

RECOGNIZING HOSTELLING
INTERNATIONAL USA

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Hostelling International USA for 75 years of service to intercultural understanding and youth travel.

Since 1934, Hostelling International USA has hosted 22 million visitors in its 70 hostels across the country. These visitors came from across the country and around the world. Hostels made their trips affordable and gave them the opportunity to see more of our country. My State of New Mexico is the proud home of 10 hostels that give visitors the opportunity to see our beautiful landscape and experience our unique culture.

HI-USA works because of the many volunteers who help educate travelers, find sites for new hostels, and promote youth travel.

Please join me in celebrating 75 years of Hostelling International USA.

DENOUNCING THE IMPRISONMENT
OF MIKHAIL KHODORKOVSKY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, last October marked the fifth anniversary of the arrest of Mikhail Khodorkovsky, the former head of Yukos, Russia's largest oil company. The Council of Europe, Freedom House, and Amnesty International, among others, have concluded he was charged and imprisoned in a process that did not follow the rule of law and was politically influenced. This miscarriage of justice in 2003 is significant because it was one of the early signs that Russia was retreating from democratic values and the rule of law.

Last month, Russian authorities decided to go to trial with a second set of charges first introduced in 2007 when Khodorkovsky was to become eligible for parole. Despite credible reports that he was a model prisoner, parole was denied on apparently flimsy and contrived technical grounds. Yet the Russian judiciary recently saw fit to grant parole to Colonel Yuri Budanov, who was serving a sentence for raping and murdering a Chechen girl. I would also like to note that it was Stanislav Markelov, a courageous attorney who was instrumental in putting Budanov behind bars. But Budanov is now free and Markelov was gunned down, along with Anastasia Baburova a journalist for Russia's premier independent newspaper *Novaya Gazeta*, in broad daylight in central Moscow last January. The message this sends is loud and clear and profoundly disturbing.

Based on the observations of many independent international lawyers and organizations, there was no compelling evidence that Khodorkovsky or any of his associates were guilty of the crimes for which they were originally charged or that the legal process reflected the rule of law or international standards of justice. Even Russian officials have acknowledged that Khodorkovsky's ar-

rest and imprisonment were politically motivated. As reported by the Economist, Igor Shuvalov, First Deputy Prime Minister of Russia, admitted that Khodorkovsky was in a Siberian prison camp "for political reasons." He added that "Once you behead someone, you give a good example (to other Russian tycoons) of how to behave." In other words, freedom for Russia's businessmen is determined by the Kremlin's political expediency. As reported by The Washington Post and the Boston Globe, Shuvalov has called the trial and continued imprisonment of Khodorkovsky a "showflogging" intended to serve as an example to others on the political consequences of challenging the Kremlin's economic ambitions.

The current charges against Khodorkovsky amount to legal hooliganism and highlight the petty meanness of the senior government officials behind this travesty of justice. The charges and verdicts have been inexplicable to Russian and Western lawyers, leading international organizations, courts, and human rights groups to condemn the trial as politically inspired. The second set of charges against Khodorkovsky should be dropped and the new trial should be abandoned.

I strongly support President Obama's call to reset the U.S.-Russian relationship and welcome the statement that emerged from his meeting in London with Russian President Medvedev. We have many common interests with Russia and must seek to improve the atmosphere and substance of our ties with Moscow. But the Helsinki process is predicated on the idea that domestic politics and inter-state relations are linked. I hope that President Medvedev, a trained jurist from whom many hope to see evidence of a reformist approach, will make that connection. The case of Mikhail Khodorkovsky is a good place to start.

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 well over 1,200, are heartbreaking and touching. While energy prices have dropped in recent weeks, the concerns expressed remain very relevant. To respect the efforts of those who took the opportunity to share their thoughts, I am submitting every e-mail sent to me through an address set up specifically for this purpose 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:

Due to the price of gas, my husband might get laid off. He shuttles the railroad employees around Idaho. At this time I do not have a job due to being laid off from St. Al's, so gas prices have and will continue to affect our family until something is done about it!
SARAH.

In short, the fuel prices are making small farming extremely difficult. I have been retired for seven years, and have a small farm to help supplement our income. I have empathy for all citizens in this fine country who are struggling. The time is far spent; our resources need to be utilized now. The environmental hacks and the tree huggers as well as the nuke protestors [have caused harm to our country]. America is hurting because of political gaming. My grandchildren desire to see my wife and me; however, we can no longer afford the fuel for long trips. I am thankful for being able to plant two gardens with intentions of helping less fortunate with food items as they struggle to make ends meet. I have discontinued use of any recreational outings to help stave off the discomfort of tight budgets. A sad commentary after working and saving for over 45 years, and this is the kind of retirement that has been foisted upon millions of us seniors.

RALPH, *Mountain Home*.

Thank you for asking: Here is the data—I spend \$85 a week or \$340 a month driving to work. I spend an equal amount for health care; or that amounts to two paychecks in a month leaving me and family two paychecks for food and housing. Simple math makes one question—in whose interests are our elected leaders working?

FLOYD, *Pocatello*.

When we talk about energy, most people think of two things; Gasoline and the power and gas for their homes. When I hear you politicians talk about weaning ourselves off of fossil fuels, it makes me cringe. How far are from having the technology to produce electric engines that will fly an airplane and what will it cost to produce them? Right now we are at least 50 years from become free of fossil fuels unless I am not up to speed on things, (which is possible). Let us not forget also all the other petroleum-based products we use in our everyday lives. Plastics, foam, etc., are all going to still be wanted and they are also going up in price. I like where you stand on nuclear energy, but until we can quiet the environmental extremists on this point, we will not soon get there. As long as this country is held hostage by special interest environmental groups we will continue to slide economically. I hope [conservatives have not] moved so far left already to start curbing some of this.

My husband and I live in Oakley, which is a small farming community located 20 miles from the nearest town of Burley. Our farmers are getting hit extremely hard due to the cost of diesel, which also raises the cost of shipping. We owned a trucking company that we were forced to close due to the rising costs of fuel. My husband is also a disabled Viet Nam veteran and must drive to the VA hospital every week for various treatments. That is a distance of 200 miles. Since we are on a very small fixed income, we are soon going to be unable to afford to pay our basic living expenses. Our elderly parents live on the coast, and we have had to cancel all plans to visit them this summer. Please stop

this runaway inflation. I am in favor of using domestic energy sources but congress has been ignoring it. It will soon be too late for most of us.

UNSIGNED.

Yes, I am spending more on gas this year. Yet, I believe we need to put more of our government money into conservation and alternative energies not increasing energy exploitation in the U.S. We have the technology and the innovation as Americans to be creative about this problem. I would love a tax break to purchase a hybrid vehicle or a vehicle that uses biodiesel. Please represent us well and keep our pristine, beautiful environment in Idaho and the coastal U.S. any further.

JENNIFER, *Victor*.

My husband is a dentist and earns a good living, but we have felt a need to curtail our usual driving habits because of fuel prices. My husband drives a diesel pickup to and from work and we also use it to pull our boat. He has been considering buying a scooter/m.bike to ride because of the high diesel price, but I really do not want him crossing busy roads on a vehicle that is harder for another driver to see. I have curtailed my trips to town which cuts down on my consumerism. Not a bad idea, but it will likely be what others are doing which is not good for the local economy. Our own dental practice feels the crunch of conservative spending. Our grown children that live away from this area are cutting back on their visits. I do not like not being able to see my grandchildren as often. Higher gas prices limits the lifestyle of everyone. We are so spread out in this country that it is an investment to go anywhere. Let us get drilling!!!

RENEE, *Twin Falls*.

I am in the insurance business and use my vehicle for work. The high fuel prices are really eating into my margins and are making it increasingly hard to stay on top of my personal and business finances. The way I see it is we need to: First, increase our refinery capacity. Build new refineries. Second, increase drilling for more crude. But this will not help until we have the refinery capacity to process it. Third build nuclear power plants for inexpensive electricity.

Of course, all of the above are extremely difficult with the left wing environmentalists fighting us but somehow we have got to get it done! I am just not sure alternative fuels are the answer because of the cost of production.

KENT, *Paul*.

I have supported you because you have always listened and tried your best to solve the problems of all of your constituents. Now you ask for stories about how the high price of oil has affected Idaho families. I would like to give you rather than a story is a solution, albeit a simple-minded one.

