We are disgusted that we are the victims of bogus global warming fanatics, environ-

mentalists, and opportunists. Ethanol, which has not been proven to be efficient or good for engines, is using up corn that was used for food and livestock feed thus raising food costs.

There are reserves in our own soil that could be used. Other countries are drilling off our shores so why can't we drill since this would not create any more risk than is already present? Nuclear energy is a good, clean option and there are some plants already built but not in use.

ALLEN and JANE, *Nampa*.

What is there to say? Energy costs simply make it harder to get by. There is less money for the extra things we enjoy doing and with a new baby on the way there will be less money to set aside to take care of him. As a student of economics, I realize there are many factors that are contributing to the increase gas prices. The recent reckless policies of the Federal Reserve have caused incredible inflation and a weakening dollar. There needs to be more competition in the energy sector, massive deregulation as well as ending government subsidies for the alternative energy sources the government, not scientists or businesses, deem best—[these are] drawing resources away from other potential alternate energy sources.

Expanding domestic oil production and other clean energy sources like nuclear power would also help, as increased competition helps drive down prices.

VERL.

Thank you for allowing me to share a few of my views on the current energy and fuel challenges facing the United States and the entire world population, and how my family is coping.

First, and most importantly, the solution cannot be found in building more nuclear plants. Nuclear facilities that use old technology, construction methods, placed in areas of social or natural upheaval, and that generate radioactive refuse that cannot be safely managed, must never be considered. The recent earthquakes world-wide, coupled with terrorist use of "dirty" bombs are two very real considerations when contemplating nuclear energy.

However, I would consider the research and development of Thorium nuclear energy (creates and uses all of its radioactive byproduct).

Second, and equally important, should be the emphasis on solar for almost every power/energy application. There should be a requirement that all new construction utilize solar heating and cooling, hot-water tanks; southern facing buildings and homes; and the retro-fitting of homes for the elderly and low-income with solar energy products should be part all social service projects. Automobiles should certainly be manufactured utilizing some form of solar power.

Third, conservation. Conservation can take many avenues from lowering the speed limit to 55 mph again, to cutting back to the shorter work week and longer work day (schools can also be conducted on a four day basis saving heating/cooling, electricity, bus-ing, commuting, etc.) After reading about the impact rising fuel costs are having on the U.S. Postal Service, perhaps it is time to curtail Saturday mail delivery to homes and businesses. Special delivery on a Saturday can be done, for an additional fee, by such companies as UPS or Fed-Ex.

My husband and I are baby-boomers and will soon be feeling the reality of a fixed income. He is retired and on Social Security (just received his Medicare card), and I am working for the school district (low wage as a paraprofessional working with Title I reading students). Rising prices at the grocery

stores are certainly having an effect on our ability to eat healthy foods, and the rising cost of our co-pay for drugs and medical services is outrageous. We have just refurbished our old bicycles (one is a 1965 Schwinn) as a way to get around and exercise too. We practice the wise counsel of our parents for living simply, and we continue to keep informed/educated in matters of material and spiritual importance.

"Be anxiously concerned with the needs of the age ye live in, and centre your deliberations on its exigencies and requirements."—The Tabernacle of Unity, by Baha'u'llah.

Thank you for your time.

CAROL, *Post Falls*.

It is lovely to be hearing your solicitation for stories regarding our current energy market. I live in Boise, and have a 7 to 8 mile commute to work. To date, the higher gas prices aren't directly affecting me too badly, because I do use public transportation. I am disappointed that you are willing to throw your hands up and say "there is not public transportation." There is. And if you do not work to encourage people to use it, it will continue to be a mediocre service. As prices are rising there is a huge new interest in the bus in Boise—ridership on my route to work is easily up 50 percent this year compared to last.

You are right, the bus is limited, there are far too few routes, and the schedules are very sparse—I work a salaried job and occasionally need to work late—the last bus to come by my work place is at 6:30, and then with that, I will miss the last bus to go from downtown the rest of the way home, and have to walk a mile and a half home.

However, I am excited at the current situation, because as more people ride the bus, there's more chance for routes and schedules to expand to make it even more useful. It would be valuable to have your support to help scale our public transit system to a level where people do not have the excuses of "it does not come close to my house," or "but I have to wait an hour for the next bus after buying my groceries."

MICHAEL, *Boise*.

My husband and I are on a very limited budget, and so are very careful to watch where our money goes. I am a graduate student at Idaho State University, and have a 25 mile commute to campus. If I do not have to be working in my lab, or taking/teaching a class, I telecommute. With high-speed internet and a cell phone, I can work at least as efficiently from home, thus saving miles driven. I drive a 1995 Ford Escort wagon with nearly 200,000 miles on her. I get over 40 miles to the gallon, and the recent increase in gas prices has meant that it costs me approximately \$30 to fill my tank instead of \$20. I combine shopping trips to reduce extra mileage, and purchase many items online, since it is nearly impossible for me to find what I need in Pocatello anyhow.

In all, I am not concerned with the increased gas prices. I have known for decades that it was inevitable, and believe strongly in conservation for ethical reasons as well as environmental reasons. I am very disappointed to see our country continue to thwart the implementation of much-needed conservation legislation, instead hiding behind talk of exploring options at home. There is only one way to fix this problem, to reduce demand. We have become a fat, bloated nation unwilling to engage in the ideals of thriftiness and invention that once made us [leaders], and now have us falling behind the European and Asian nations like a spoiled child.

I urge you to embrace conservation legislation now, before it becomes more painful for our nation.

PAMELA, *Lava Hot Springs*.