

this Proposition. The state shall disburse this money within 150 days of the passage of this Proposition. There shall be a daily fine of \$10 million a day charged to any Refinery that has not paid its share of the refund in the allotted time payable to the State of California general fund.

Item 2: All Refineries shall sell off all fuel retail establishments within one year of the passage of this proposition. No Refinery or fuel wholesaler shall be allowed to own or control any fuel retail outlets with the passage of this proposition. The price of these establishments must fall within the current market value within its area. Violation of this item will result in a daily fine of 10 million dollars per day payable to the State of California general fund.

Item 3: Any present and future contracts between fuel retail outlets shall be hereby banned and null and void. Any fuel retail establishment shall be able to purchase fuel from any Refinery or fuel wholesaler he or she chooses without restriction. Also any retail outlet shall be able to sell multiple brands of fuel without restriction. Violation of this item by any Refinery or fuel wholesaler will result in a daily fine of ten million dollars per day payable to the State of California general fund until corrected.

Item 4: Each Refinery selling fuel in California shall maintain a stored reserve of fuel within the borders of California equal to 1.5 times the monthly volume of fuel it sells within the State of California. This requirement shall be enforced beginning 1 year from the passage of this proposition by the State of California. Violation of this item by any Refinery or fuel wholesaler will result in a daily fine of 10 million dollars per day payable to the State of California general fund until corrected.

Item 5: Beginning 10 days after the passage of this Proposition and for a period of 5 years, wholesale prices of gasoline and diesel per gallon sold to retail establishments in the State of California shall not exceed 1.2 percent of the average price of oil per barrel on the world market. Violation of this item will result in a daily fine of 10 million dollars per day payable to the State of California general fund.

Item 6: Beginning 10 days after the passage of this Proposition and for a period of 5 years retail prices of gasoline and diesel per gallon sold in the State of California shall not exceed 2.0 percent of the average price of oil per barrel on the world market. Violation of this item will result in a daily fine of 10 thousand dollars per day payable to the State of California general fund.

Item 7: The people of California have determined by the passing of this proposition that the Refineries listed in item one meet the definition of a monopoly because of the way fuel prices have risen everywhere in the state of California in unison in the past 4 years, because these refineries dominate the market, and by the documented huge increased, sustained and increasing profits made by these oil refineries. The people of California request the United States department of Justice apply antitrust legal action against the refineries listed in item 1.

Item 8: If any Items listed in this proposition are nullified by court action then all other Items shall remain in effect.

UNSIGNED.

SENATOR CRAPO: Thank you for asking for my opinion. As I interact with my employees as a business executive, with my fellow church members as a church leader, and as a husband and father, I think the real bottom line is this: The great majority of people have no viable alternative to spending additional money on fuel and many other goods and services that also rise with fuel price in-

creases. Most people are just paying more because there is no alternative. This means that bankruptcy, unemployment, and other severe financial strains will be staved off until they cannot be held off anymore, and then it will collapse. The danger signs of energy dependence are so dire, yet congress does not make any moves. I think the future is bleak for individuals on the edge, and a large "correction" is due. I also would not be surprised to see your constituents come after congress with pitchforks and torches, but I have doubts that congress will act.

AARON, *Coeur d'Alene.*

DEAR SENATOR CRAPO: Today, we had to make the difficult choice of putting fuel in the car or grocery shopping. You see, we needed milk, bread, and some other staples and we needed a tank of gas. Each purchase was going to amount to around \$80, and we had to choose one or the other. So we gassed up the car and decided to try to make it until payday with the food that we had at home.

I have never felt so sick or downtrodden at the one or the other kind of option we faced today. I went home and also deduced through some back bills that our housing heating and cooling has doubled since 2002. In only six years our gas has gone from \$67 a month to \$112 and our electric from \$87 to \$167, despite my keeping our heating at 65 day and 60 night in the winter and our cooling at 75 in the summer. We are hard pressed to pay those bills in addition to gas. This spiral has got to stop or I do not know how we are going to manage.

Sincerely,

D., *Boise.*

DEAR SENATOR CRAPO: I commute 52 miles round trip daily to Rexburg from Idaho Falls. Since January I have been car pooling with a co-worker in my department and we are encouraging our employer to let us telecommute at least one day a week. My family has declared two days a week as "no drive days" where we don't even turn the key in either of our cars. We save our errands and schedule appointments for other days of the week. This basic routine is helping, but not enough.

