

Section	Program or entity	State	Principal sponsor of Senate bill in 110th Cong. (or requester)
2501(b)	Rio Puerco Watershed	NM	Bingaman/Domenici
7101(c)	Keweenaw National Historical Park	MI	Levin
7111	Women's Rights National Historical Park	NY	Clinton
7405(g)	St. Augustine Commemoration Commission	FL	Martinez/Nelson
8001(h)	Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area	CO	Salazar/Allard
8002(h)	Cache La Poudre National Heritage Area	CO	Allard/Salazar
8003(h)	South Park National Heritage Area	CO	Salazar
8004(h)	Northern Plains National Heritage Area	ND	Dorgan/Conrad
8005(h)	Baltimore National Heritage Area	MD	Mikulski/Cardin
8006(i)	Freedom's Way National Heritage Area	MA & NH	Kerry
8007(h)	Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area	MS	Cochran
8008(h)	Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area	MS	Cochran
8009(i)	Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area	AL	none
8010(h)	Kenai Mountains—Turnagain Arm NHA	AK	Murkowski
8201(c)	Quinebaug & Shetucket Nat. Heritage Corridor	CN	Dodd
9001(c)	Snake, Boise & Payette River Systems Study	ID	Craig
9002(b)	Sierra Vista Subwatershed Study	AZ	Kyl/McCain
9003(c)	San Diego Intertie Study	CA	none
9101(c)	Tumalo Irrigation Project	OR	Smith/Wyden
9102(d)	Madera Water Supply Project	CA	Feinstein
9103(e)	Eastern New Mexico Rural Water Project	NM	Bingaman/Domenici
9105(b)	Jackson Gulch Rehabilitation Project	CO	Salazar/Allard
9106(g)	Rio Grande Pueblos	NM	Bingaman
9108(j)	Santa Margarita River	CA	none
9109(a)	Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District	CA	none
9110(a)	North Bay Water Reuse Authority	CA	Feinstein/Boxer
9111(a)	Prado Basin Treatment Project	CA	Feinstein
9112(b)	Bunker Hill Groundwater Basin	CA	Feinstein
9114(a)	Yucaipa Valley Water District	CA	none
9301(3)	San Gabriel Basin Restoration Fund	CA	none
10009	San Joaquin Restoration Settlement	CA	Feinstein/Boxer
10203	Friant Division Improvements	CA	Feinstein/Boxer
10501	Reclamation Water Settlement Funds	NM	Bingaman/Domenici
10609	(a) Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project	NM	Bingaman/Domenici
10609(b)	San Juan Conjunctive Use Wells	NM	Bingaman/Domenici
10609(c)	San Juan River Irrigation Projects	NM	Bingaman/Domenici
10609(d)	Other Irrigation Projects	NM	Bingaman/Domenici
10702(f)	Navajo Nation Water Trust Fund	NM	Bingaman/Domenici
10807(b)	Duck Valley Development Fund	NV	Reid/Ensign
10807(c)	Duck Valley Maintenance Fund	NV	Reid/Ensign
12107	National Institute for Undersea Science and Technology	MS	Reid (Cochran)
13006	National Tropical Botanical Garden	HI	Akaka
15101	Smithsonian Institution Mathias Laboratory	MD	Leahy (Dodd)
15102	Smithsonian Institution Panama Laboratory	Panama	Leahy (Dodd)
15103	Smithsonian Institution greenhouse	MD	Reid (Leahy/Dodd)

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:

Thank you for your newsletter regarding the current problem of gasoline prices. I am a widow living on Social Security income. My car is a 1981 Volvo. Driving my car has almost come to a standstill. I drive only for necessities. I feel like a bear hibernating over the winter. The idea of buying a new car with better mileage is out of the question for me.

