water administration office, as well as complete the ratification process of their water compact in the U.S. Congress. I thank Senator Laslovich for sponsoring this legislation.

House Bill 158, sponsored by Representative Shannon Augare, allowing for direct tribal access to economic development funding. This bill allows tribes to directly access the state's Big Sky Economic Development program funding. Representative Augare understands that the tribes will need to access all the resources they can to help their peoples during these times of economic crisis.

Senate Bill 456, sponsored by Carol Juneau, exempting tribally owned property from state property taxes, just as all governments in Montana are exempt from state property taxes. I am thankful for Senator Juneau's persistence in sponsoring this important bill, which is a simple matter of fairness and an important symbol of respect for the state-tribal government-to-government relationship.

I thank you for supporting the Indian Country Economic Development program, contained in House Bill 2. This program, established as part of the Governor's budget in 2005, has been a critical engine of economic growth in Indian Country, and is now more important than ever given the economic crisis.

Legislators, as you deliberate in making laws and decisions that affect the great State of Montana, let Charlie Russell's painting remind you of your obligation to include Native peoples as your neighbors, partners and friends. Let us move forward together.

Thank you.

LEM LEMTS.

GLOBAL YOUTH

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise to speak about a resolution designating April 24 through 26, 2009, as Global Youth Service Days. S. Res. 105 recognizes and commends the significant community service efforts that youth are making in communities across the country and around the world on the last weekend in April and every day. This resolution also encourages the citizens of the United States to acknowledge and support these volunteer efforts. S. Res. 105 passed the Senate by unanimous consent on April 20, 2009. This sends a very strong message of support to the thousands of youth across our great Nation who are contributing positively to their communities your efforts are recognized and appreciated.

Over the weekend, beginning this Friday, April 24, youth from across the United States and around the world will carry out community service projects in areas ranging from hunger to literacy to the environment. Through this service, many will embark on a lifelong path of service and civic engagement in more than 100 countries around the world.

This event is not isolated to one weekend a year. Global Youth Service Days is an annual public awareness and education campaign that highlights the valuable contributions that young people make to their communities throughout the year.

The participation of youth in community service is not just a nice idea for a way to spend a Saturday afternoon. All year long, young people across America, indeed across the globe identify and address the needs of their communities through community service and service-learning opportunities. They make positive differences in the world around them, learn leadership and organizational skills, and gain insights into the problems of their fellow citizens.

Youth who are engaged in volunteer service and service-learning activities do better in school than their classmates who do not volunteer because they see a direct connection to what they are learning and the real world in which they live. Youth who engage in volunteering and other positive activities are also more likely to avoid risky behaviors, such as drug and alcohol use, crime, and promiscuity. Service within the community also contributes positively to young people's character development, civic participation, and philanthropic activity as adults.

A survey by Civic Enterprises found that 47 percent of high school dropouts reported that boredom in school was a primary reason why they dropped out. High quality service-learning activities can, however, help young people make important connections between the curriculum and the challenges they see in their communities.

It is important, therefore, that the Senate encourage youth to engage in community service and to congratulate them for the service they provide.

In an effort to recognize and support youth volunteers in my State, I am proud to acknowledge some of the activities that will occur this year in Alaska in observance of National and Global Youth Service Days:

Anchorage's Promise, which works to mobilize all sectors of the community to build the character and competence of Anchorage's children and youth, has sponsored the annual Kids' Day 3-day events in Anchorage again this year. Youth provided significant service to their peers and to adults who attended Kids' Day activities last weekend:

Students educated the public on the 5 Promises: Caring Adults, Safe Places, Healthy Start and Future, Marketable Skills, and Opportunities to Serve.

Students from King Career Center served as volunteer safety patrols.

Teens served as greeters and passed out bags, helped vendors set up their booths, and cleaned up during and after the event.

Junior ROTC members provided security and helped with parking.

Teens assisted Anchorage's Promise Board members with tours and Opening Ceremony activities.

Three teens assisted the Kids in Nature Workshop for Parents and Caregivers instructor.

One youth volunteer assisted staff at the Alaska Natural History Museum.

Youth created cards to express support for our troops.

