

merging scores of agencies and programs—the largest government reorganization in half a century. Secretary Chertoff has moved the Department to the next level, where it now has a focused, long-term strategy clarifying the Department's priorities, roles, and responsibilities, as well as those of other key Federal, State, and local partners. He has worked tirelessly to ensure an integrated and overarching vision of how the government will tackle its role of defending the homeland.

We have much work ahead to transform the Department into a mature agency whose whole is greater than the sum of its parts. But we have made steady progress. The threat of natural disasters is ongoing and the threat of terrorism remains with us. As I have often said, these are not ordinary times. They demand extraordinary commitment from those who have chosen public service. Secretary Chertoff has given our country his extraordinary commitment, and he will be well and gratefully remembered for it.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOSTELLING INTERNATIONAL USA

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment today to recognize the 75th anniversary of Hostelling International USA. Since 1934, Hostelling International USA has helped facilitate travel within the United States by the world's youth and promoted intercultural understanding. As part of the international hostelling movement, this organization has helped Americans to experience different parts of their own country and helped international travelers to better understand our unique and proud history, people, and way of life.

The sharing of cultures that naturally occurs in a hostel helps people to better understand and identify with others of various backgrounds. Instead of retreating to a hotel room every night, travelers in a hostel are literally living beside and interacting with fellow travelers from other countries. Several of my staff have stayed in hostels while traveling, and I know their experiences have helped shape their ability to appreciate different cultures and points of view. In this respect, it is the small, everyday human interactions that can have the biggest impact, like encountering someone who may not speak English and learning to communicate or sharing favorite foods among an international group of travelers.

In my home State of Iowa, the Northeast Iowa Council of Hostelling International USA has provided activities for youth and adults alike in Postville and surrounding communities since 1975. I am glad that Iowans have the benefit of this programming to give a greater understanding of the world and its people to residents who may not have had a chance to travel widely. I am also glad that Hostelling Inter-

national USA continues to provide the opportunity for people from around the world, and especially young people, to see the real America firsthand and meet the American people. This is the best way to build good will across the globe, and I congratulate Hostelling International USA for its 75 years of service.

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:

I am an Idaho youth, currently learning how to drive, but due to the ridiculously high gas prices it is not as much fun as I was expecting it to be. Because of these prices I feel bad about doing something I need to know how to do. I am also a musician and because of that I am constantly going to rehearsals and performances and need to drive in order to get where I need to be. I do in fact carpool but because most of the people I would carpool with also have very busy schedules it is extremely hard to coordinate. Not only must I travel to get to my rehearsals and performances but I am also a transfer student at my school due to their spectacular music program. Because I am not in the school's boundary it is quite a distance for me to travel two ways every day. Simply because I have a passion for music and want to pursue a career in it I must break not only my own but also my parents' wallets. Due to my age many people will not hire me so it is quite a financial strain seeing as how I do not make an income, and only so many people need a babysitter.

I personally would greatly appreciate if the government would take the time and money to look into alternative renewable energy sources. Not only can we do that on a national level but on a more local level we could create more public transportation systems. The only place we have anything is in Boise, and I, as well as many others, live in Meridian. If there was a bus or light rail that I could get on in my town and travel to Boise or Nampa, and anywhere in between, I assure you I would use it. And, I'm pretty positive that I'm not the only person who would. Not only would this save many people's wallets but it would also be very handy for those of

us who are yet to be licensed. Not to mention that the reduced number of cars would lower pollution levels greatly. Please look into a public transportation system locally. It would be greatly appreciated by many, and thank you for finally giving the people more of a voice on the issue and for bringing attention to the Congress.

BRITTAN CHASTAINE.

I assume you have already seen this website dollargas.us. It seems to me that as a nation we are not only in serious debt, but we are allowing ourselves to be put in "bondage" by other countries needlessly. I am angry and frustrated that we are not more assertive in addressing this problem.

We have a family of nine children all are on their own. Some are married and have young families as well as trying to get through college. As you know, job wages are not very substantial in college towns for students. The increase in the cost of fuel is driving other costs up as well. These young adults are trying very hard to make ends meet and it is becoming more difficult for them to live within their means. Wages are not keeping up with the cost of living. This is forcing mothers out of the home and children which is not in the best interest of the family.

The rising cost of fuel is also precluding their visits to our home as well as our visits to their homes. The visits are the short range effect but the long range effect is grandchildren having less interaction with grandparents which further weakens the family structure. The family is the basic unit of society and as the family weakens the values of society and our nation are also weakened. There is strength, honor, value and a sense of duty in knowing personal heritage.

Our livelihood is farming, luckily we have enough fuel which was bought two years ago and hopefully will finish out the needs for this year. It is a tragedy that farms are being sold and subdivisions are taking over good Idaho farm ground. Rising fuel costs and fertilizer prices are becoming a serious burden.

I do hope you will strongly support opening and drilling domestic oil resources as well as other technologies that provide efficient energy alternatives.

Thank you for your time. Thank you for listening. Please represent the state of Idaho in finding ways to cut rising fuel and energy costs.

CHERYL OKELBERRY.

My husband is a Viet Nam veteran who retired after 30 years with the Boise Police Department. I have worked all my life so when he was eligible for retirement, we had saved and planned and we were in a good position to do so. In the five years since he retired, we have seen our insurance premiums rise over \$400 per month to \$1,020 per month, and we know that is a bargain! Because of oil prices, grocery prices are rising, Idaho Power just raised their rates, the gas company is sure to follow and fuel prices have made it almost prohibitive to travel except in necessity. We have a little place in the mountains and to get there now costs \$90+ just to enjoy a weekend away from the heat and noise in Boise. Our nest egg is dwindling, and we are stuck in the house watching it disappear! And we are far luckier than most—we don't have to choose between food and gas, yet.

Saudi Arabia says they make money at \$70 per barrel; why is the price \$130? The government has so mismanaged its own affairs that we find ourselves at the mercy of speculators and oil sheiks who don't like us much anyway. We have been so short sighted that we haven't the refineries to process oil even if