

but instead we may all crowd into our minivan in order to save gas money and wear and tear on the other car.

So, Senator, these are the ways that the high gas prices have affected us. I do not think that we will see lower gas prices again, so it is time for all of us to use our "Yankee Ingenuity" and make the best of this situation.

Sincerely,

KEN.

I am not surprised in the least that the situation is what it is. Actually, I am a little surprised that energy costs are not much higher at this time. I have been in contact with my Federal Representative, the Honorable Mike Simpson, regarding your update letter, namely, the high cost of gasoline, and energy in general. I sent him a link to a speech given in 2006, by a man that was present, for three years, on the building of the Alaska pipeline. His words were, ". . . I am considering your suggestion to accelerate completion of the Alaskan pipeline with great interest." What say you, Senator?

The oil reserves that we hold are more than sufficient, to not only bring our pump prices down, but also allow us to pay off our outrageous, \$9.3 Trillion national debt, in the space of five years, and allow us to consume oil for the next 200 years or so (at least!). Perhaps you, Senator Crapo, would be willing to watch this video. You, too, will be enlightened, as I have been by this knowledge, and perhaps will be persuaded to come to the aid of your country, in our darkest hour. This is a link to the video—<http://wideeyecinema.com/?p=203>.

CURT, Boise.

Being a sort of forward-looking individual, in 2005 we purchased a Volkswagen Jetta with a diesel engine. It is a wonderful little car, but the unique thing about it is that it gets fifty as in 50 miles per gallon. Now I have watched as our illustrious leadership have mollycoddled the automobile makers here in the U.S. and even actually required the raising of the automobile mileage here in this country to a measly 35 miles per gallon average for vehicles. This when vehicles running on diesel already get way more than that! Now we do not drive that much because of gas and diesel prices, but since I can drive nearly 700 miles on a 14-gallon tank of gas, how often do you think we fill up? Admittedly, the prices of a tank of gas amaze us each time we do fill up, but still, we can, and often do, go a month without buying diesel. Even if I were to drive to "town" every day, I could drive almost half a month without filling up!

While such action by our leadership I guess is to be expected, I would like to know when [Congress] will ever get enough gumption to provide leadership for this nation? As a sort of forward-looking individual, I guess it would be fair to say that waiting for anyone living and working within the Beltway to provide any kind of leadership on energy is probably a moot point. While [partisan battles cloud everything,] the world forges ahead, trying hard to ignore the lack of ability to get anything done.

We hire you (elect you) to provide leadership, guide the country in and out of crises but, to be quite frank, [I am extremely disappointed in the partisanship that seems to permeate everything that happens in Congress]. The congressional confidence level is, as you know, at the lowest level ever. Somebody has to do something—even if it is wrong!

Since I do not work in your environment, I do not have a remedy for the environment of "do nothing" that seems pervasive in the Beltway. I do believe, however, that all influence from well-paid lobbyists and those with more money that they know what to do with should be put in some kind of less effective position relative to policy influence. While I understand that people need to be able to contact the people representing them, they should be limited to doing so only by the same means as the rest of us who do not and cannot have someone following legislators around influencing them at every turn.

Sorry, Senator, to rant about this on your forum for high energy prices. But I do not think [the current leadership] has or is providing any leadership in this or a variety of other areas. It seems as if we, the public, have to solve our own problems while Congress muddles around [in partisan bickering.] I have a car that gets 50 miles per gallon of fuel—what does your car get? What do your staff cars get? How many of you use any of the many kinds of "commuter" transportation available within the beltway?

Have a good day—please try and help us working on the energy problem solve it!

RAYMOND and SHERRY.

Today I filled ¾ of my car's gas tank. It cost \$80 plus. Need I say more?

GRANT, Boise.

Thank you for expressing an interest in the situation of one family here in Lewiston. Any time we plan to drive somewhere, we give more thought to the need for the trip and whether it can be postponed or eliminated. In deciding whether to travel, the miles to be driven and our estimated fuel consumption (cost) are discussed. My wife works at LCSC (Lewis Clark State College). Instead of my driving her to her office, I now walk with her to work. The walk saves fuel and gives us time together. Now that the summer air conditioning season is here, we are keeping the thermostat at about 75 deg. If the electric bill is much higher we will raise the thermostat again. With the increased cost of groceries, we are starting to shop in Clarkston, WA; i.e. no state sales tax. Instead of eating out several times a week, we may only go out once now. When getting gasoline, I limit my purchase to about \$20, or, about 5 gallons.

We spend a lot of time trying to figure out why in a country with so many natural resources and safe nuclear power we are not developing addition resources for the benefit of the population. Why is an ever expanding polar bear population more important than American citizens?

Thanks for expressing an interest.

AL and HOLLY.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### COMMEMORATING KOJO NNAMDI'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I commemorate the 10th anniversary of Kojo Nnamdi broadcasting on the American University's WAMU 88.5. Over the course of the last decade, based on his skills as an interviewer and his keen insight, Nnamdi has grown into a national treasure and one of the most respected broadcasters in the National Capital Region. "The

Kojo Nnamdi Show" features 2 hours of news, political issues, and social trends of the day in a magazine program format.

It is hard to remember a time before Kojo Nnamdi was part of the WAMU 88.5 broadcasting family, but it was just 10 years ago, in 1998, when Nnamdi left his host position at WHUT-TV's public affairs show "Evening Exchange" to become the host of WAMU's radio program "Public Interest." He replaced former host Derek McGinty, filling a vibrant radio talk show slot that can be traced back to 1977 with Fred Fiske. The program officially was renamed "The Kojo Nnamdi Show" in September 2002.

Nnamdi was born Rex Paul in Guyana. He came to this country in 1967 to attend college. He began broadcasting in 1973 at WHUR-FM and chose his radio persona based on the Akan word for Monday—Kojo—and Nnamdi Azikiwe, a fellow journalist and the founder of modern Nigerian nationalism who was the first President of Nigeria.

Nnamdi's global perspective and inviting demeanor have made his radio program a must-do for both regional and national leaders. Each weekday, he challenges his guests and call-in audience alike to explore a variety of current and emerging topics relevant to our daily lives. As good a listener as he is an interviewer, Nnamdi opens our consciousness to new ideas. He is so highly skilled that the Washington Post has called him, "maybe the best interviewer in town."

Locally, Nnamdi has become one of the foremost experts on the political and social scenes of Annapolis, Richmond, and Washington, DC. On Fridays, 1 hour of his show is renamed "The Politics Hour" while he opens his airwaves to the region's elected officials, community activists and local leaders. I personally have looked forward to joining Nnamdi for his show time and again.

As Kojo Nnamdi enters his second decade broadcasting at WAMU 88.5, I take great pride in joining with countless others in our community and across the Nation in congratulating him on this milestone. I listen with anticipation for his next topic and his next guest who will help open our minds and further our dialog.●

##### 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARTIN GUITAR FACTORY

• Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I congratulate the Martin Guitar Factory, in Nazareth, PA, on celebrating 175 years of successful guitar making. C.F. Martin & Co. has continually produced the highest level of craftsmanship, design, quality, and tone for the acoustic guitar for over a century and a half.

Established in 1833, the Martin Guitar Factory has been at the leading