

but no infrastructure to utilize it. It is also clean. I also know this country has a huge supply of coal. The Germans refined gas from coal in WW2. The tree huggers and go gooders will never permit it. We need to stop any use of foreign oil as soon as possible. They have us over a barrel . . . no pun intended.

BOB and DIANNE, *Soda Springs.*

I am a disabled 52-year-old man on a fixed income; SSI. I am a past City of Pocatello employee for almost 20 years in the field of law enforcement. I have no retirement and depend solely on SSI income. I was born and raised in Pocatello, worked for the municipality and now struggles to survive. I now stay home or go to medical appointments. I no longer has discretionary funds, not even for gas.

That's my story, and I'm stuck with it.

MICHAEL.

Thank you so much for your honest interest in the everyday Idahoan and the effect that gas prices have on our lives. I do not have a unique story to share with you. I am wholeheartedly in agreement that we need new sources for our energy usage. I believe that we need to drill for oil on our own soil. It would seem to me that there must be ways to do that and keep environmental concerns in mind. I believe that there are things that can be done to make vehicles use gasoline more efficiently; perhaps even run on alternate materials. Public transportation needs updated and should include ways to help all members of our population.

I am very fortunate that my husband and I have jobs that have not been cut due to the recent rise in energy costs, but we are making changes in the way we live our day. I got a job closer to home, we stopped going for evening drives as a form of entertainment, we are not going on a vacation this summer, we combine our errands into one trip, we had a more efficient heating/cooling system installed in our home, and got a more efficient roof. We are doing what we know how to do, as I imagine are most people.

I do want to suggest that docking the oil companies with wind-fall taxes isn't going to help. They will just hike the prices of the gas to cover their taxes. Some creative minds need to be gathered together to help the U.S. get themselves out of the mess they've gotten themselves into. It is time to cut the ties with eastern oil producers. That would seem a much more efficient and strong message than fighting with their countries' leaders. Big oil companies will, no doubt, have to make some changes to the way they do business. We all have to make changes. So many people have lost their jobs. For some people, the cost of gas offsets the income they make by going to work.

I hope these thoughts will be of some help to you. I thank you, again, for working to help all of us.

PEGGY, *Boise.*

NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, today I applaud the passage of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Reauthorization Act of 2008, NAHASDA. This act will continue to provide thousands of homes for American Indian and Alaska Native families.

The bill passed today reauthorizes and enhances the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act, NAHASDA, adopted in

1996. The act provides formula-based block grant assistance to Indian tribes, which allows them the flexibility to design housing programs to address the needs of their communities.

The system set up by this housing law has been very successful in addressing the housing crisis in Indian Country, and this reauthorization will go even further in providing homes to thousands of Indian families who desperately need them. Instead of being a one size fits all national program; it provides grants to tribes, allowing them to tailor housing programs to fit their needs. It has already enabled thousands of families to rent and own homes, and now thousands more will have access to much needed housing.

Despite the continued success of NAHASDA, there is still a housing crisis in Indian Country, where 90,000 Indian families are homeless or underhoused. Of those who do have housing, approximately 40 percent of on-reservation housing is considered inadequate, and over one-third of Indian homes are overcrowded.

The legislation passed today will strengthen NAHASDA by providing tribes with increased flexibility, with the goal of producing more homes in Indian Country. The bill will allow funds to be utilized for community buildings such as daycare centers, laundromats, and multipurpose community centers, with the hope of not only building homes but also building communities. The bill also authorizes a study to assess the existing data sources for determining the need for housing and funding programs.

Adequate housing is the first and most necessary step in building a strong community, and many people in Indian Country have gone on for far too long without a roof over their heads. This bill is more than just a housing act—it will give tribes more authority over their own land and truly help build stronger communities in Indian Country.

Mr. President, please allow me to thank Leader REID, Senator MURKOWSKI, Senator DODD, Senator INOUE, Senator AKAKA and Senator SHELBY for their commitment in getting this legislation passed.

Thank you to the Senate staff for their hard work on this bill, including Allison Binney, Heidi Frechette, Tracy Hartzler-Toon, David Mullon, Jim Hall, Jenn Fogel-Bublick, and Mark Calabria.

Also, thank you to Representative KILDEE, Representative FRANK, Representative WATT, and their staff, Kimberly Teehee, Dominique McCoy, Cassandra Duhaney, and Hilary West.

Finally, this bill would not have been possible without the tireless work of tribal leaders, the National American Indian Housing Council, the National Congress of American Indians, the National Indian Health Board, and Indian housing advocates.

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

NASA

● Mr. NELSON of Florida. Madam President, we have just passed the NASA reauthorization bill. It is noteworthy that next week, October 1, the 50th anniversary of the start of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and if my colleagues will recall, that was 1958. My colleagues may remember what was happening. The Soviet Union had surprised us by putting into orbit the first satellite, Sputnik and America, in midst of the cold war among two superpowers, was absolutely shocked that we were behind in our technology; that we could not be premier. Then, lo and behold, 3 years later, they shocked us again by putting the first human in orbit, Yuri Gagarin, for one orbit when, in fact, we only had a rocket, the Redstone, that could get a human into suborbit. Then we put Alan Shepard and subsequently Gus Grissom in suborbit, and then, in the meantime, the Soviet Union put Titov into several orbits. Of course, the eyes of the world then focused in on Cape Canaveral, when a young marine, one of the original seven American astronauts, named John Glenn, climbed into that capsule knowing that the Atlas rocket had a 20-percent chance of failure. He rode it into the heavens for only three orbits. There was an indication on the instrument panel that his heat shield was loose, and as he started the deorbit burn, John Glenn knew that if that was an accurate reading, on reentry into the Earth's fiery atmosphere, heating up in excess of 3,000 degrees Fahrenheit, he would burn up. It is that memorable time when we heard his last words before he went into the blackout period on radio transmissions: John Glenn humming "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." It is hard to tell that story without getting a lump in my throat.

Of course, what then happened, months before we flew John Glenn, we had a young President who said: We are going to the Moon and back within 9 years. This Nation came together. It focused the political will, it provided the resources, and it did what people did not think could be done.

A generation of young people so inspired by this Nation's space program started pouring into the universities, into math and science and technology and engineering. That generation that was educated in high technology has been the generation that has led us to be the leader in a global marketplace by producing the technology, the innovations, the intellectual capital that has allowed us to continue to be that leader.

So it is with that background that this Senator, who has the privilege of chairing the Space and Science Subcommittee within the Commerce Committee, wants to say: Happy birthday, NASA. We are sending to the House of