

Directors' Council and the American City Quality Foundation, ACQF, the April 2009 theme is appropriately labeled, "Support Planning and Action for Better Quality Communities." For many years the emphasis promoted by the ACQF and its numerous professional organizations and supporters has been to call attention to the vital need for improving American cities through quality planning—via coordinated efforts to produce effective decisions, design, development, management, and action.

As our country's population growth projections appear to reach an additional 34 million people by the year 2020, the importance of proper urban planning as it relates to area surroundings, land conservation, and quality of life becomes a crucial component of the United States' strategy to halt urban sprawl and the waste of both human and fiscal resources. Subsequently, through the devoted work, development, and planning of the ACQF and interested parties, the recognition has surfaced—that coordinated efforts on the part of city, State, and Federal governments, and the private sector need to be exacted more than ever. Such a critical mission must continue until there is mainstream coordination throughout the nation to improve our country's urban settings in terms of cultural, practical, and land conservation amenities.

Therefore, through the efforts of the American City Planning Directors' Council, the American City Quality Foundation, and other interested parties, I thank all who have joined together to address the challenges posed by our burgeoning cities, as the integration of efforts has and will continue to provide us with a plan and hope for the future that assures quality growth for our Nation's urban settings. The ACQF's mission toward reaching that goal has secured both the attention and admiration of the American public.

TRIBUTE TO ADMIRAL ROBERT E. PEARY

Ms. SNOWE. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to the 100th anniversary of ADM Robert E. Peary's discovery of the North Pole—a truly exceptional accomplishment. It was a hundred years ago this month that Peary and his men completed their epic journey through the Atlantic and placed the American flag on the North Pole, marking the historic discovery. And as we commemorate this landmark occasion, the State of Maine has much to celebrate with the lasting legacy of Admiral Peary and all that he has done for our State, Nation, and the world.

Born in Cresson, PA, in 1856, Peary hailed from a long line of Maine lumberman and spent most of his formative years in southern Maine with his mother, following the passing of his father. In 1877 he graduated from Bowdoin College in Brunswick, ME,

after studying as a civil engineer. Commissioned as a lieutenant in the Civil Engineer Corps of the Navy in 1881, he went on to complete projects in Florida and Nicaragua, gaining an expertise that developed his love for the Arctic. Peary made his first expedition to Greenland in 1886 and for the next 23 years, he honed his skills and refined a deft intellect and acumen for the north seas, preparing him for his quintessential journey.

Although there are myriad contributions we could recognize, it is his adventure begun on July 6, 1908, that we most honor as Peary and his men sailed northbound in his ship, the Roosevelt whose plans he developed on Eagle Island in Casco Bay and which was built in Bucksport, ME. I might add! Having arrived at Ellesmere Island with 23 men, 133 dogs, and 19 sleds, on March 1, 1909, Peary set off for the final leg of his journey. For 37 days, they rode by sledge through one of our planet's most hostile environments. And it was on April 6, 1909, when Peary achieved his lifelong dream and history was made as he and his five colleagues were the first to step foot on the barren North Pole.

Although it may be easy to forget some of the challenges that Peary and everyone on his expedition endured, organizations such as the Friends of Peary's Eagle Island and the Peary-MacMillan Arctic Museum at Bowdoin College have captured this storied history, providing crucial educational tools for all of our citizens, young and old, as we seek to learn more of the expedition's triumphs on this centennial anniversary. Indeed, the State of Maine and her people have much cause for pride as we celebrate Admiral Peary's contributions this month, honoring a phenomenal milestone.

IDAHOANS SPEAK OUT ON HIGH ENERGY PRICES

Mr. CRAPO. Madam 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 heart-breaking 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:

My husband and I both work out of the home. He is a biology teacher at a high school in Nampa, and I work part-time for a utility company. I work because I have to, but I work as little as I can because raising moral children is the better thing to do. We love Boise! Our home is about equal distance from our jobs, but in opposite directions. I go east; he goes west. Recently, I have approached my employer to allow me to work three full days a week instead of five shorter days. This is solely to save on the expense rising gas prices have on our budget. With the costs of gas, food, electricity going up, we are in a tough spot. I have been with my employer for 8.5 years, and my pay is maxed out. I must rely on a cost-of-living adjustment at the beginning of the new year, but since that is never a guarantee, it is not included in our budgeting plans until it happens. My husband is in his fourth year of teaching, and teachers' pay? Well, you know how bad that is. He will receive an increase in his yearly salary of \$750 this year (for a total salary of just \$31,750), hardly enough to compensate for those rising costs previously mentioned. (What is been most troublesome to me lately is that an individual my father associates with gets \$36,000 a year in Social Security benefits for "psychological" reasons—most likely a result of years of drug use—and she spends \$50/day on marijuana. So while the state government does not even pay my husband enough to provide for a family, they are giving an extra \$4,000/year to support another person's drug abuse.)

The situation regarding higher gas prices is leading us to look into carpooling, keeps us from going out as much, and is a deterrent to buying a mini-van (we will try to squeeze three car seats into the back of our sedan when our third child is born). Several months ago, I considered biking to work; but with the traffic in Boise, I am fearful that I might be hit, and do not want to leave two children motherless. I would like to see more people carpool, or take other forms of transportation. Americans take energy for granted and in the past, have not been the least bit concerned about the impact of their selfish choices. I also looked into a bus route, but none runs very close to our home. In fact, the nearest pick-up is still several miles away.

What should America do? I do not know. Several months ago, I thought a gas ration would force conservation. Sometimes people need to be made to do what they will not willingly do themselves. Nuclear? I am concerned about the waste. Our own sources of oil? I guess I view them like I view my savings account—a reserve for emergencies. Using more of our own resources is a resort if/when we find that conservation is not effective enough. Conservation incentives? Seems that it would be rather hard to enforce, and many do not have the money to buy efficient upgrades. However, building requirements allowing only the construction of energy efficient homes might be a good start. If I am not mistaken, they generally use about 30% less power than a non-energy star home.

I think the only solution is a combination of solutions on a combination of problems. Sometimes you just have to fix everything at once—it is drastic, but the only way to make real change—even for the government. I do not have all, or even any of the answers, but a few brilliant minds, or even a few people who care, could figure it out together.

CHERIS, Boise.

You wanted to know how the rising cost of fuel is affecting me and my family. We, as of