

Lowering fuel costs by increasing supply

By: Senator Jerry Moran

As families across Kansas begin to plan for summer vacation, many are scaling back this year because of increasing gas prices.

Escalating gas prices have also affected business owners, who have been forced to pay higher costs, and farmers who have been paying more to bring their commodities to market. Consumers face higher prices for goods and services because of the rising cost of transportation.

Higher energy prices not only threaten our global competitiveness, they hamper our economic recovery, and they will continue to rise until we take serious steps toward developing more of our country's natural resources.

Our country has some of the most plentiful, affordable and reliable energy resources available. In fact, the Congressional Research Service has reported that America has greater energy resources than China, Saudi Arabia and Canada combined.

Technological advances have made the exploration, extraction and transportation of these resources safer and more efficient – but unfortunately, the Obama Administration has repeatedly blocked efforts to expand domestic energy production. In fact, according to the U.S. Department of the Interior, oil production on federal lands fell by 14 percent and natural gas production fell by 11 percent over the last year.

To increase domestic production and decrease our country's dependence on foreign energy sources, I have sponsored the 3-D Act, which would require the administration to reverse its cancellation of dozens of oil and gas leases, open areas previously restricted to responsible oil and gas development and streamline the environmental review process to allow for meaningful reviews, while also preventing unnecessary lawsuits.

The Administration has delayed projects that will improve our energy infrastructure and energy security, such as the Keystone XL pipeline. This private enterprise would create an estimated 20,000 jobs and bring billions to the U.S. economy.

Instead of putting the entire project on hold, we should allow construction to begin in areas not subject to the rerouting so jobs can be created and our nation can have greater access to a more reliable energy source. S. 2041, which I have sponsored, would do just that.

Utilities have also been targeted with increased regulations that threaten consumers with higher rates and the real possibility of rolling blackouts. Last year, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued the Cross State Air Pollution Rule, which will force utility firms to choose between either providing adequate power and facing criminal penalties or cutting power and running afoul of reliability laws.

I have introduced S.2300 to give Kansas utility companies the necessary time to comply with these new emissions standards.

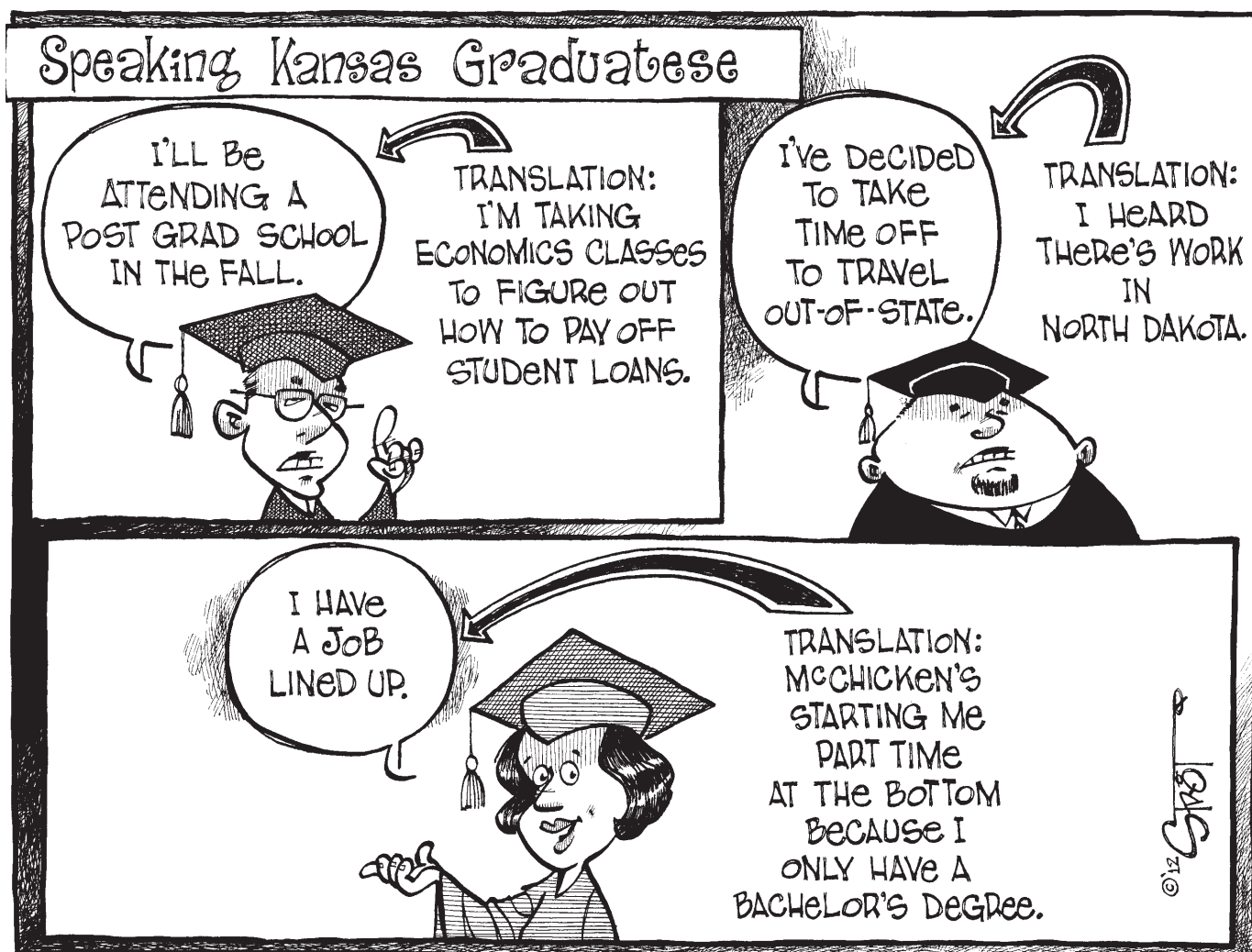
The agency has also issued a regulation on industrial boilers used for energy production called the Boiler or Utility MACT. This regulation, along with a new emissions rule proposed earlier this year, will effectively prevent any new coal-fired electric plants from coming online – which will only drive up electric costs for consumers. I have sponsored S. 1392, the EPA Regulatory Relief Act, to nullify the MACT rule and allow utilities to continue to pursue coal as a means of providing electricity to their customers.