As gasoline prices keep racing towards \$5 per gallon, I think it is time to rethink some of our policies. OPEC feels it has a stranglehold on the West and continues to tighten. Now a real simplistic approach to this problem from a purely capitalist point of view would be to look at what goods these countries cannot produce themselves and increase prices there until they feel the pressure to release oil at a more reasonable cost per barrel. You know it is supply versus demand. Last time I checked, they cannot grow enough grain or other food products to sustain life in that region and yet we continue to give away everything. I know this does not breed friendship abroad but they are not our friends anyway, they have proved that time and again.

We also need to release all the energy alternatives that oil companies have been withholding from this country to continue [their] stranglehold on the United States for their profits. This would allow us to relinquish our addiction to foreign oil and strengthen our economy, rather than making continually throwing money at our enemies. Then and only then can we become the Land of the Free and Home of the Brave once again.

Just my opinion, Thank you for your time and allowing me to vent these ideas to you.

JEFF, *Nampa*.

My wife and I like many Idahoans and Americans are feeling the pinch with energy costs rising. There are many issues that attribute to the problem and I feel helpless as an individual that any of these issues will be resolved but we must try, we have no alternatives but to try. If I could prioritize a list of things that I feel we should to do help immediately relieve some of the pain, I would say do the following in order of priority:

(1) Stop the big oil companies from getting so much profit by putting controls on their profits and not help them get such big profits;

(2) Use domestic energy sources;

(3) Nuclear power; and

(4) Renewable and alternative sources of energy.

Now the number one priority in my opinion will be the toughest because I believe like so many other Americans that most government officials will not allow this to happen either because of special interest or under the table money they are receiving from big oil companies. The problem is our government officials are doing nothing illegal in most cases because it is not against the law for special interest groups to contribute to or otherwise [provide a political benefit to their supporters]. As long as this is going on, our rising energy problems will never be solved. We need to get this under control otherwise the big oil companies will pillage us Americans as long as they can.

Other obvious fixes are to use domestic energy sources and nuclear power as much as possible. But as long as the oil companies have free reign, our skyrocketing energy costs will never get under control. We need to pass laws against extreme profits and against allowing big oil companies to lobby our Senators and Congressmen.

DIRCK and CINDY.

Promoting the transition to a hydrogen economy (fuel cell-powered cars) benefits Idaho in two ways: (1) It reduces our dependence on oil and (2) It will fuel the expansion of Idaho National Lab's nuclear research efforts. The two best contenders to replace fossil fuels are batteries or fuel cells. Fuel cells are more compact and better suited for cars, but energy to charge a car battery is much more readily available.

The Next Generation Nuclear Plant (NGNP) being developed at INL (among other national labs) will produce hydrogen at low cost with no carbon emissions. By promoting the growth of the hydrogen economy, Congress will steer research in the direction of NGNP as a replacement to current oil-derived hydrogen.

To make hydrogen viable, the government needs to make more hydrogen available. This means subsidizing hydrogen "gas stations" in high-commuter areas and pushing the NGNP concept through DOE funding. Idaho is a big part of the solution, but the federal government needs to start tapping its valuable scientific resources now.

AARON.

We live in Parma. There is nothing here, a little store and a gas station, but nothing

else. To do any serious shopping we have to go into Caldwell or Nampa or Boise, at a cost of over \$50 for one trip. We do not go shopping often and paying for the gas makes it so expensive we have to cut down on other purchases. We are eating a lot of beans and cornbread, grinding our own wheat and raising a garden because I cannot afford both fuel and food for my little family.

What's going to happen this winter? Where are the programs for underwriting the cost of propane and natural gas? How about shopping with the purchase of wood? Have you considered a quick program that would insulate the homes, or help purchase new windows and doors?

There is a new solar energy development from NanoSolar that no one will make available to homeowners. We could have solar power for a few cents a foot on our roofs. Solar is free and clean, unlike the deadly option like nuclear power. If we do not know how to take care of the garbage from nuclear, then we should not have nuclear power in the first place.

If action is not taken in a big way to save what we have and get into renewable power, the country is not going to survive and this winter will be deadly.

ANN, *Parma*.

I first want to thank Mike Crapo for taking an interest in what we the people are worried about. Finally, someone in our government that is listening to the people and their concerns. I hope that these concerns do not fall on deaf ears and can promise each of you if they do, you will not remain in office long. We as Americans will not tolerate being ignored.

