markets have greater commercial viability than those that will require significant additional market development. Additionally, in determining viability the Secretary should consider the potential scale of market applications, and therefore the project's broader impact.

In allocating credits, section 48C directs the Secretary to consider five additional factors.

First, the Secretary shall consider projects that will provide the greatest domestic job creation, both direct and indirect, during the credit period. Because of their potential to catalyze additional growth, ARRA's stimulus objective will be maximized if the program supports emerging sectors and technologies. Accordingly, the Secretary should consider job creation estimates that include some evaluation of the potential breadth and scale of the property's applications, including job creation potential of the property's supply chain, distribution, installation, and maintenance.

Second, the Secretary shall consider projects that will provide the greatest net impact in avoiding or reducing air pollutants or anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases. Emissions from both the manufacturing project's operations and the installed energy property should be considered. Applicant projects should be compared to the existing most-likely alternatives, and also to alternative new competing property. We expect that the Treasury Secretary will consult with the Department of Energy in estimating direct greenhouse gas emissions on a lifecycle basis for applicant projects. Additionally, the Treasury Secretary shall ensure that any potential project has received all Federal and State environmental authorizations or reviews necessary to commence construction of the project.

Third, the Secretary shall look to projects that have the greatest potential for technological innovation and commercial deployment. This criterion will ensure that tax credits are directed to those projects that have the greatest opportunity to catalyze new technologies, and thus multiply the tax credit's impact. The Secretary might implement this standard by preferring projects that are first- or second-of-a-kind, or that employ significantly improved technologies—i.e., those that will achieve significant improvements in cost or technology performance relative to existing solutions.

Fourth, the Secretary shall prioritize projects that have the lowest levelized cost either of generated or stored energy, or of measured reduction in energy consumption or greenhouse gas emissions. Because it takes into account the installed system price and associated costs, such as financing and operation, levelized cost of energy is an accepted and common metric for comparing the cost of generating energy or saving energy across properties. In the case of property that generates or stores energy, the appropriate measure is levelized cost of generated or stored energy, which factors the cost per kilowatt hours of energy generated. In the case of property that conserves or more efficiently deploys energy, such as smart grid and metering technologies, or that reduces greenhouse emissions, the appropriate measure is levelized cost of measured reduction in energy consumption or greenhouse gas emissions, which factors the cost per kilowatt of energy saved or ton of carbon captured. Section 48C mentions the ''full supply chain'' and, in the case of reductions in energy consumption or greenhouse gas emissions, the Secretary should also consider emissions reductions in other parts of the supply chain that are enabled by the applicant project.

Finally, the legislation directs the Secretary to consider projects that have the shortest project time from certification to completion. ARRA's overarching goal is to create jobs as quickly as possible; the credit is intended to benefit firms that are able to move quickly and with certainty.

Through the Chair, I would like to ask Senator BAUCUS to confirm his agreement with my description of these factors.

Mr. BAUCUS. I most certainly agree with the Senator's description and I thank him for his collaboration in developing this robust new tax credit.

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:

First of all thank you for all your efforts to help the people of Idaho and the USA.

We have a disabled daughter that lives on a very small income. We subsidize her income monthly and daily. It is all she can do to make ends meet. We are retired and on fixed income. Even before these terrible gas price increases and using ''level pay'' for heating and cooling all year round, trips to the many doctors and Elks Rehab, it is all but impossible for her to maintain a lifestyle where she can pay all her bills and eat.

How very sad our country has come to this. We seem to be able to help everyone else in the world but not our own citizens.

Everyone in the news keeps saying it will not do any good for years if we start drilling and building refineries. Well, we have to start somewhere and sometime. Foreign countries are virtually taking our oil resources and we are standing by and letting it happen. What is so hard to understand about our dilemma? It affects our source of food and many other vital areas that are urgent to our very survival. Let us bring back our capability to support ourselves by reactivating our nuclear capabilities. We have the technology and even some facilities that were up and running. Why did not we stick with a good thing when we were using it?

As far as drilling and the environmentalists are concerned, since when do the minority control the majority? Granted, we need to protect the environment but we all know it can be done along with doing what we need to do to survive. What good is it to be so radical and prevent every effort to improve our stability if no one is around to enjoy it? Think about it.

SHIRLEY, *Boise*.

I appreciated your letter and am happy to be able to share how difficult it has become for me, as a single mother who works in Boise, but lives in Middleton. Every day, my salary is reduced because of the additional costs of commuting to work. Additionally, my home and water are heated by propane, so making it thru this past winter was especially difficult. I had to call on my church leaders for assistance 3–4 times to pay the propane bills. The $600 stimulus check issued by the government was not even enough to cover the cost for one bill. I had to come up with the additional $180 shortage on my own. Needless to say, the stimulus check did not ''stimulate'' much of anything.

We are in a national crisis, and something must be done now. My husband walked away from our family approximately three years ago, leaving me with four children and two mortgages to pay on less than $25,000 per year income. I cannot afford to file for divorce because my funds are so limited—so I am just stuck. I do not want to lose my home, but that is becoming more of a potential outcome each day. It breaks my heart to see the things I have worked my whole life for slowly dwindle away. So much for the ''American Dream''.

I feel powerless and frustrated much of the time as I have to choose whether to buy fuel to be able to go to work, or buy food for my family. It is just a vicious circle. Please tell our elected officials that we need their help now!

GRACE, *Middleton*.

Thank you for your letter. Yes, we are scared at the direction our economy has taken, which all appears to be caused by the horrendous rise in gasoline prices—and who do we blame for this—Congress, of course! How can you sit by and let the oil companies rake in billions of dollars in profits through pure greed. I have never liked overregulation of business, but I think now they need some regulating, as do all those who are profiting by this miserable situation.

We are on a fixed income: Social Security, small pension (that never changes) and a 401K saved while working—which by the way is shrinking due to the stock market problems. The only thing that can be done about our income would be a decent cost-of-living rise in the Social Security next January.

Now, the story of how life has changed since the rise in gasoline—and all other—costs. We no longer: subscribe to a newspaper, buy any non-essential food, feed our pets as much as they used to get, buy clothing, eat out, go to movies, have a TV movie package, take any non-essential trips, and soon will cancel our Medicare supplemental health policy. We have enjoyed having a few horses, but hay prices are double over last year—to $185/ton. Many people are ''dumping'' their horses because they can no longer afford to feed them. Our nephew is a long-haul owner-driver. A recent 2-week trip cost him over $10,000 in fuel & expenses, and he netted only $400 for himself—for 2 weeks of work!

We have lived a frugal life and thought we had saved enough money to last it out, but now we are afraid this may not be the case. We are not starving, yet, or homeless, but that for the first time in our life, these things now appear possible—if things continue as they are. Every time we go to the pump or the grocery story, or buy anything at all; the prices have been increased.

Yes—please work for the things you state in your letter—increased domestic exploration, production and refining of petroleum; promotion and development of alternative energy sources, lower our dependence on foreign energy sources—and most important—do it now. The only thing that can save us from financial ruin is to get the prices down!

CLARK AND NOLA, *Kimberly*.

I am a single woman, working two jobs. The home I rent is heated by a furnace that burns heating oil. Last winter, I could not afford to buy enough heating oil to keep my house warm all winter. Even by keeping the thermostat at 55 degrees, (enough to keep the pipes from freezing, but not enough to really be warm), there were still two months during the winter that I could not run my furnace because I could not afford the oil. I set up two space heaters in either my bedroom or the living room, and that one room was where I spent all my time when I was at home. I got used to wearing my jacket and two pairs of socks in the house all the time. I hated showering because the bathroom was so cold. I would move a heater into the bathroom 15 or 20 minutes before to heat the room up a little bit. In this way, I saved myself money on heating oil, but then my electric bill nearly doubled. That was last year when oil was less than $3 per gallon. I still have not figured out a way to get heating oil for this year. I just have to trust that God will provide, and give me the strength to cope with whatever situation I am faced with.

I wish the government would open the way for more of our natural resources to be utilized. Living in this beautiful state, I love the environment, the animals, the beauty, but are not the needs of human beings more important than leaving billions of acres untouched and untouchable? We cannot even get out to see these spaces anymore because we cannot afford the gas for our vehicles!

JENNY, *Blackfoot*.

I do not have any great stories about how the gas prices have affected my family, but I can tell you that I sold our 4 Runner last year to save on gas and just put a trailer hitch on my minivan so I can pull our utility trailer to mow lawns at some apartments. I always think I look a little funny driving down Broadway in a minivan pulling a trailer.

I would encourage you to propose legislation and/or vote for legislation that opens up all public lands for drilling for oil. This should include ANWR and all offshore drilling. I oppose states dictating whether or not drilling will take place on federal lands or offshore. States only should have the right to restrict drilling on state owned lands. Any federally owned lands should be under the sole jurisdiction of the federal government. Furthermore, neither the state nor the federal government should restrict drilling on any private lands.

We also need more refinery capacity. Whether this is in the form of new refineries or expanding existing refineries, congress needs to pass legislation to ease environmental restrictions.

Do not let them bully you around when others say that it will take ten years to get any oil out of new wells. Any amount will help and even the realistic forecast of more oil will scare OPEC into lowering prices. We need it now! I work in the automotive industry and in all my conversations at home and throughout the country on sales calls, I have not once found a person who thinks we should drill less and have less refineries.

We also need more nuclear, wind, tidal, hydroelectric, and clean coal power plants. I do not believe government should subsidize any of these, but I believe you should loosen the restrictions for private enterprise to develop such. Rising electricity costs are every bit as detrimental to the well being of our economy as the rising petroleum costs.

CLAY, *Idaho Falls*.

You asked Idahoans to email you how the current high gasoline prices are affecting them. I do not think listening to the complaints of Idahoans about gas prices contributes to a solution. As I understand it, devaluing of the dollar versus other currencies, among other things, helped the economies of developing countries to where they can afford more energy intensive products such as food and transportation. Increased demand increases prices if supply remains constant. Look at China, for example. Their economy seems to be exploding, increasing their demand for food and energy and consequently driving up costs for others.

Some of the sillier ''solutions'' proposed by presidential candidates has been to suspend federal gasoline taxes, and raise taxes on oil companies. Environmentalists have long contributed to this developing energy shortage by frightening the public and politicians away from atomic energy. Instead of letting NASA play with $B probes to Mars, why were they not tasked with solving negatives of atomic plants such as depleted fuel rod disposal?

I am pointing fingers here at past errors because it helps to illustrate how we have gone wrong in the past, and which directions our present thinking should take. But first, let us understand who is supposed to be running this country, and who has the clout to dictate what this country is to do? Our U.S. Congress! But when its present preoccupation (increasing subsidies to already wealthy farmers) is compared with the impact of high fuel prices on our citizens, one ceases to expect any help from our politicians.

Fight against foolish short term fixes for high fuel prices. Call for somebody to assemble experts in relevant fields to get the facts behind the energy prices, publish them to reassure the public something is being done, then work to reduce the problem. Keep it non-political and do it fast.

J. K.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to you regarding our nation's energy situation. We are indeed in a lamentable situation. I believe that our current state of affairs should be no big surprise to anyone. Have we not seen this coming for a number of years? Why has nothing been done sooner to allow development of more efficient vehicle engines and renewable domestic energy sources? While we cannot change what should have been done years ago, you and your colleagues in Congress now have the opportunity to not wait another day to take action. All of us must take responsibility for the predicament we are in and do something about it. Every American has the responsibility to conserve energy and use our resources wisely, without being wasteful. All of us have a responsibility to make decisions that will assure future generations a clean, healthy environment. Congress can take aggressive action to encourage production of energy efficient vehicles, homes, and businesses. I believe there is much technology available to reduce energy consumption. The biggest challenge is to be able to put that knowledge into mass production. Congress can create tax-breaks or other incentives for the implementation of energy-saving technology both in the business and private sectors. We, as individuals, can make some difference in energy consumption, but in order to make a significant difference, there must be strong incentives for businesses to change the way they are doing things! Those changes will only take place if the result is increased bottom-line profits for them. Otherwise, they will just keep passing along their increased energy costs to their customers, further bankrupting our already strained economy. We are seeing stress fractures everywhere in our economy, but we must remember that the time of greatest challenge may also offer the most opportunity to accomplish something truly great. We are looking to you to lead us through these challenging times; please do not let us down!

JEANNE MARIE, *Grace*.

Mr. Crapo, My husband and I are retired and both on Medicare. We live in McCammon, so we have to drive at least 40 miles to get to our doctor, dentist, grocery store, etc, We try to make as few trips as possible and car pool with neighbors many times. We can limit our trips but we are having problems with propane since it is our main source of heat. We are now paying more than $300 a month for our propane and it looks as if we will be paying more this winter. We need to use our own resources and stop our dependence on foreign oil. I think that we, as Americans, take good care of our country and have consideration for the earth and its resources. We are tired of being led by conservationists that think they know what is best for all. Many of my neighbors and family are worried and angry because no one seems to be doing anything about the situation. We need you to do something. Thank you.

NANCY, *McCammon*.

I am horrified by the prospect of selling my Hummer. I am also considering driving at 55 mph—is not that awful?

It is disgusting that Americans now have to pay almost as much for gasoline for our gas-guzzlers as we do as for bottled water.

Better drill every possible source of oil in the US—that should allow us to continue to use up resources at the highest rates in human history . . . for another year or maybe two.

DEBRA PATLA.

Of course this has affected my wife and myself. We just very recently retired, hoping to do some traveling. We have already canceled a trip that we had so looked forward to simply because of the cost of fuel. We will have to stay very close to home now. Most of our disposable 'fun' income now goes for gasoline.

You know that this happened on your watch. You and your colleagues representing

Idaho have been in Washington for a long time. [The public deserves to see more action and less talk on your part.]

LEONARD, *Wilder*.

It is ridiculous that they have let the gas prices get up as far as they have. If we did not have petroleum in the US to make gas it would be different, but we have ways to have gas brought in and it would not take that long. They need to reevaluate this.

DEANNA.

We are small farmers and small business owners. We live 25 miles from town which makes it a 50 mile round trip for everything we do. These rising fuel prices has greatly affected us and has made it hard. We have tried to conserve by buying fuel economy cars, but because of the rising costs we are paying substantially more for fuel than we were a year ago or even six months ago. We believe that what should be done is to use more of our domestic oil, cut environmental red tape on refineries and other things and give incentives for people to conserve. I do not think that by adding taxes to the oil companies is going to solve anything. It will just be passed on to the consumer, which is something we do not need.

RANDY.

It is my opinion that we need to become independent from Middle Eastern Oil. We need to reduce use, but also we need to build more energy plants, of all kinds, in our own country, including Nuclear, and responsibly drill our own oil. If we are not dependent on foreign oil we are not held hostage; We are not depleting our wealth while contributing to theirs.

Thank you for asking for my opinion. I hope you listen to everybody and I hope that you and your colleagues quit playing politics and get it done. I am very tired of the political drama. I have come to distrust all of you.

JANINE.

I would suggest that the government tell the people who want more drilling that the oil companies should drill the millions of acres they already hold hostage under contract before we give them the rest. As an alternative let wildcatters have the new options rather than more big oil hostage land.

KURT.

I am single. I raised two boys on my own, assuming the role of Mr. Mom for a number of years. Currently I work in industrial sales. I am compensated through straight commission. Year to date, my sales are off 30%. As commissions have shrunk, costs have not. My employer has informed me in September the cost for the company vehicle I use will increase an additional hundred dollars a month. One of my sons is out of work and had nowhere left to turn and is home for the moment working odd jobs. He is a new commercial pilot.

I am speaking in literal terms, not figuratively. I do not know how I am going to pay the bills, put food on the table, and gas in my personal vehicle. I will buy a half a tank of gas for my vehicle payday (cannot use company rig), buy a lot of hamburger, and I will draw on my credit line to cover the bills the paycheck cannot.

Somehow I will make it. Not sure how, but I will. This would be easier to accept what we are experiencing had it been unavoidable. The fact of the matter is our current situation was completely avoidable. Congress has failed at every turn to demonstrate the kind of leadership needed. Both parties are to blame. There is absolutely no excuse what so ever for us importing any oil period!