In addition to the Kids' Day events, young people from every region of Alaska will serve their communities in the following ways:

Youth volunteers, coordinated by Covenant House, will bring attention to the importance of conservation, recycling, and educate youth about Earth Day.

Various youth service projects will be performed by Juneau youth at local nonprofits.

Members of the Eagle River Boys & Girls Club provided ''kid power'' to fill 3000 Easter eggs.

The Eielson Air Force Base Youth Programs' Inside & Out Club will clean to make it shine as much as the kids do.

Youth volunteers, coordinated by the Anchorage Public Library, will help organize summer reading celebration materials.

Youth at Chugiak High School have produced and will show a docudrama that simulates a drunk driving collision and help educate their peers about the dangers of drunk driving.

Students at Steller Secondary School will provide the Covenant House residents with gift bags containing personal hygiene products.

Alaska Youth and Family Network volunteers will promote personal responsibility for wellness that focuses on youth with behavioral health problems.

Spirit of Youth volunteers from all across Alaska, including Thorne Bay, Ketchikan, Eagle River, Kodiak, Anchorage, Palmer, Juneau, Cantwell, Kasaan, Nenana, Nome, Shageluk, Cordova, Palmer, and Chugiak, will work with their peers and adults on projects as varied as sharing their artistic talents; organizing a potato feed fundraiser to help the local library; running a girls' study group; offering free babysitting, teaching Sunday school, and helping the elderly at the local hospital; raising money for youth activities and easing community tensions; improving the collective well-being of youth; including people with disabilities in social activities; teaching cheerleading and dance skills; coordinating canned food drives; honoring Haida culture through art and music; working with Native elders to retain Alaska Native boat making skills; responding to emergencies; restoring salmon habitat; learning about climate change and fire science; owning, operating, and crewing a seine fishing boat; giving teens a forum to discuss political issues; educating others about child labor; helping other youth to succeed in realizing their dreams; helping students with disabilities excel in physical education; and educating the public about domestic violence while advocating for justice and change.

The Alaska Teen Media Institute will provide teens with the tools and training needed to produce their own stories told in their own voices to be shared through a variety of media.

Members of the Mountain View Boys & Girls Club will kick off Mountain View Cleanup Day.

Members of Alaska Youth Environmental Action attended the Civics and Conservation Summit in Juneau where they met with legislators to talk about issues they care about in their communities, including the Renewable Energy Campaign.

The Anchorage Youth Parent Foundation Peer Outreach Workers will spread awareness of sexual assault in April by hosting an Art Competition at the POWER Teen Clinic.

Mr. President, I am so proud of all of these young people. I value their idealism, energy, creativity, and unique perspectives as they volunteer to make their communities better and assist those in need.

Many similarly wonderful activities will be taking place all across the Nation. I encourage all of my colleagues to visit the Youth Service America Web site—www.ysa.org—to find out about the selfless and creative youth who are contributing in their own States this year.

I thank my colleagues Senators AKAKA, BAYH, BEGICH, BINGAMAN, BROWN, BURR, CARDIN, COCHRAN, COLLINS, CORNYN, DODD, DURBIN, FEINGOLD, FEINSTEIN, GILLIBRAND, GREGG, HAGAN, HATCH, INOUYE, JOHNSON, KENNEDY, KLOBUCHAR, LANDRIEU, LAUTENBERG, LEVIN, LIEBERMAN, LINCOLN, MARTINEZ, MENENDEZ, MIKULSKI, MURRAY, BEN NELSON, BILL NELSON, SPECTER, and WHITEHOUSE for standing with me as original cosponsors of this worthwhile legislation, which will ensure that youth across the country and the world know that all of their hard work is greatly appreciated.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

HUMAN RIGHTS IN KENYA

• Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to call the attention of my colleagues to the serious dangers that exist for human rights today in Kenya. I particularly express my concern about the death threats being made against Paul Muite, a distinguished human rights attorney in that country.

Mr. Muite is a native of Kenya who has been an outspoken critic of the hundreds of extrajudicial killings that have taken place in Kenya since 2006, and he has sought an investigation by the International Criminal Court of these killings.

The threats against him have escalated in recent weeks. This week, I learned that someone had thrust an AK–47 in Mr. Muite's face.

