

Idaho have been in Washington for a long time. [The public deserves to see more action and less talk on your part.]

LEONARD, *Wilder*.

It is ridiculous that they have let the gas prices get up as far as they have. If we did not have petroleum in the US to make gas it would be different, but we have ways to have gas brought in and it would not take that long. They need to reevaluate this.

DEANNA.

We are small farmers and small business owners. We live 25 miles from town which makes it a 50 mile round trip for everything we do. These rising fuel prices has greatly affected us and has made it hard. We have tried to conserve by buying fuel economy cars, but because of the rising costs we are paying substantially more for fuel than we were a year ago or even six months ago. We believe that what should be done is to use more of our domestic oil, cut environmental red tape on refineries and other things and give incentives for people to conserve. I do not think that by adding taxes to the oil companies is going to solve anything. It will just be passed on to the consumer, which is something we do not need.

RANDY.

It is my opinion that we need to become independent from Middle Eastern Oil. We need to reduce use, but also we need to build more energy plants, of all kinds, in our own country, including Nuclear, and responsibly drill our own oil. If we are not dependent on foreign oil we are not held hostage; We are not depleting our wealth while contributing to theirs.

Thank you for asking for my opinion. I hope you listen to everybody and I hope that you and your colleagues quit playing politics and get it done. I am very tired of the political drama. I have come to distrust all of you.

JANINE.

I would suggest that the government tell the people who want more drilling that the oil companies should drill the millions of acres they already hold hostage under contract before we give them the rest. As an alternative let wildcatters have the new options rather than more big oil hostage land.

KURT.

I am single. I raised two boys on my own, assuming the role of Mr. Mom for a number of years. Currently I work in industrial sales. I am compensated through straight commission. Year to date, my sales are off 30%. As commissions have shrunk, costs have not. My employer has informed me in September the cost for the company vehicle I use will increase an additional hundred dollars a month. One of my sons is out of work and had nowhere left to turn and is home for the moment working odd jobs. He is a new commercial pilot.

I am speaking in literal terms, not figuratively. I do not know how I am going to pay the bills, put food on the table, and gas in my personal vehicle. I will buy a half a tank of gas for my vehicle payday (cannot use company rig), buy a lot of hamburger, and I will draw on my credit line to cover the bills the paycheck cannot.

Somehow I will make it. Not sure how, but I will. This would be easier to accept what we are experiencing had it been unavoidable. The fact of the matter is our current situation was completely avoidable. Congress has failed at every turn to demonstrate the kind of leadership needed. Both parties are to blame. There is absolutely no excuse what so ever for us importing any oil period!

We need to drill now and drill wherever possible while developing other alternative energy systems.

ROGER, *New Plymouth*.

Thank you for the opportunity to share the affect rising energy prices have on me and my family. I am a single mother who drives a horrendous commute every day to get my son to daycare and then work. It just does not seem right that my gas bill keeps skyrocketing up every day while my paycheck stays the same. What choice do I have but to pay the price? It's getting too expensive to go to work! Is there anything that can be done?

LEAH.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### IOLANI SCHOOL REAL WORLD DESIGN CHALLENGE CHAMPIONS

• Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I congratulate the six-member team from Iolani School for winning the national title in the U.S. Department of Energy's 2009 Real World Design Challenge, RWDC. The challenge is an annual competition that provides high school students with the opportunity to apply the lessons of the classroom to important energy and environment problems currently encountered in the engineering field. Iolani School's team placed first of 10 teams gathered from across the Nation in the competition finals held on March 21, 2009 at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum. The theme for the 2009 challenge was "Aviation and Fuel Consumption."

I wish to acknowledge the students' diligence, team work, and ingenuity in crafting their winning solution to this year's daunting challenge. Teams were provided detailed specifications and flight capabilities of an actual twin-engine jet aircraft. Teams were then asked to improve the aircraft's fuel efficiency without drastically reducing its load capacity. I wish to acknowledge all team members on their success: Amy Ko, Adeline Li, Anya Liao, Celia Ou, Jessica Lynn Saylor, Julia Zhang. Their parents and families are recognized as well for their commitment, sacrifice, and support that helped to encourage and instill the important values that led to their success.

However, these young women could not have achieved what they have done without the additional support and knowledge of the fundamentals of science given to them by their coach, Dr. Carey Inouye. I commend Dr. Inouye and all of their teachers at Iolani School on their dedication to instructing, nourishing, and inspiring the next generation of scientists and engineers.

I would also like to echo the comments made by U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu, who said that this "competition shows that U.S. students, when challenged to excel, are able to perform at the highest levels in science, math and engineering." I en-

courage these students to continue to study and follow their passions for science and engineering. I wish nothing but the best for the students, their families, and coach and wish them and the program continued success in future endeavors.●

##### OHIO NATIONAL GUARD'S 179TH AIRLIFT WING

• Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, today I commemorate the work of the Ohio National Guard's 179th Airlift Wing of Mansfield, which has been awarded the General Thomas D. White Environmental Quality Award.

The award recognizes the 179th Airlift Wing's work in environmental quality, restoration, pollution prevention, recycling, and conservation of natural and cultural resources. They were picked for the award from among all 88 Air National Guard Wings, all other Air National Guard installations, and all Air Force Reserve units across the country. It is the highest honor of its kind that can be awarded for environmental work. The 179th Airlift Wing made multiple environmental advances during the period from 2006 to 2008, including consumption reductions, recycling programs, a conversion to bio-diesel fuel, and updated cost-saving environmental plans.

I commemorate the work of the 179th Airlift Wing and congratulate them for receiving this prestigious award. Their dedication to environmental causes and our Nation is an inspiration to us all. I hope you will join me in wishing them the best of luck in their future endeavors.●

##### TRIBUTE TO ADIA MATHIES

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating Adia Mathies from Iroquois High School, Louisville, KY, for receiving Kentucky's Miss Basketball award. There is only one recipient annually for this award.

Kentucky's Miss Basketball Award is given to students who show excellence in their basketball career. To be eligible for the award, students must show consistent top performance on the court.

Adia Mathies has shown superior basketball skills as a high school senior and throughout her young career. This season alone, she averaged 17.1 points, 11.4 rebounds, 3.9 steals and 3.8 assists, aggressively pushing Iroquois' final record to 33-1 and the win of the State Championship. As a professional athlete, I appreciate the hard work and dedication it takes to perform at a higher level, which she has displayed.

I am impressed by the excellence this student has demonstrated. I am confident that she will have success in greater challenges in the future and perform outstandingly at University of Kentucky.

Mr. President, I would like to thank Adia Mathies for her contributions to