We recently had a daughter in the hospital in Idaho Falls for seven and a half weeks, and for another four and a half weeks at the University of Utah Medical Center. Those expenses were of course offset by health insurance, although out of pocket expenses still amounted to thousands of dollars. However during those 12 weeks we had no choice but to drive to the hospital daily while fuel prices were skyrocketing. This created a sudden and unexpected burden on our family budget. With the added cost of fuel forecasted to stay high into the future, our financial recovery is nowhere in sight.

Thanks for listening.

BOB AND BEVERLY, *Idaho Falls.*

SENATOR CRAPO: I own a small retail shop in Salmon, Idaho. Retailers in this area depend on the local economy and on Tourism to make ends. Tourists provide 60% of our sales revenue and the gas prices have dramatically diminished travelers. Whitewater rafting companies are struggling and my retail store is in danger. I am unable to meet my monthly expenses, let alone purchase merchandise to replenish my normal inventory. Consumers cannot afford anything beyond gas and food. Prices have doubled on groceries, shipping and all are related to rising fuel costs. Most of the people I know have no extra from their paychecks and it is killing small businesses all over the Country! Here in the Rocky Mountains we can't drive hybrid cars. The snow, rain and rural

homes make cars impossible. We have to have 4 wheel drives and chains just to get out of our driveways and to the grocery store! There is no mass transit and carpooling wouldn't be feasible.

Congress seems to be at a loss as to what to do and if something doesn't happen soon we will be facing a major depression! The Speculators are driving prices even higher and the oil producing nations are unwilling to cut their profits. Most of us feel that Congress and the Senate are in bed with the oil companies.

Something has to be done to open oil and gas production in this Country. We have Anwar, the Bakkan oil in the North Central States and off shore oil pockets. It is time that our government look out for the American People and stop bucking under to the Environmentalists.

Something has to be done quickly. Long-term renewable energy sources will take decades, by that time all the small businesses like mine will be forced to either close or file bankruptcy. Currently my shop is in jeopardy. I am behind on all my bills and my credit has been ruined so I can't even get a loan to get me through the crisis. If our governmental body can't find a solution now, then expect to see small and medium businesses go under. We are the backbone of this land and we need some backbone leadership!!!!

Sincerely

DONNA, *Salmon.*

DEAR SENATOR CRAPO: I would be more than happy to share our story of high energy prices and the toll it is taking on our family and our finances. My husband and I find it outrageous that environmental groups can have SO much pull in this country to put bans on the construction of oil refineries, liquid coal plants and drilling for our own domestic petroleum. At this point, we are dependant on this abundant and efficient fuel. There is no other alternative right now to take the place of petroleum—at least nothing that is practical, efficient and most importantly—affordable!!! To ignore our vast reserves of coal and oil in this country to leave us dependent on Middle East Fuel is ludicrous. There is wonderful technology out there that can turn coal into liquid fuel that burns cleaner than gasoline! But because your average environmentalist does not understand how this technology works—they are against it because traditionally burnt coal is filthy. They would rather grow food crops to fill their tanks up while people and animals starve.

We live in Salmon, Idaho. My husband is a Real Estate Appraiser who frequently travels almost 600 miles in a week simply to reach the properties to do his work. The cost of living necessitates at this point that he take EVERY SINGLE job that crosses his desk—so frequently driving round-trip to Arco and back in a day or over to Missoula, Montana and back in a day is a normal thing. BUT—the drawback is that right now we have an outstanding balance on our Chevron card that is over \$1,400 and over limit—so we can't even use the card. We make large payments every month, but with the interest rate we still have not been able to bring the balance low enough to even use the card. So we pay the Chevron bill AND pay for gas out of our regular checking account. The Chevron card went well over limit way back when gas hit \$3.50 a gallon, and we have not been able to catch up and bring the balance down. We have a propane bill that is over \$1,100 right now that I pay \$125 a month on—but this is a balance from an \$1,800 fill up of our tank back in November of 2007. I am going to call the gas company this week to see if they will fill the tank now while prices are "lower".