

INDEPENDENCE

(By Brandon Wells)

The issue of becoming independent from foreign energy is challenging, but vital. The fact remains: if we do not break away from foreign oil soon, we may fall into an economic depression far greater than Americans have ever known. Gasoline prices are substantially inflated; many families are finding it difficult to budget for the commute to and from work. What can we, as American citizens, do to halt this crisis and put an end to insane oil prices?

One solution to the challenge of making our own less expensive fuel comes straight from Indiana farmers. Biodiesel fuel is a diesel fuel made from organic feedstock. It includes soybeans, animal renderings, and salvaged oil from restaurants. It is domestically produced. Therefore, every gallon of biodiesel fuel takes the place of imported fuels, thus ensuring American dollars remain in the American economy.

A considerable advantage of biodiesel fuel over gasoline and regular diesel fuels is that biodiesel emits far lower emissions, ensuring cleaner air for both present and future generations. Also, it has better lubricity characteristics, which means less wear on engine parts such as fuel injectors and fuel injection pumps. Biodiesel fuels are compatible with all modern diesel engines and fuel systems.

There is a clear and definite need to concentrate on breaking away from foreign oil consumption and imports. While the issue of fuel alternatives is great, Indiana farmers are growing answers for all of America right now. We cannot continue to depend on foreign lands to fuel our lives. America has historically fought for independence and once again, we find ourselves fighting. With the help of Indiana farmers, this battle can be won, and America will once again be independent . . . fuel independent.

2008-2009 DISTRICT ESSAY WINNERS

DISTRICT 1

Katlynn Surfus, Zachary Glick.

DISTRICT 2

Kristi Brennan, Gabe Curtis.

DISTRICT 3

Jessie LeBeau, Jonah Pritchett.

DISTRICT 4

McKinzie Horoho, Trevor Homan.

DISTRICT 5

Miranda Gerrard, Cameron Guernsey.

DISTRICT 6

Kristen McCarthy, Jack Garner.

DISTRICT 7

Riki Crowe, Ethan Fettig.

DISTRICT 8

Morgan Tomson, Aaron Kaiser.

DISTRICT 9

Lynnette Whitsitt, Brandon Wells.

DISTRICT 10

Amy Burbrink, Zach Carter.

2008-2009 COUNTY ESSAY WINNERS

BOONE

Cameron Guernsey, Western Boone Junior High School.

BROWN

Haley O'Neil, home schooled.

CLARK

Geoff Rafail and Morgan Mast, Borden Junior High School.

CLAY

Brandon Crowley and Saiti Booe, Clay City Junior High School.

DECATUR

Morgan Tomson, South Decatur Junior High School.

DUBOIS

Lynnette Whitsitt, Southridge Middle School.

FLOYD

Weston Spalding and Erin Duncan, Our Lady of Perpetual Help School.

FRANKLIN

Aaron Kaiser, Mount Carmel School; and Claire McKamey, St. Michael School.

GREENE

Ethan Fettig, Linton-Stockton Junior High School; and Riki Crowe, White River Valley Junior High School.

HAMILTON

Nicholas Jeffers and Kara Linton, St. Maria Goretti School.

HANCOCK

Joshua Hanselman and McKenzie Qualkinbush, Doe Creek Middle School.

HENDRICKS

Drake Whicker, Cascade Middle School; and Jaclin Byrne, Tri-West Middle School.

HENRY

Jack Garner and Brooke Ballard, Tri Junior High School.

HOWARD

Austin Dishon, Northwestern Middle School; and McKinzie Horoho, Eastern Junior High School.

JACKSON

Zach Carter, Immanuel Lutheran School; and Avri Hackman, Lutheran Central School.

JASPER

Hunter Hickman and Tori Bryja, Rensselaer Middle School.

JAY

Trevor Homan and Miranda Reinhart, East Jay Middle School.

JENNINGS

Tanner Steele and Amy Burbrink, St. Mary School.

LAKE

Zachary Glick and Alejandra Almendarez, Our Lady of Grace School.

