

I think we need a new approach. We need change in this town. What Senator OBAMA is proposing is a change in the Tax Code to give that family and others a fighting chance. That is all we can offer them. There is no guaranteed success, but we can offer them just an opportunity, a fighting chance at success. It is a chance most of our families have capitalized on and did a pretty good job for their kids. We owe that to the next generation as well.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SANDERS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I take this opportunity to recognize October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, DVAM, and to recognize the fine work of STAND! Against Domestic Violence.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the bill to designate October as "National Domestic Violence Awareness Month." I strongly support the motivation behind DVAM and I have worked to end domestic violence as long as I have been a Member of Congress. I authored the Violence Against Women Act, VAWA, while in the House of Representatives, and helped get it passed and signed into law after being elected to the Senate. VAWA toughened laws against perpetrators and continues to provide funding for campus safety, battered women's shelters, and training programs for law enforcement to identify and better understand cases of domestic violence. I am also proud to have introduced the Domestic Violence Identification and Referral Act to provide funding to schools for health professionals who work to prevent domestic violence.

Domestic violence can strike anyone, regardless of race, age, sexual orientation, religion, socioeconomic status or education level. Particularly tragic is the impact domestic violence has on children—physically, emotionally, and mentally. This violence witnessed in the home is often acted out in schools and communities. This negative cycle of violence has far-reaching impacts and I believe we must work together to prevent such violence from occurring in the first place.

I commend the tireless efforts of those who work everyday to end this violence. For over 30 years, STAND! has provided domestic violence services to families and individuals throughout Contra Costa County. Through their work, STAND! strives to end domestic violence by raising awareness through

education so that individuals will become advocates, and by providing support services to those survivors of domestic violence.

As we prepare to enter Domestic Violence Awareness Month, I ask my colleagues to join me and STAND! in remembering the victims of domestic violence. I am inspired by those women who have survived domestic violence. And I mourn those who have not survived. In their memory, I will fight against domestic violence and work to empower women as long as I am in the U.S. Senate.

SEA OTTER AWARENESS WEEK 2008

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to recognize Sea Otter Awareness Week 2008.

Established in 2003 by the national nonprofit organization Defenders of Wildlife, Sea Otter Awareness Week is an annual event that aims to teach the public about the vital role that sea otters play in our marine ecosystem. Acknowledged each year by numerous nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and local, State, and Federal elected officials, Sea Otter Awareness Week helps to protect this sentinel species and its habitat.

Historically, sea otters once numbered in the hundreds of thousands and thrived along the 6,000 miles of Pacific coastline from northern Japan, through the Aleutian Islands of Alaska, down the coast of California, and into Baja California in Mexico. Sadly, because of their thick fur, sea otters were hunted to the point of near extinction throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. Thanks to an international ban on hunting, conservation efforts, and reintroduction programs, the sea otter population is on its way to recovery, though it has been a slow process.

The health and well-being of our sea otter population is indicative of the overall health and well-being of the Pacific Coast marine ecosystems as a whole. We must do all we can to protect our coastal ecosystem and foster the survival of sentinel species such as the sea otter. To ensure a healthy coast and ocean, I am proud to have reintroduced my National Oceans Protection Act, which provides a comprehensive approach to ocean management and protection, ensuring that Americans can enjoy the beauty and majesty of our oceans for generations to come.

I commend Defenders of Wildlife and all those involved in Sea Otter Awareness Week for their dedication to raising awareness about the tremendously important role that sea otters have in our coastal ecosystem. I am inspired by their work and I applaud them for their perseverance in protecting the health of our oceans and marine life. Their commitment means a brighter future for us all.

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 over 1,000, are heartbreaking and touching. To respect their efforts, I am submitting every e-mail sent to me through energy_prices@crapo.senate.gov 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:

I am writing this letter out of somewhat desperation with the costs of energy lately. We live about 35 miles south of Lewiston on property that my grandfather purchased in the early 1940s. I have been disabled and am on Social Security Disability after working over 25 years in the utility and communication industry. My wife has been working in the health care insurance business for over 20 years and drives back and forth every day to work. We were budgeting and spending about \$200-\$250 per month for gas. In the last two months, it has increased to \$425 per month! I know a little about all the oil reserves in Montana, North Dakota as well as other places even offshore and the untapped areas in Alaska for drilling and several capped oil/propane wells that have already been drilled. I am familiar about the open pit mining in Centralia, Washington; Montana and Wyoming. I was working when they moth-balled the nuclear plants at WASOP. I use these areas as examples in the Northwest because this is where I live and I am more familiar with them. We have taken several conservation measures to cut our energy costs at our home, but you can only do so much! I hardly ever even leave the house anymore because I cannot afford to drive my (small) Ford Ranger F150 pickup, just only to doctor appointments.

What can you do to start helping other Americans like us here in Idaho and the Northwest? Congress should put our families first, ahead of the environmentalists! These people are driving up costs at an alarming rate! I believe in treating our resources properly and our environment respectfully, but come on, use our heads! These environmentalists are making it impossible to survive anymore. We need to decide if American people are going to survive or is it going to be a small snail, a kind of fish or a spotted owl, which, by the way ruined the lumber industry in the Northwest. After research, they found out it was a bigger owl killing the smaller ones! How much money did that cost the people and industry brought on by environmentalists? It is survival time, folks . . . let us start using our heads. We need to start using our own resources now, not later, and stop depending on other countries because you see where that has positioned us. Open up the reserves, uncap oil wells, less restrictions on open pit coal mines, put more nuclear plants on line. Stop using wheat and corn for bio-fuels because it is killing us at