I work in a hospital and help people in need every day by using my field of expertise. (I expect the same from our government representation.) However when I see people holding off until they have no choice but to come in for major medical issues because of financial concerns and when I see many who die because they did not get help soon enough, I feel it time for someone to stand up for them and say enough is enough. It is time for a change.

I do not make a ton of money but know that I am in much better shape than those who work so hard in housekeeping, maintenance, and other lower paying areas in our hospital. I feel the crunch pretty hard with five kids, a mortgage and such and have tried not to drive but walk or ride my bike when I can. However, with the winters, we have and the distance we have to travel in our great state, this is often not possible. So I have to drive. When I get down to a half a tank of fuel, I fill up. Why? Well, it costs me \$72 for a half a tank of diesel and I fear that I would have a stroke on the spot if I had to fill it from empty. That gentleman is ridiculous! I cannot even imagine how those in lower-paying jobs can even make it! When I go to the store and see food prices I am again appalled at what is happening. When I buy clothing, still again I am shocked at the staggering prices. Everything seems to be going up but our wages. Now we do not have the best. We do not buy name brand. We have tightened our belt, and there was not a lot of fat to trim before that. Then we have tightened again. There is not much more to tighten. And I would consider us to be a family in a very modest home, with not much in the way of extras and we have tried to keep our debt to home and car (and never a new car). But with the price of fuel, both for cars and home, things are getting out of hand in a hurry. Why? Greed and power through fear!

Here is the deal. We sit on more oil than OPEC. And yet we have closed at least three refineries in the last ten years. We have never been able to refine oil as cleanly and

efficiently then we can now and yet our government chooses not to build more refineries and sink more oil wells. Supply and demand still runs any business and yet if we were to increase supply, we could still make a healthy profit. Enough to pay for the refineries in a hurry and to put more research into alternative fuels. Not to mention lower dramatically the prices not only at the pump, but everywhere else as well. We might even start to help replenish our failing Social Security and pay down our national debt. Business sense is what we need in Washington. Reagan Economics that helps to build for the future, not run our great nation further into the ground. We do not need more taxes; we need more initiative in Washington. We need leaders that put the interests of the people first and the world second. We need to use what we have while developing new technology for the future. We need some good old fashion farm boy "fix it"—live within your means, balance your own check-book logic. Occam's Razor says that "the simplest answer is usually the best one". We do not need bickering and fighting; we need cooperation. We do not need pork bellies and hidden agendas; we need playing well in the sandbox. We do not need environmentalists dictating to us; we need people who look out for the environment while utilizing in the best way we can, the resources that we have. We need to tap into the creative genius of a nation that has continued to wow the world for over 200 years. We need God and we need to humble ourselves enough to see the other person's ideas for what they are, [accept] what we can use and build together the nation we have had in the past. It is time to put away selfishness and start working with each other toward a stronger more sound America.

Remember that people cannot create and press forward when they can hear nothing but their bellies growling and feel the discomfort of not having their physical needs met. It is when their physical needs are met that they can concentrate on other higher creative thought processes.

Fuel has brought us down in a hurry of late and is a great place to start to bring us back up. Roll up your sleeves and get to work. Supply and demand is still what runs a business, and it seems that we have more than enough supply of professional politicians, saying one thing and doing another or just plain ignoring what we the people say, each of you know where that leads. Be the one to stand shoulder to shoulder with those that have Americas best interest at heart and make a change for the better. We sure do need it if we are to survive.

STEVEN, *Idaho Falls.*

Thank you for giving the people the opportunity to be involved. There is definitely a need for concern about the energy crisis, economy and environmental impacts. These problems are linked and have been around for a long time. They are only going to get worse unless we take stronger action now. There is a solution for the crisis and there always has been. The solution is to unite the people for the cause. "For united we stand and divided we fall".

The following are topics that can immediately be addressed: (1) personal choices; (2) clean energy economy; (3) adoption of renewables; (4) enhanced energy efficiencies; (5) innovative leadership. Visit www.wecansolveit.org for more details.

My story is to get involved and encourage others to get involved! We can start with personal choices by using products and technologies that enhance energy efficiencies such as light bulbs, water saving and efficient toilets, dishwashers, clothes washers, moisture controlled sprinkler systems, biodegradable products, etc.

