

So we will probably have a bill that is over \$3,000 for heating our home basically 6 months out of the year. If gas goes any higher—we are going to have to figure out how to get even deeper in debt to find a cheaper way to heat our home in the winter. As you know—Idaho gets cold. We HAVE to heat our home!!! Living in Salmon, we HAVE to drive over 300 miles in a round trip either to Idaho Falls or Missoula Montana for doctors, Costco, clothes shopping etc.—as due to there being a lack of logging or mining anymore there is really no local options for shopping, etc. The very lives of people living here depend on big rig trucks bringing our food etc. For MANY years now, we have been hearing of the Idaho Cobalt Project—but because the environmentalists have such a stranglehold on ALL industries in this country—we are still awaiting word of WHEN or IF this project will start. If it does get clearance, Salmon, Idaho will once again have jobs that pay a living wage for a family. We have a house that we moved out of in downtown Salmon in 2005—it has been sitting empty awaiting a buyer since then. It is in a commercial zone—and commercial is dead in Salmon. We filed paperwork with our mortgage company way back in February to give the house back in a Deed in Lieu—and we are still awaiting word!!! Apparently, the mortgage companies are backlogged about 6 months? We can't afford to visit family in California because we can't afford the gas. My husband's mother and father in California got extremely ill this last year, but he was never able to visit because of the debt load we are carrying and how expensive driving or flying is!! We are working to make payments and catch up on our gas bills that are maxed out right now. We stopped making payments on a house that would not sell for 3 years now—that has left us behind in everything. With fuel costs continuing to rise because we have a Democratic Liberal, Anti-American Congress that continues to ban any sort of domestic drilling for our own petroleum deposits—we don't even have a chance to catch up right now as gas prices continue to rise. We are fortunate though. My husband has a busy and successful business and thankfully at least, we are able to work to make our payments. On Father's Day, we decided against a picnic any further than 5 miles out of town because of the cost of fuel. It is sickening to us that our government cares SO little for the average working American. It is sad that our government has allowed itself to be controlled by secular humanist environmentalists who care more for a spotted owl or a tiny snail than the human family. Just ask anyone here in Salmon how we feel about the forests being shut down to logging—yet it is perfectly fine for the forest that is becoming nothing more than a deadfall tinderbox to burn and choke us with toxic, suffocating smoke for 2 months every summer! Something has to change because if it does not soon—this country is going to enter a depression that makes the Great Depression look like the Good Old Days!!!

Sincerely,

BRENT AND KATIE, *Salmon.*

It is very hard to understand why the United States, the most powerful Nation on Earth, is begging the Middle East for oil. We need to immediately increase drilling off shore, in Alaska and other States, plus utilize technology available to extract oil from shale deposits in the Rocky Mountains. We have advanced technology sufficiently to be safe for the environment and yet provide for ourselves rather than being dependent upon the Middle East.

Is it true that China is drilling off the Florida coast, but we can't? In Idaho Falls, the Chamber is bragging about bringing a

French company's new uranium enrichment plant and the corresponding jobs to the area to fuel nuclear power for France. WHAT—we have had the capability of generating nuclear power at the INEL for 35 years. My father worked at the INEL for 35 years. You mean to tell me the environmentalists will allow uranium enrichment for France, but we can't utilize an existing US nuclear plant for power for Idaho?

Bio-fuels are not the whole answer, it puts too much pressure on our farmland that we need to crop food crops. The prices of food are going up enough because of the fuel costs.

The US has substantial coal deposits, we need to build more coal fired power plants. Combined with the nuclear and wind, we should be able to have more than enough power to re-charge hybrid cars.

Besides increasing drilling in the US, we need to invest in some updated/additional refineries.

Then, Congress needs to do something about the speculators driving up the price of crude oil. I don't know if you can make it illegal to speculate on oil futures or restrict it, but news media are reporting that \$3.00 of every gallon goes to speculators profits buying and selling.

CHRIS, *Idaho Falls.*

DEAR SENATOR: My husband and I own a small business in Lewiston, where we do print advertising and TV/Video productions (among other things). We live close to our business, so although our fuel prices have increased, it's not having a huge impact—YET. However, we frequently have to travel across or out of the state to shoot various jobs, and we are now having to charge such high travel expenses that we are at risk of losing some clients to production companies closer to their location, even though they would prefer to keep working with us. We are bidding on a job right now which falls in that category—a year ago we would have quoted them \$200 for mileage, and now we have to quote almost \$500. Obviously this will impact our bottom line by the end of the year—something that we really can't afford.

BOBRI, *Lewiston.*

SENATOR CRAPO: I would guess that my story is different than the story you were looking for.

In 1974 I graduated from the University of California with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering.

The height of the first real Oil Crisis created by OPEC.

