

email, the dollar is at 73.544. Oil prices have gone straight up because the value of the dollar is way down from its typical 100.000 mark. Drilling for more oil would certainly help our economy in the short run, but without the focus being on the valuation of the dollar, we are just applying band-aids. I believe that America should apply working solutions that reinvigorate American pride. Businesses need tax breaks to survive the current shaky economy. Businesses that deal strictly with products made in the USA should be rewarded quite a bit more beyond generalized tax breaks. The rebuilding of our economy needs to focus on the true roots of our economic engine.

BOB.

First off, I want to thank you for taking the time to listen to the average American on how high energy prices are affecting our daily lives.

My husband and I are getting close to retirement age. My husband is in his 60s, Viet Nam vet and very proud of the fact he was able to serve his country. I am 56. We live in a small rural community, surround by farm ground, population 600. Both my husband and I commute to work—I have about 25 miles, he has about 17. I understand that it is our choice to live “out in the country,” but the choice was made to start up a business in our little town; my husband opened up a small engine repair shop. Things were clicking along great for a few years. We weren’t setting the world on fire, but life was good, until the economy took a downward turn. We had to close our shop and my husband went back to into the workforce resulting in the commute.

I would say we have an average income, the two of us bringing in approx \$50,000. We do not own a lot of fancy things, do not drive fancy cars, and we are just average down home folks. As the price of fuel begins to climb, I see the extra we set aside for our “retirement” dwindle, it now fills the gas tank so we can go to work to pay the bills to put gas in the gas tank. The circle continues with no end. I worry about the “golden” years; will there be enough for us to actually retire and when we do retire will there be enough money to live on and enjoy a few things in life that we worked so long and hard for. Such as travel, that now does not seem to be in our future. We will not be able to afford it. I worry about my children and their children, and their future, will they be able to afford food, medical and fuel for their cars.

In our community, the rumbling at the local coffee shop is the talk of the high energy cost, how it is starting to affect all aspects of our lives, the farmers are struggling, many are selling out because they just cannot make it. We must make a change in our country to continue to be the greatest, strongest, self supporting, independent country we once were.

For you in Congress, I urge you not to forget the everyday people, there has to be way to work though this crisis. We support off shore drilling, increase domestic oil production, build refineries, study alternative fuel such as wind energy and lastly tax credits on renewable energy. Environmentalists have a place in our world, but the extremes they have taken have tied our hands at making the USA self supportive as we can and should be. Please urge your fellow Senators to work for and with you on this much-needed cause.

Again, thank you for your continued support for Idahoans.

GAIL, *Melba.*

I hear cries for drilling. We should be hearing a challenge from a President. Do you remember when John F. Kennedy issued the

following challenge “within the decade we will put a man on the moon”? Well—I was hoping that President Bush would have cemented his name in history with a similar challenge—something like “I challenge the Nation to effectively become energy self-sufficient and efficient inside of the decade” but no—we just continue to hear—we need oil.

I personally say—get off of foreign oil now. The technology the world is benefiting from came from JFK’s challenge and think of all of the new technology if a President were to stand up and issue a challenge in the current era. Thanks for listening.

JOE, *Nampa.*

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO ERIC BOE

• Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, today I recognize an exceptional Georgian, COL Eric Boe. Eric grew up in Atlanta and graduated from Henderson High School in Chamblee in 1983. A distinguished graduate with honors from the U.S. Air Force Academy, Eric earned his bachelor of science in astronautical engineering and subsequently a masters of science in electrical engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology.

Eric has served his country with distinction. He has been an F-4E pilot, a T-38 instructor pilot, F-15C flight commander, and a test pilot for the F-15 and UH-1N, logging over 4,000 flight hours in 45 different aircraft. Additionally, Eric flew 55 combat missions over Iraq in support of Operation Southern Watch.

In 2008, Eric was selected by NASA as a pilot and served in the Astronaut Office Advanced Vehicles Branch, Station Operations Branch, and Space Shuttle Branch as well as the Exploration Branch. In 2005–2006, Eric served as NASA Director of Operations at the Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center in Star City, Russia.

On November 14, 2008, Eric made his first trip to space serving as the pilot on STS-126 Endeavour. The Endeavour launched from NASA’s Kennedy Space Center with no delays or issues and docked with the International Space Station on November 16, 2008. The successful 16-day mission, which completed 250 orbits of Earth covering over 6 million miles, expanded the living quarters of the international space station and included four space walks by members of the Endeavour crew.

Eric has been recognized with numerous awards and honors. Serving as a Cadet in the Georgia Wing of the Civil Air Patrol, Eric earned the Spaatz Award, the highest award given to Civil Air Patrol cadets. Further, Eric has received various military decorations such as two Meritorious Service Medals, two Air Medals, five Aerial Achievement Medals, the three Air Force Achievement Medals, and the Air Force Commendation Medals, three Outstanding Unit Awards, and the Combat Readiness Medal.

I want to acknowledge the achievements of the entire STS-126 Endeavour

crew and congratulate them on their successful mission. As a fellow Georgian, I want to especially thank Eric for his outstanding service to our nation as a combat pilot and astronaut. His love of country and dedication are an inspiration, and he is a role model and an example of leadership of which we can all be proud.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:28 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 448. An act to protect seniors in the United States from elder abuse by establishing specialized elder abuse prosecution and research programs and activities to aid victims of elder abuse, to provide training to prosecutors and other law enforcement related to elder abuse prevention and protection, to establish programs that provide for emergency crisis response teams to combat elder abuse, and for other purposes.

H.R. 469. An act to encourage research, development, and demonstration of technologies to facilitate the utilization of water produced in connection with the development of domestic energy resources, and for other purposes.

H.R. 554. An act to authorize activities for support of nanotechnology research and development, and for other purposes.

H.R. 631. An act to increase research, development, education, and technology transfer activities related to water use efficiency and conservation technologies and practices at the Environmental Protection Agency.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 448. An act to protect seniors in the United States from elder abuse by establishing specialized elder abuse prosecution and research programs and activities to aid victims of elder abuse, to provide training to prosecutors and other law enforcement related to elder abuse prevention and protection, to establish programs that provide for emergency crisis response teams to combat elder abuse, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 469. An act to encourage research, development, and demonstration of technologies to facilitate the utilization of water produced in connection with the development of domestic energy resources, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 554. An act to authorize activities for support of nanotechnology research and development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 631. An act to increase research, development, education, and technology transfer activities related to water use efficiency and conservation technologies and practices at the Environmental Protection Agency; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment: