

The above info blows me away. Why aren't we harnessing this energy?

I live in an older home with an oil furnace. We use it conservatively, turn it off during the day, down when we go to sleep for the night, use a couple of space heaters—and still my oil bill is pushing \$400 a month. . . . And winter went long this year.

We already have the technology to utilize solar energy, whereas cellulosic, or any viable, biofuel is years away. Why do not we put tax dollars into constructing power plants that will capture solar energy and give meaningful assistance to people to convert from oil-consuming applications?

CAROL, *Twin Falls.*

This letter is written with intent to describe our ever-diminishing economy from a manufacturer's point of view. FAB TEC, Inc is a small business that manufactures aggregate handling equipment, including; rock crushers, screening plants and material conveying products. We employ approximately 50 people. Our industry uses primarily steel. From raw stock steel products, to axles with wheels and tires and all the necessary hardware to complete this equipment.

Over the past two and a half years our company has endured huge price increases in our consumables needed to produce our products. Such as steel, and petroleum based products along with all other consumables needed to manufacture our product.

Steel prices have soared approximately 300% over the last three years. 50% increase since December of 2007 pricing. Fuel prices have also gone out of control. FAB TEC uses many petroleum based products such as large amounts of conveyor belting, tires and paint products. Not to mention the fuel it takes to bring in and ship out our products. The manufacturer, and also the end user of products like ours are absorbing huge costs due to the out of control pricing of the consumables we use in the production of the product we sell.

With the public's whispered word "recession" at hand, we think it is time our government steps in to control the price gouging large corporations have forced on all of us, especially including the individual standing in line at the grocery store to buy his bare necessities to survive the ever increasing cost due to out of control fuel costs. I would hope someone or entity would do something soon before it is too late.

These statements are solely based on my opinion, but I feel as many do, we must do something now before it is too late to reverse our dwindling economy.

FRANK, *Moscow.*

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR KATHLEEN NOVAK

• Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I am joined by my distinguished colleague, Mr. BENNET from Colorado.

Next week, several thousand city and town leaders from across the country will visit us in Washington, DC, to discuss the major issues of the day. They will be gathered under the auspices of the National League of Cities, NLC, whose president is one of our distinguished mayors—Northglenn, CO, Mayor Kathleen Novak.

Senator BENNET and I will have the honor of meeting with Mayor Novak and a group of other Colorado municipal leaders working through NLC and the Colorado Municipal League.

I want to take this opportunity to recognize Mayor Kathleen Novak. Mayor Novak was elected to Northglenn's City Council on July 11, 1991, after years of serving the community. She was elected mayor in November 2001 and then reelected in November 2005, serving two 4-year terms.

It was Mayor Novak's interest in planning for the city's future that led the city council to develop goals and adopt a strategic plan to help guide the city into the future. Each year, the Northglenn City Council identifies critical issues that can impact and shape Northglenn's future and develops an action agenda to prioritize and address these pressing issues. This has allowed the city to make tremendous progress on many fronts throughout the mayor's term in elected office.

Over the years, Novak helped continue to provide the top-notch services that residents have grown to appreciate while balancing the community's transportation and infrastructure needs through upgrades to the city's infrastructure and facilities. While Mayor Novak was in office, Northglenn built a new wastewater treatment facility and a new maintenance and operations facility and self-funded the 112th Avenue Overpass to make traveling from east to west easier for the city's residents. Northglenn was the first city in Colorado to promote water conservation efforts such as instituting a lottery system whereby city residents could secure free high-efficiency water features for their homes. Through these efforts, the city expects to save 20-25 acre-feet of water annually and thereby save the city and its citizens money from the conserved water.

Northglenn also applies biosolids from water treatment to fertilize farms in Weld County. Through such applications, the city grew, harvested, and sold 2,500 tons of crops. Since recycling conserves precious natural resources, over the past 9 years, the city has been heating two shop buildings with used motor oil that residents have placed at the curb for recycling.

In 2008, Mayor Novak's interest in reconnecting government to all age groups led the city to be the first in the State to be named a Playful City USA by KABOOM, as unique offerings of play continued to take shape in Northglenn. Early in Novak's tenure, Northglenn received America's Crown Community Award by American City and County Magazine for the rehabilitation and redesign of Webster Lake and E.B. Rains Jr. Memorial Park. The park included an innovative concept of providing unique opportunities of play for all—Northglenn's Sensory Playground. The playground offers children with a range of disabilities the opportunity to experience play and exceeds the Americans with Disabilities Act requirement of 50 percent accessibility by providing nearly 100 percent accessibility for people who use wheelchairs.

Most recently, the renovation of the Croke Reservoir Nature Area earned

the city the 2009 Colorado American Public Works Association Award for Engineering and Construction Management for medium-sized communities. The project included stabilization of the eastern shoreline, removal of sediment to improve fishery and wildlife habitat, and improvements to stormwater detention in the area.

Throughout her service, Mayor Kathleen Novak has worked hard to ensure that the city of Northglenn maintains its high quality of life. Last December, in recognition of her efforts, Mayor Novak was unanimously elected by her national peers to serve as the president of the National League of Cities, the voice of municipal government in this country. Senator BENNET and I thank Mayor Novak for her leadership and dedication to Northglenn, CO, and to the Nation.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-834. A communication from the Chief of Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridges (including 3 regulations beginning with USCG-2007-0172)" (RIN1625-AA09) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 26, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-835. A communication from the Chief of Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Security Zones (including 27 regulations beginning with USCG-2007-0083)" (RIN1625-AA87) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 26, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-836. A communication from the Chief of Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulated Navigation Areas (including 2 regulations beginning with USCG-2008-0468)" (RIN1625-AA09) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 26, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-837. A communication from the Chief of Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S.