As to the things our Nation should be doing—these include drilling for oil wherever available, using oil shale, developing nuclear power, windmills, biofuels. Using corn for ethanol is the craziest idea of all. The com-

modities market is hitting new highs almost daily. With the floods in Iowa, we cannot afford to use corn for oil. The animals that need corn for food are affecting our prices in the grocery store. Get rid of regulations that cause energy companies to take years to develop energy or cause no action because of the red tape of government.

Blaming the oil companies for so-called obscene profits is nonsense. Taxes on gasoline are more than profits per gallon of gas that the oil companies collect. Exxon has even said that they are closing some stations because of non profit. It is sad that many do not understand the basics of economics.

The American public has spoken. Stop listening to the environmentalists. Because there has been no foresight, we are suffering now for the lack of action by those in the past who we elected to represent us. Both parties are responsible, but blaming does not get the job done.

It is embarrassing to read that France has developed their nuclear power while we just sit and talk about it. It is sad knowing that foreign countries are acquiring leases to drill for oil in our backyard, while we just sit and watch what is going on in the Gulf of Mexico and grumble about it. It is humiliating to hear those who say we are becoming a third world nation. Americans are known for their innovation.

Gasoline prices are affecting food prices, small businesses and the cost of all goods and services. Independent truckers are suffering. We rely on them for delivery of our food and goods to market. If their numbers decrease because of their cost of doing business, it will cause an additional increase in prices or possibly the disappearance of some goods. I do not think we want that to happen to our food supplies.

The time has come to act. Now is the time. We must not waste time. The public is begging for some common sense to solve these problems. Egos must be ignored lest we suffer more. Corporate America knows how to solve these problems. Do not hinder them any more with government red tape.

LAVERGNE, Hayden.

Our family lives about 30 miles from Idaho Falls where we do most of our business. My daughter and I also drive about 32 miles each way to our places of work so we are impacted every day. Our best guess is that we are spending about \$400 per month more now than we did when gas was \$2 per gallon. So far our response has been to curtail vacation traveling and reduce other unnecessary purchases.

Solutions (in order of preference):

1. Pursue increased domestic oil drilling including off-shore and ANWR and encourage construction of more refineries. I believe environmental concerns have been greatly exaggerated and need to be evaluated based on their cost effectiveness relative to their impact on the cost of living versus risk to our quality of life.

2. Pursue alternative energy sources only as far they are cost-effective. If bio-fuels need to be subsidized in order to maintain production, they are obviously not cost-effective.

3. Pursue nuclear power generation (we are 20 years behind). There is also potential for hydrogen as a by-product that could be used as an alternative to gasoline. I have doubts about wind generation as a cost-effective alternative energy source, and I personally do not care for it is adverse effect on the natural beauty of Idaho's landscapes.

4. Pursue improved coal-fired electrical generation. I also have serious concerns regarding the apparent race to reduce CO₂ emissions at any cost when there is so little real evidence that proves a correlation with global warming (also unverified).

5. Encourage more mass transit systems in our larger cities and offer incentives for their use. I was in San Diego, California last week and the traffic was absolutely mind-boggling.

6. Encourage better individual planning and carpooling across the nation. There are way too many of us making unnecessary trips to the store and letting our kids drive to school every day when we have buses making the same trip, but I suppose this will

take care of itself eventually when the price of gas gets to around \$6 per gallon.

Thanks for asking and thanks for your service to Idaho,

WADE, *Hamer*.

We are an independent pharmacy and offer free delivery service to our customers. Medicare, Medicaid, uninsured and indigent customers are all included. We are seriously considering charging for this service or eliminating it all together due to excessively high fuel prices.

Along with fuel cost, Medicare issues, such as slow pay and low pay, are making it really difficult to stay in business. We have no control over our reimbursement prices and are told to take it or leave it. All of these price increases must be passed on to the consumer somehow if we are to survive. Drug companies are raising prices too.

Thanks for asking for input.

KENT, *Twin Falls*.