We need to drill now and drill wherever possible while developing other alternative energy systems.

ROGER, *New Plymouth*.

Thank you for the opportunity to share the affect rising energy prices have on me and my family. I am a single mother who drives a horrendous commute every day to get my son to daycare and then work. It just does not seem right that my gas bill keeps skyrocketing up every day while my paycheck stays the same. What choice do I have but to pay the price? It's getting too expensive to go to work! Is there anything that can be done?

LEAH.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

IOLANI SCHOOL REAL WORLD DESIGN CHALLENGE CHAMPIONS

• Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I congratulate the six-member team from Iolani School for winning the national title in the U.S. Department of Energy's 2009 Real World Design Challenge, RWDC. The challenge is an annual competition that provides high school students with the opportunity to apply the lessons of the classroom to important energy and environment problems currently encountered in the engineering field. Iolani School's team placed first of 10 teams gathered from across the Nation in the competition finals held on March 21, 2009 at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum. The theme for the 2009 challenge was ''Aviation and Fuel Consumption.''

I wish to acknowledge the students' diligence, team work, and ingenuity in crafting their winning solution to this year's daunting challenge. Teams were provided detailed specifications and flight capabilities of an actual twin-engine jet aircraft. Teams were then asked to improve the aircraft's fuel efficiency without drastically reducing its load capacity. I wish to acknowledge all team members on their success: Amy Ko, Adeline Li, Anya Liao, Celia Ou, Jessica Lynn Saylors, Julia Zhang. Their parents and families are recognized as well for their commitment, sacrifice, and support that helped to encourage and instill the important values that led to their success.

However, these young women could not have achieved what they have done without the additional support and knowledge of the fundamentals of science given to them by their coach, Dr. Carey Inouye. I commend Dr. Inouye and all of their teachers at Iolani School on their dedication to instructing, nourishing, and inspiring the next generation of scientists and engineers.

I would also like to echo the comments made by U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu, who said that this ''competition shows that U.S. students, when challenged to excel, are able to perform at the highest levels in science, math and engineering.'' I encourage these students to continue to study and follow their passions for science and engineering. I wish nothing but the best for the students, their families, and coach and wish them and the program continued success in future endeavors.•

OHIO NATIONAL GUARD'S 179TH AIRLIFT WING

• Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, today I commemorate the work of the Ohio National Guard's 179th Airlift Wing of Mansfield, which has been awarded the General Thomas D. White Environmental Quality Award.

The award recognizes the 179th Airlift Wing's work in environmental quality, restoration, pollution prevention, recycling, and conservation of natural and cultural resources. They were picked for the award from among all 88 Air National Guard Wings, all other Air National Guard installations, and all Air Force Reserve units across the country. It is the highest honor of its kind that can be awarded for environmental work. The 179th Airlift Wing made multiple environmental advances during the period from 2006 to 2008, including consumption reductions, recycling programs, a conversion to biodiesel fuel, and updated cost-saving environmental plans.

I commemorate the work of the 179th Airlift Wing and congratulate them for receiving this prestigious award. Their dedication to environmental causes and our Nation is an inspiration to us all. I hope you will join me in wishing them the best of luck in their future endeavors.•

TRIBUTE TO ADIA MATHIES

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating Adia Mathies from Iroquois High School, Lousiville, KY, for receiving Kentucky's Miss Basketball award. There is only one recipient annually for this award.

Kentucky's Miss Basketball Award is given to students who show excellence in their basketball career. To be eligible for the award, students must show consistent top performance on the court.

Adia Mathies has shown superior basketball skills as a high school senior and throughout her young career. This season alone, she averaged 17.1 points, 11.4 rebounds, 3.9 steals and 3.8 assists, aggressively pushing Iroquois' final record to 33–1 and the win of the State Championship. As a professional athlete, I appreciate the hard work and dedication it takes to perform at a higher level, which she has displayed.

I am impressed by the excellence this student has demonstrated. I am confident that she will have success in greater challenges in the future and perform outstandingly at University of Kentucky.

Mr. President, I would like to thank Adia Mathies for her contributions to