Because of the skyrocketing price of gasoline, gas lines, and shortages, I purchased a manual transmission diesel Volkswagen for \$7,500. That car on average got 52 miles per gallon. Diesel is a cheap byproduct of gasoline refinement. At that time, it cost ½ the price of gasoline per gallon.

Tell me why it costs more than gasoline now?

A few weeks after graduation, I was granted a full scholarship to continue engineering graduate school at UC.

In 1979 I graduated from UC with a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering, my specialty: thermodynamics, energy, and materials science. My thesis was on the extraction of heat energy from hot geothermal brine solutions.

I started working for a startup company purchased by Weyerhaeuser. My project was researching burning lignite (dirty coal) in a fluidized bed reactor to produce clean coal energy. It included the removal of NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>x</sub>, and high temperature particulate down below the submicron size.

My research burned one train car load of lignite (environmentally the worst coal to burn with the lowest heating value) from

West Virginia, in Menlo Park, CA every day 24/7 for nearly 9 months performing experiments under contract with the US DOE. Our work was successful but went no further. During the operation of that combustion system and the associated experiments we passed all EPA combustion gas stream standards. That company years later went bankrupt. I left after 2 years to join Hewlett Packard in their computer systems group. For the past 25 years I've been involved in semiconductor manufacturing.

Thirty years have passed and sadly our government is no closer to a long term proactive energy policy than it was in 1979.

It is a national disgrace and one day will be a national disaster which will make the Great Depression pale in comparison.

PLEASE, wait no longer. Turning food stocks into ethanol, waiting for cheap solar, and looking to the wind to solve this global crisis is beyond ridiculous.

Drill now in ANWR, Drill off the Coasts of Florida, and California, Turn on the clean coal industry and liquefy coal for fuel, build as many nuclear power plants as fast as possible (then maybe we can avoid the energy depression). I don't believe we have another 30 years to gamble away.

Regards,

LARRY, *Eagle.*

MIKE, I really believe that we don't need to find alternative fuels. America is set up to burn petroleum based products and there are so many drawbacks to all of the "bio" fuels. We have lots of oil right off of our own coasts and in the Gulf on Mexico, ANWR and North and South Dakota with oil shale.

Our problem to being independent is not supply, Arabs or the environment! It's Congress and the wacko left enviro crowd who would rather see us all on bicycles!

I'm 62 years old and I DO ride a bicycle. However, like you mentioned in your opening letter, bikes don't work all the time in Idaho. Matter of fact between October and June, they suck! We had 2" of snow in Moscow on June 10th this year.

Congress needs to just get out of the way and let industry do its thing.

Mike, I realize you're only one Senator from a little-known state out West that doesn't matter to everybody East of the Mississippi River but some how we have to find the courage to stand up to the liberal Dems before our economy state and country are turned into a Third World European nightmare like B. H. O is designing.

Sincerely,

DAVE, *Moscow.*

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

#### IN RECOGNITION OF ROBERT LINGENFELTER

● Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, today I recognize Robert Lingenfelter, affectionately known as "Link," for being named Delaware History Teacher of the Year by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and Preserve America. Link has dedicated his life to the thousands of school children whose lives he has touched as a teacher, as a coach and as a mentor.

The History Teacher of the Year Award, now in its fifth year, was designed to promote and celebrate the teaching of American history in classrooms across our Nation. The award honors one exceptional teacher from each State and U.S. territory. The selection of the State winner is based upon several criteria, including a deep

career commitment to teaching American history; evidence of creativity and imagination in the classroom that address literacy and content beyond state standards; and evidence of thoughtful assessment of student achievement. Through Link's 13 dedicated years of teaching, it is clear that he embodies all of these criteria and many more.

After working for years as a night supervisor for what is now AstraZeneca, Link graduated from Wilmington College in 1995 with a bachelor's degree in education on a day that I was privileged to deliver the commencement address there. Three years later, he earned his master's of instruction from Wilmington College, which is now Wilmington University. He was motivated to become a teacher because of his interest in American History, his love of coaching and his passion to motivate children to achieve their true potential.

His interest in American history was increased in part by his work with me as a volunteer photographer over the past 26 years. During that time, Link also has documented a host of important events throughout Delaware. In his own words, he "created history with his camera lens."

In addition to teaching, Link has coached high school baseball for 14 years. He developed a love of the game as a child and wanted to see the same passion he felt for the game in the eyes of the children he coached. He stresses individual success for each of his players and he has always believed that once a child experiences success, they start believing that anything is possible. Link tries to foster this "anything is possible" mentality in all of his students and players, continually encouraging them to do their absolute best and settle for nothing less.

He has been instrumental in the growth of many children, building their confidence and showing them the path to personal success. His dedication to the children he coached is apparent to all who know him as he teaches his players lessons that will help them in all walks of life, both on and off the diamond.