We appreciate your concern about the rising costs of energy. As you say in Idaho we live quite a distance from most of the things we do. So the rising cost of gas has made a big impact on what we spend for transportation. We would encourage you to do whatever is necessary to make the changes in the current laws to allow exploration and drilling for oil including oil shale process. We have billions of gallons that cannot be tapped because of all the government red tape. We have supported the foreign suppliers long enough. Many of them are supporting terrorists who are enemies to us and our way of life. It is way passed time Congress became accountable for the restrictions they have placed on exploration and oil production. Do all you can to help this situation.

BOYD and LADENE, *Ucon*.

While the rise in petroleum prices is certainly a hardship to many people in Idaho, I do not know what else would have finally prompted a serious discussion about alternate energy sources and about seriously conserving energy. I usually ride a bicycle to work and drive an 18-year-old Honda Civic, which gets 44 mpg on the highway. If the entire U.S. auto fleet got similar mileage, I believe we could drastically cut our oil imports. The technology for more fuel efficient vehicles has been around for quite a while—that technology has not been encouraged and is currently not utilized. Here is an excerpt from Miller's *Living in the Environment* (8th edition) textbook written 10 years ago: "Since 1985 at least 10 companies including Volvo, Volkswagon, Renault, Peugeot, Honda, Mazda, Toyota and General Motors have had peppy prototype cars that meet or exceed current safety and pollution standards with fuel efficiencies of 67 to 138 mpg. If they were mass produced their slightly higher costs would be more than offset by their fuel savings . . . We can have roomy, peppy, safe, gas sippers, but only if consumers begin demanding them and buying them. (p 452)."

With encouragement from the government, we could do even better than this. However, we do not seem to change our wasteful energy behavior because it is logical or because it harms the environment. We do it because we have to and cannot afford to do otherwise. Only economic pressure will force us to let go of our addiction to driving 2-3 ton SUVs, usually with only one person inside, commuting 20 miles to work and 1 mile to the store when walking or biking would do. People in Europe drive smaller cars and use much less oil per capita—but they have been paying \$5 or more per gallon for a long time. Drilling more holes in the ground to extract the remaining reserves of oil in the U.S. fast-

er, would only serve to delay the change in consumption of petroleum that we all must make. Subsidizing alternative energy development makes good sense. Solar, wind, and biofuels, along with conservation should receive highest priority. Nuclear power would seem to be the best "bridging" source of energy—if it were not for the problem of handling wastes. You might want to look at the International Society of Doctors for the Environment's resolution on nuclear energy, March 2007 (<http://201.116.215.170/isde.org>). Further research on handling nuclear waste should be encouraged before constructing more nuclear power plants. Had we put significant effort and resources on alternate energy during the past 20 years, the adjustment to higher oil prices now would not have been so painful. We will need to use a wide variety of energy sources to replace the declining and increasingly expensive petroleum. People will adjust to the higher prices of gasoline by car pooling, taking public transportation, moving closer to work, buying more fuel efficient vehicles, making less needless trips, and many other ways. I recognize that this is not the kind of personal story about how high oil prices are hurting me, but I thought you should be aware of a different view of the oil price crisis.

Thank for asking for input.

ROGER.

My husband and I live in Salmon. He will be 69 June 22nd; I am 70. He is a recovering heart patient; I am a declining COPD patient. We are on a fixed income (Social Security) and are both under the care of specialists, who practice in Missoula, Montana, 170 miles away. We cancelled our appointments last month with our doctors because we simply do not have the money for gas. It is a sad state of affairs when a person cannot afford to visit their physician because gas is (as of today here in Salmon) \$4.25. I think it is time to start drilling. Perhaps even open some of our reserves.

Thank you for offering this site for folks like us to share the hardship this is causing not only in our lives but everyone in our community.

CONNIE.