Fuel reformulators would increase fuel economy by as much 20% and decrease hydrocarbons in the atmosphere by at least 30%. A bridge over troubled waters? (If everyone participated in this one, it would be like taking approximately 145,000 cars and trucks off the highway nationally or 175,000 in the state of Idaho alone!). Visit www.forearthonline.com/EarthLink

Recycle materials and Vote for candidates who are for the people, for the cause, for the earth!

LARRY, *Hailey.*

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING ANDREA MEAD LAWRENCE

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in reflecting on the memory and deeds of a remarkable American, Andrea Mead Lawrence, who passed away March 31 in the town of Mammoth Lakes in Mono County.

Andrea was born in Vermont, where she developed a life-long love of winter sports. At the age of 15, she participated in the 1948 Winter Olympics in St. Moritz, Switzerland. In the 1952 Winter Olympics she won two Gold Medals in the Olympic Special and Giant Slalom races in Oslo, Norway. She also competed in the 1956 Olympics in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy. She was inducted into the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame in 1958 at the age of 25. In 1960, she was the torch lighter at the Winter Olympics in Squaw Valley, CA. She remains the only American double-Gold Medalist in Alpine Skiing. Additional honors and her love of winter sports continued the rest of her life.

In 1967, she moved to Mammoth Lakes in California's spectacularly beautiful Eastern Sierra, a place that she fought to protect, for the rest of her life. Serving 16 years on the Mono County Board of Supervisors, she worked tirelessly to protect and restore Mono Lake and as a member of the Great Basin Air Pollution Control District, she saw that air pollution caused by the de-watering of Owens Lake was reduced. She founded the Andrea Lawrence Institute for Mountains and Rivers in 2003 to work for environmental protection and economic vitality in the region she loved so much.

Last summer, she testified before the Mono County Board of Supervisors in favor of the Eastern Sierra Wild Heritage Act, a bill that became law with the signature of President Barack Obama, the day before she died. Andrea knew that this legislation to protect nearly 500,000 acres of her beloved Eastern Sierra had become law.

Andrea Mead Lawrence passed away surrounded by her children, Cortlandt, Matthew, Dierdre, Leslie and Quentin, and leaves four grandchildren. She was 76 years old. Andrea had a remarkable and wonderful life and she will be sorely missed by all those who were fortunate enough to know her. She leaves a rich legacy that will continue to benefit present and future generations.●

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF CARIBOU, MAINE

• Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, it is with pride and gratitude that today I commemorate the 150th anniversary of Caribou, ME, which happens to be my hometown.

The early settlers of Caribou were brave, self-reliant pioneers who left the comfort and security of established communities behind to make their own way in the wilderness of northern Maine. I am proud that my ancestors, led by Samuel Wilson Collins, were among that intrepid number, and grateful that for six generations my family has been a part of this wonderful community.

I have great memories of growing up in Caribou, where my parents both served as mayor, and where my brothers now run our fifth generation family lumber business. I remember fondly starting the school year in August so that we could take time off to pick potatoes, working at the public library, and the fun we had going to high school basketball teams, especially during the exciting 1969 State championship season.

But more than anything, I remember what it was like to grow up in a place that had such a strong sense of community. We learned to care for our friends and neighbors and to value our family members. We learned to help those in need. And Caribou's farm and lumber roots taught us the importance of hard work. The lessons I learned growing up in Caribou have stayed with me my entire life and I know many others who would say the same.

This sesquicentennial year is a time to honor those who turned a remote settlement into a center of commerce, education, arts and recreation. It is a time to honor the valiant young men who served in many wars, beginning with the Civil War, and who have risen to our Nation's defense ever since.

It is a time to honor the people of Caribou who celebrate each others' joys and who share each others' burdens.

Mr. President, a couple of years ago, the television host and author Larry King asked me to contribute to a book he was compiling of short essays describing an all-important lesson the contributors learned growing up. I was delighted by the request and had no trouble recalling that defining moment.

One of my earliest childhood memories is of being taken to the Caribou Memorial Day Parade by my Dad. A decorated World War II veteran, with the modesty characteristic of all who serve our Nation in uniform, he would hoist me onto his shoulders so I could better see the parade. And what I was able to see was the entire street lined by the people of Caribou, taking off their hats and putting their hands over their hearts as our flag went by, their eyes shining with pride in their country and with gratitude for those who serve her. A community that joins together to honor its past and to face its