Noticing his innate ability to connect with students and his drive to help them grow, Link's friends and players' parents suggested he pursue a career in teaching. With their encouragement, he decided to combine his love for American history and his commitment to helping children succeed. He became a teacher.

Link started his teaching career at Stanton Middle School, where he worked from 1995–1998 as a 7th grade social studies and language arts teacher. In 1998, he joined Skyline Middle School where he teaches today. He is an 8th grade American history and social studies teacher and also serves as the social studies department chair. In addition, he works as an adjunct professor at Wilmington University.

Link has been recognized many times as the Social Studies Teacher of the

Year by the Red Clay School District and was named the 2002–2003 Teacher of the Year at Skyline Middle School. These awards are a tribute to Link's creative teaching style and his genuine desire to help his students succeed.

Link's teaching style is unique and specifically tailored to helping students not just learn history but relive it. Link and others think of him as more than just a teacher. He is something of an actor, as well. He brings history alive in his classroom with props and costumes and engages his students in a way no textbook can. He and his students hold simulations of historical events, assuming the roles of prominent historic figures and acting out the sequence of the events. His students reenact the Boston massacre mock trial, the Constitution Convention of 1787, slavery and the underground railroad, and even battles of the Civil War. He doesn't simply teach history he engages his students to participate in history, bringing to mind the old Chinese proverb: Tell me, and I'll forget. Show me, and I may remember. Involve me, and I'll understand.

Link also utilizes the historic sites in the area to further instill in his students an understanding of America's past. He takes his students on trips to the Constitution Center in Philadelphia and to Fort Delaware, as well as to any number of sites in Washington, DC. His "classroom museum" is a place of interactive learning that is far from a memorization of dates and locations; instead, it is a journey through American history, with stops and detours along the way where students fully embrace America's past and its impact on the present.

Link is a powerful teacher with a deep love for his students and for history. He has a lighthearted attitude that allows him to connect with students on a level that few can. He can always be counted on to have a joke ready to break up the stresses of the students he teaches. Using his sense of humor to his advantage, Link constantly builds a closer relationship with his students to the point where they know they can come to him with anything from a history question to a problem with a friend at school.

Link is a truly remarkable teacher and human being. He encourages his students to reach beyond their limits and settle for nothing less. He instills in them the confidence they need to stand up for principles they believe in and become proponents of change in the future. His teaching philosophy is one to be admired and emulated as it allows students to be participants in history as opposed to mere observers.

Robert "Link" Lingenfelter has become one of the finest teachers in Delaware, and he is on his way to becoming one of the finest teachers in America. It is with a genuine sense of honor and joy that I rise today to extend heartfelt congratulations to my good friend for his award. There could not be a more deserving recipient. He will al-

ways be a role model, not just to his own students, but to all of us. ●

#### TRIBUTE TO LEROY KOPPENDRAYER

● Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, today, I honor the distinguished public career of LeRoy Koppendraye, retiring chairman of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. LeRoy was appointed commissioner in 1998 and chairman in 2003. He has served Minnesotans honorably for 10 years, upholding and protecting the interests of Minnesota's utility ratepayers while enjoying the respect and camaraderie of his fellow commissioners and those who have come to know him.

LeRoy's journey to becoming a commissioner has been filled with a lifetime of experiences anyone would admire. In the 1990s, LeRoy was elected to four terms as a representative in Minnesota's Legislature where he worked successfully on issues ranging from agriculture to energy to education. He also worked for years as a dairy farmer and then as an international agricultural consultant, spending time in South America, Africa, Jamaica, Philippines, and Indonesia, consulting farmers and working to develop and improve their economies and their lives. LeRoy's appointment to the commission caps his decades-long commitment to public service.

LeRoy's work as commissioner includes decisions on a myriad of issues facing Minnesota's utility ratepayers, such as rate cases filed by natural gas, electric, and telephone utility companies, the twin cities metro area code split, the establishment of rules governing reliability standards for electric utilities, renewable energy projects and the citing and routing of energy facilities and transmission pipelines, to name just a few.

LeRoy's committee memberships include the National Association of Regulatory Commissioners, known as NARUC; as liaison to NARUC's International Relations Committee; the NARUC Regulatory Advisory Committee to the Institute of Public Utilities; and the NARUC Committee on Electricity and Subcommittee on Strategic Issues. He has also served as chair of the Nuclear Waste Strategy Coalition and as a member of the board of the Organization of Midwest States, which oversees the Midwest electricity grid.

As chairman, LeRoy has ensured the integrity of the commission's process through thoughtful consideration of issues and a friendly rapport with those who appear before the commission. Whether it is a lawyer representing a utility or a concerned citizen appearing for the first time, LeRoy's approach is the same. He treats everyone with genuine respect and professional courtesy and with a sincere interest in understanding each person's point of view.