One of the ways that my husband and I are coping with the increasing gasoline prices is that my husband is riding his motorcycle to work to reduce gasoline consumption. What I do not like about this situation is that it increases his chances for a fatal accident while commuting because of the increased danger of not being seen by the numerous other drivers in a high traffic time.

We should be using our own domestic resources for oil in all ways possible (drilling and shale) and we should build nuclear power plants. France is a good model for very safe and productive nuclear resources.

DEBRA, *Boise*.

Thank you for asking us everyday Idahoans how high fuel prices are affecting us on a daily basis. My husband and I were just discussing this two days ago, about how and where we can cut down in order to shift the dollars to gasoline. First off, we are retired and on a fixed income; so that means when the price of one thing goes up, another thing will have to go down. We spend an average of \$100 a month on gas. That, I know, is small compared to other Idahoans, and that is because we do not have to drive to work.

Since gas has doubled in one year, we have to come up with another \$100 a month to cover the increase. First, we ended our gym membership, which was costing \$45 a month. Well, that is as far as we got. We do not know what else to cut down on. So we are in the hole \$65 monthly. I am going to see if I

can cut down on food, as I have seen the prices of food going up, too. I know my electric bill, water bill, and gas bill will be going up, too. It is very scary for us.

Other things we are doing is grouping our trips together. This does offer a challenge due to logistics and time. And the impact of this cannot be calculated by any means, so I do not know what the effect of that will be.

Other things we are trying is not eating fast food anymore. This is upsetting especially to me, because sometimes I just do not have the energy or the desire to cook. Going to a fast food was my respite.

We also are not planning to make any day trips to other cities in Idaho anymore. We are new residents of Idaho, and wanted to explore its beauty this summer, when the weather was warmer. Last year, we were able to drive to Bogus Basin, Silver City, McCall, and Tamarack, and also explore the Boise National Forest. After all, is not that what retirement is supposed to be? However, we stopped talking about those trips. We even opted not to go to the next city over, Eagle, to experience our first Eagle Days fair, due to the drive.

In other words, Senator, our driving today has been limited to just essential places, such as the grocery store and taking our Labradors to the nearby creek for a swim, which is the highlight of their day and we just cannot take that away from them.

We were planning on buying life insurance for my husband, who is 63 and 13 years older than I am. Currently he has no life insurance. We are newlyweds (just 1 year), and I am always worried about what will happen to me when he dies. We have bills to pay, and the funeral costs alone average \$7,000. After doing research comparisons, the best insurance we could get was \$125 a month for just \$100,000 of life insurance. We wanted to buy more insurance, but at \$125 a month, that was all we can afford. Now, even that is on hold. That presents a daily worry for me, as my husband is active and can get hurt anytime.

We must open up America for the oil companies to dig. I am so upset with the current EPA guidelines, which seem to be more concerned about protecting animals (like the caribou and the polar bear) than of the survival of the human race, especially the elderly like my husband and myself. Quality of life? There is none anymore, but the caribou and the polar bears have a great quality of life, do not they? I remember my early Bible days when in Genesis, God told Adam, "All this is yours for your use" (paraphrasing). Man is the highest earth form yesterday, today, and always will be. I truly believe that everything around us is meant to be used to our advantage, with minimum and common sense protection.

I would also like to see a nuclear plant in Idaho. We have so much land here, with the nearest civilization miles away. Nuclear plants are safe. I know that. If having a nuclear plant here in Idaho will help Idahoans with lower energy costs, then that is what I want. My husband agrees, too. If the other states are too liberal or too scared to put one up, then that is their problem. Right now, my concern is for me, my husband, and Idaho.

Thank you so much for letting me speak. I really appreciate that. In my last state, that is unheard of. That is one of the reasons I love living in Idaho.

STELLA, *Meridian*.

A few years ago when we had another crisis with fuel, the Feds stepped in and made a national speed limit to help conserve fuel. I think it is needed more now than then. Stiff enforcement penalties would need to be set up for each state for enforcement.