I urge the Government of Kenya to give high priority to this alarming situation, and to take all necessary steps to protect the safety of Mr. Muite and others struggling to defend the fundamental human rights of the people of Kenya. The world is watching and I hope my colleagues in the Senate will join in calling attention to this basic issue.•

EXERCISE TIGER

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, today I rise to honor the 65th anniversary of the Exercise Tiger operation and the American servicemen who took part in this exercise. I extend my gratitude to their dedication and service to the people of Missouri and of the Nation.

On April 28, 1944, German Navy ''E'' boats, patrolling the English Channel, attacked eight American landing ships engaged in training operation Exercise Tiger. These operations, organized by the U.S. Army, were undertaken off a beach in Devon, England often patrolled by German ''E'' torpedo boats. With only one English ship to guard the convoy, there was a devastating surprise attack on the American ships ending in multiple ships being sunk.

Of the four thousand men who participated in this critical operation, nearly a quarter lost their life including over 200 men from the 3206th Quartermaster Company located in Missouri. Due to the secrecy of the mission, information on the fatalities was only released after the successful completion of the D-Day invasion.

April 28, 2009 marks the 65th historic anniversary of the WWII Battle of Exercise Tiger and an opportunity to recognize all the men who served and gave their life in that historic battle. I am proud to say that we have renamed U.S. Highway 54 in my home State of Missouri as the WWII Exercise Tiger Expressway, in honor of the sailors and soldiers who paid the ultimate sacrifice. The Missouri Exercise Tiger Army and Navy Anchor Memorial has been built on the Audrain County Court House Lawn in their memory.

The servicemen who participated in the Battle of Exercise Tiger are to be commemorated for their heroic actions. These men were an example for all American soldiers and a credit to the United States as it remains the free and great country that it is today.

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:

It is time to wake up, America. All it would take [for the price to drop] is for Congress to allow the oil companies to drill for oil anywhere in this country and the crude oil price would drop $30 to $50 a barrel. I, for one, am tired of Congress blaming business or the President for the problems of this country. Congress holds the key and they sit back and run up the government deficits until the value of our dollar is falling like a rock, which, in turn, is driving up the price of crude oil.

It was not that long ago that the Congress of the 1990s showed fiscal responsibility. But, this Congress shows that it is unwilling to try to solve any of the nation's problems. The deficit is snowballing into a problem that cannot be ignored any longer it is having an effect on all of our daily lives.

There has been many articles recently about the amount of oil that this country has is not enough to solve this countries demands for oil, but it sure would go a long way towards balancing trade deficits and have a huge effect on the economy. If Congress shows a willingness to do something about this problem, the commodities markets reaction would be swift; no action, be prepared to keep paying at the pump!

It is time to write our Senators and Representatives and tell them it is long overdue that they do something about utilizing our nation's oil resources, and with a percentage of the revenue from it to build renewable energy plants like solar and wind generation projects. The politicians keep saying that they are all for looking out for the poor and the working class in this country but [that is not happening.] There is some huge possibilities if Congress acts, if not we are starting to see what the future looks like.

KYLE, *Genesee*.

These high gas prices are making it more and more difficult for my family to just get to town for the basic essentials. We live on top of a mountain in Idaho, and it takes us 25 minutes just to drive down in town where we do our grocery shopping, banking, medical care and prescription pick-up as well as postal service, and any hardware or building supplies we might need as we are building a large house. Due to the increasing gas prices, we have had to condense our trips down to once a week, so we are not near as frequently patronizing the local businesses like we used to. I would plead with Congress to please increase our domestic oil supply as this is an extreme hardship on thousands and thousands of Idaho residents as well as the local businesses.

DARLENE, *Kamiah*.

Let me begin by saying that I sincerely appreciate your decision to consult your constituents about the energy issue. Though the electorate may be vastly uninformed, it is nevertheless every citizen's duty to be active and politics, and you are encouraging this laudable behavior. You deserve to be commended.

Yet now I fear I must turn from a tone of praise to one of criticism because you requested personal—and thus emotionally-charged—anecdotes. Indeed you asked for policy opinions, too, but from your email, those seemed of secondary importance. Anecdotes and emotions have no rightful place in the policy-making process, no matter how many you receive and how depressing they are. The responses you receive will