MARION

James Wang, Sycamore School; and Kristen McCarthy, St. Jude School.

MONROE

Logan Letner and Allie Jones, Batchelor Middle School.

NOBLE

Gabe Curtis and Kristi Brennan, St. Mary of the Assumption School.

PARKE

Will Harrison and Kendall Davies, Rockville Junior High School.

PERRY

Hunter Sandage, Tell City Junior High School.

POSEY

Brandon Wells and Stephanie Cook, North Posey Junior High School.

SCOTT

Hunter Steinkamp and Raven Alcorn, Scottsburg Middle School.

STARKE

Katlynn Surgus, Knox Middle School.

SULLIVAN

Harley-Alden Robert Davis and Savana Strain, Rural Community Academy.

SWITZERLAND

Devin Coy and Olivia Hewitt, Switzerland County Middle School.

VERMILLION

Dillon Boling and Abigail Calvin, North Vermillion Junior High School.

WABASH

Trae Cole and Alyssa Richter, Northfield Junior High School.

WARREN

Miranda Gerrad, Seeger Junior High School.

WAYNE

Henry Dickman and Katy Robinson, Seton Catholic Junior High School.

WELLS

Anna Gerber, Kingdom Academy.

WHITE

Jonah Pritchett and Jessie Lebeau, Tri County Junior High School.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

(The nomination received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:01 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the amendments of the House to the bill (S.386) entitled "An Act to improve enforcement of mortgage fraud, securities fraud, financial institution fraud, and other frauds related to federal assistance and relief programs, for the recovery of funds lost to these frauds, and for other purposes."

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 2:40 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 386. An act to improve enforcement of mortgage fraud, securities, and commodities fraud, financial institution fraud, and other frauds related to Federal assistance and relief programs, for the recovery of funds lost to these frauds, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. REID).

At 3:31 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, with an amendment:

S. 896. An act to prevent mortgage foreclosures and enhance mortgage credit availability.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on May 19, 2009, she had presented

to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 386. An act to improve enforcement of mortgage fraud, securities and commodities fraud, financial institution fraud, and other frauds related to Federal assistance and relief programs, for the recovery of funds lost to these frauds, and for other purposes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LIEBERMAN, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 35. A bill to amend chapter 22 of title 44, United States Code, popularly known as the Presidential Records Act, to establish procedures for the consideration of claims of constitutionally based privilege against disclosure of Presidential records (Rept. No. 111-21).

By Mr. INOUE, from the Committee on Appropriations:

Special Report entitled "Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals From the Concurrent Resolution, Fiscal Year 2009" (Rept. No. 111-22).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. LEVIN for the Committee on Armed Services.

Air Force nomination of Maj. Gen. Charles B. Green, to be Lieutenant General.

Air Force nomination of Maj. Gen. Herbert J. Carlisle, to be Lieutenant General.

Air Force nomination of Gen. William M. Fraser III, to be General.

Air Force nomination of Lt. Gen. William L. Shelton, to be Lieutenant General.

Air Force nomination of Lt. Gen. Daniel J. Darnell, to be Lieutenant General.

Navy nomination of Vice Adm. Richard K. Gallagher, to be Vice Admiral.

Marine Corps nomination of Maj. Gen. Terry G. Robling, to be Lieutenant General.

Marine Corps nomination of Lt. Gen. Joseph F. Dunford, Jr., to be Lieutenant General.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, for the Committee on Armed Services I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORD on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Air Force nominations beginning with William A. Bartoul and ending with George T. Youstra, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 25, 2009.

Air Force nominations beginning with Peter Brian Abercrombie II and ending with Eric J. Zuhlsdorf, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 25, 2009.

Navy nomination of Deandrea G. Fuller, to be Commander.

Navy nominations beginning with Daniel G. Christofferson and ending with Albert D. Perpuse, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 7, 2009.

By Mr. KERRY for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

*Jeffrey D. Feltman, of Ohio, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Near Eastern Affairs).

*Philip J. Crowley, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Public Affairs).

*Daniel Benjamin, of the District of Columbia, to be Coordinator for Counterterrorism, with the rank and status of Ambassador at Large.

Nominee: Daniel Benjamin.
Post: Coordinator for Counterterrorism.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: \$750, 06/30/08, Obama for America; \$1000, 09/09/08, Obama for America; \$1000, 10/03/08, Obama Fund; \$300, 10/16/08, Obama Fund; \$262.50, 12/28/07, Sestak for Congress; \$2000, 10/26/04, Democratic Executive Committee of Florida; \$500, 07/21/04, Kerry for President; \$250, 03/28/06, Sestak, Joseph A. Jr.; \$350, 10/16/06, Sestak, Joseph A. Jr.; \$250, 10/20/06, Farrell, Diane Goss.

2. Spouse: Henrike Frowein: None.

3. Children and Spouses: Caleb Benjamin, Jonah Benjamin: None.

4. Parents: Burton & Susan Benjamin: \$50, 09/23/08, Himes, Jim; \$55, 09/23/08, Obama for America; \$55, 08/29/08, Obama for America; \$25, 07/02/08, DCC; \$25, 02/26/08, DNC; \$25, 11/15/07, DCC; \$50, 12/13/05, Diane Farrell for Congress; \$20, 11/09/05, 21st Century Democrats; \$55, 09/06/04, DNC; \$50, 06/19/04, Diane Farrell for Congress; \$150, 05/17/04, Kerry for President.

5. Grandparents: Daniel Benjamin—deceased; Betty Benjamin—deceased; William Dorfman—deceased; Rose Dorfman—deceased.

6. Brothers and Spouses: William Benjamin & Jill Kowal Benjamin—none.

7. Jonathan Benjamin & Tricia Kim: \$100, 10/21/08, Obama for America; \$100, 09/10/08, Obama for America; \$100, 04/30/08, Obama for America; \$100, 12/10/07, Obama for America.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN for the Select Committee on Intelligence.

*Priscilla E. Guthrie, of Virginia, to be Chief Information Officer, Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself and Mr. BROWNBACK):

S. 1067. A bill to support stabilization and lasting peace in northern Uganda and areas affected by the Lord's Resistance Army through development of a regional strategy to support multilateral efforts to successfully protect civilians and eliminate the threat posed by the Lord's Resistance Army and to authorize funds for humanitarian relief and reconstruction, reconciliation, and transitional justice, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BROWN:
S. 1068. A bill to amend the National Consumer Cooperative Bank Act to allow for the

treatment of the nonprofit corporation affiliate of the Bank as a community development financial institution for purposes of the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself and Mr. VITTER):

S. 1069. A bill to provide for disaster assistance for power transmission and distribution facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. 1070. A bill to establish the Small Business Information Security Task Force to address information security concerns relating to credit card data and other proprietary information; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. CHAMBLISS (for himself, Mr. VITTER, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BURR, and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. 1071. A bill to protect the national security of the United States by limiting the immigration rights of individuals detained by the Department of Defense at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. LINCOLN (for herself and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 1072. A bill to amend chapter 1606 of title 10, United States Code, to modify the basis utilized for annual adjustments in amounts of educational assistance for members of the Selected Reserve; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. REED:

S. 1073. A bill to provide for credit rating reforms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 1074. A bill to provide shareholders with enhanced authority over the nomination, election, and compensation of public company executives; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 1075. A bill to designate 4 counties in the State of New York as high-intensity drug trafficking areas, and to authorize funding for drug control activities in those areas; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. FEINGOLD):

S. 1076. A bill to improve the accuracy of fur product labeling, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 1077. A bill to regulate political robocalls; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mr. VOINOVICH):

S. 1078. A bill to authorize a comprehensive national cooperative geospatial imagery mapping program through the United States Geological Survey, to promote use of the program for education, workforce training and development, and applied research, and to support Federal, State, tribal, and local government programs; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. INOUE, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, and Mr. BENNET):