Also many years ago we had glass bottles and people employed in glass factories making them. We could save a lot of petrol by getting away from so much plastic. Glass is far easier to recycle than plastic and it is reusable.

It is time [Congress got past partisanship and figured out how to solve these problems]. They should be paying us by now not the other way around. Let us put an end to the financial handout to them and start using those funds to build our own country.

LUCIAN.

Thank you for your recent communication regarding your vote on the climate change bill. I must say that I disagree with your decision, despite being spared an increase in gasoline costs. With 5 kilowatt-h/sq meter of solar income, in addition to our hydroelectric power and category 4-5 wind, Idaho should be a net green energy exporter. Just because the oil companies, in times of record profits, decide to squeeze the consumer, does not mean we can make the short-sighted choice to think only with our wallets. We need an energy policy that provides true security—a diversified portfolio of energy sources—not continued investment in a delivery system that is outmoded, wasteful, and polluting. I am stretched in this economy, but I would gladly put out the extra money for the long term solution of improved air quality (have you seen the brown air over the Treasure Valley recently), cutting off money supply to unstable Mideast regimes, and a chance for my son to have a functional environment in which to live. Please stop making short-term political decisions when you have the opportunity to show true leadership and thoughtfully consider how to achieve a sustainable future for our country. It is not too hard for us, for heaven's sake, we are Americans!

LISA, Boise.

The cost for fuel oil has gone from \$.60 per gal. to over \$4 per gallon, raising my monthly heating costs in the winter from \$85 to \$353 per month. I also drive around 40,000 miles per year for my job and while costs have skyrocketed, the business deduction has not, which is, in fact, a tax increase to go with the punishing costs. To add to these problems, my wife's mother, who lives in Dillon, Montana, has cancer, and lives at her trailer home for now. She is on Medicaid, has limited options for care and depends on us for many things. It is a six-hour drive. We get reasonable good mileage but that country, with the unpredictable weather, has a negative impact on our 26 miles per gallon. The cost of the trip has gone from \$100 to \$400 in just the last year and ½. My wife stayed home and raised our children while I provided for them so she has no Social Security. I am self-employed, so there is no retirement waiting except for what I can provide and I have used that to pay my taxes till it ran out. My wife was injured very badly 2½ years ago without insurance and I must pay the county back over the next 15 years. I realize that these things are adversity and I can, with hard work and the blessings of God, overcome them and still succeed. The biggest obstacle in my way is the very government that has sworn to uphold and defend the constitution that was inspired to protect me. Those who are bent on a socialistic society are destroying my hope for a future and the hope of my children.

RICHARD, Caldwell.

TRIBUTE TO ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE STUDENT VOLUNTEERS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I wish to draw the attention of the Senate to a

group of selfless volunteers at St. Michael's College in Colchester, VT, who sacrificed time with their families and friends this past holiday season to ensure that Vermonters in need of emergency services had someone to call upon even on the Christmas holiday.

St. Michael's Fire and Rescue was founded in 1969 and has been staffed and operated by student volunteers ever since. Donald Sutton, affectionately known as "Pappy" around the firehouse, helped start the organization as dean and director of campus security following the untimely death of a student athlete on campus. Nearly 40 years later, the organization serves as the primary ambulance and fire service for a large portion of the State's most populous region, Chittenden County.

The student volunteers who make this organization run find time outside of their rigorous course work to not only be on call but also to complete hundreds of hours of Emergency Medical Technician training and Firefighter training. While their classmates may be battling another school on the ice, on the field, or on the court—St. Michael's Fire and Rescue members are risking their lives in real-life emergency situations, aiding the sick, and putting out fires. Even during the holidays, when schools shut down and students usually go home to visit with family, these students stand watch for their community.

