

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