While I was at my family farm in Middlesex this holiday season, I came across a Christmas Day Burlington Free Press article highlighting the sacrifice of these students. I ask unanimous consent that the text of that article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Burlington Free Press, Dec. 25, 2008]

NO BREAK FOR STUDENTS ON RESCUE SQUAD (by Joel Banner Baird)

COLCHESTER.—Their classmates might delight in holiday downtime: late nights, late mornings, heavy meals and torpor.

On the night before Christmas, a student-staffed rescue squad at St. Michael's College remains on-call and alert—by choice. Time off will come to squad Capt. Kristen Dalton, 21, later this week, after a 90-hour week at the College Parkway station.

Her fellow St. Mike's seniors, Mark Petersen and Peter Cronin, both 21, opted for holiday duty, too.

This is more than a club. The squad's 20 members are first-responders who you see tending to car-wreck victims and heart-attack patients. They respond to more than 2,700 calls every year from Chittenden County residents, most of them in Colchester, Winooski and Hinesburg. Dalton looked cheerful on a slow Wednesday morning.

The biology major and pre-med student said she typically logs 40 to 50 hours per week at St. Michael's Fire and Rescue.

Each volunteer, certified as an Emergency Medical Technician, puts in at least 24 hours per week, including a 12-hour overnight shift at the station.

"We hold ourselves to a 3-minute response time," Dalton said. "I throw a jumpsuit over

my pajamas, I'm in my boots, and I'm out the door."

Like his captain, Petersen joined the squad as a freshman. He said the commitment taught him how to juggle academic commitments.

"It really, really forces you into time management," he said.

Another learning curve brought him up to speed as a member of a larger, adult community.

"What we do here is a lot of consequence-based decision-making," he said. "You see the results of your actions right away. It makes you step back and say, 'Hey—I'm not a kid anymore.'"

Interrupting him, a call came through dispatch: An infant in Plattsburgh, N.Y., needed to be transported to Fletcher Allen.

Petersen and Cronin did a final inspection of the neo-natal intensive care truck—one of the station's three ambulances—and headed out to pick up a specialist at the hospital en route to New York.

Christmas Eve's activities would be anybody's guess. Wrapped packages lay beneath a decorated tree in the ready room. Cronin's parents said they'd cook breakfast for the volunteers on Christmas morning.

Dalton said the squad would lose almost half of its members after graduation. She's already planning a spring recruitment drive.

"This attracts a lot of different people—people who want to do something good with their time," she said.

As if on cue, Kate Soons of Colchester, a self-described "lingering alum," entered with an overnight bag. She'd heard about the Plattsburgh call and wanted to provide backup.

Soons served with the squad in the 1980s, and now is a nurse at Fletcher Allen. She also coordinates regional emergency care training, and keeps tabs on St. Mike's graduates who have chosen to stay active in the field.

Begun in 1969, the rescue squad is the busiest volunteer ambulance unit in the state, she said.

"It's a big family," she said.

Soons' husband, Pete Soons, also served with rescue volunteers as an undergraduate. He directs the college's department of public safety, overseeing campus security, rescue and fire squads.

Unlike the rescue volunteers, St. Michael's 25 firefighters have an off-campus affiliation; they're a battalion in the Colchester Center Volunteer Fire Company.

Standing between a hose truck and an engine, company firefighter Gary Zeno discussed hydrant fittings with freshman Andrea Dillner, 19. Still in training, Dillner will accompany squads as a rookie until she qualifies for hands-on work.

Nonetheless, she volunteered.

After a briefing with Zeno, she headed upstairs, past a wall-sized calendar of shift schedules and birthdays, to take a nap.

Dalton, coffee in hand, looked as wide-awake as ever on the night before Christmas.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RETIREMENT OF CHARLENE DAVIS

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, today I acknowledge and pay tribute to Charlene Davis's dedication and service to the people of Missouri as she retires from the Jackson County Election Board of Election Commissioners after 34 years.

During her tenure with the board, Charlene has helped modernize our election technology, improving the reliability and integrity of elections.