Renewable energy must also play a role in supplying our energy needs as new technologies allow for the increased commercialization of renewable fuels. Kansas is a leader in wind production and second only to Texas in wind resource potential. Innovation in biofuel production has also increased our ability to develop additional energy from renewable sources available in Kansas.

Nuclear energy is another necessary component that will help supply our nation's future energy needs and allow our country to rely less on other nations. I will continue to support initiatives to spur growth in the nuclear energy industry, including initiatives to streamline regulatory compliance.

Energy exploration must also be accompanied by energy conservation. When Americans drive more efficient vehicles and occupy energy-conserving buildings, they not only consume less energy, but they save money. At a time when gas prices continue to climb, we need to be looking for innovative ways to help consumers save money on energy bills.

For the United States to remain competitive in the global market and to meet our country's energy needs, Congress must develop a comprehensive national energy policy. No single form of energy can provide the answer. By reducing our dependence on foreign sources and developing our domestic resources, our country's economic and national security future will be brighter and more secure.



The debate on illegals and profiling

I recently received an email from a reader regarding my column on Arizona and immigration. I want to thank him for his response and for his passion about the subject.

Arizona does not have the right to circumvent a federal law. The U.S. Supreme Court is currently debating this issue. James Ziglar, head of immigration services under President George W. Bush, stated on NPR he felt the Arizona law would "flood" the system making it difficult to enforce the current laws. The drain on our law enforcement and on our financial resources would minimize our effectiveness against serious crimes. Do we allow 50 different laws regulating immigration to the states? Think we wrestled with this in the 1860s.

I rely on individuals in law enforcement, those who study law and analysts to help decipher potential problems in the system. The Arizona law says, "A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, WITHOUT A WARRANT, MAY ARREST A PERSON IF THE OFFICER HAS PROBABLE CAUSE TO BELIEVE THAT THE PERSON

Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



HAS COMMITTED ANY PUBLIC OFFENSE THAT MAKES THE PERSON REMOVABLE FROM THE UNITED STATES."

You state, a person has "to break a law in order for the suspect to be questioned". How do we have "probable cause" to believe an offense has been committed which could result in expulsion from the country? By behavior, ethnicity?

To arrest without a warrant is in violation of the 4th amendment. Once, an upper level law enforcement officer from a large city told me he could legally detain anyone based on his own assumptions...a frightening prospect albeit very true.

You stated, we have a "huge issue with illegal immigration". Recent data

from the Department of Homeland Security indicates otherwise, "... results suggest little to no change in the unauthorized immigrant population from 2010 to 2011. It is unlikely that the unauthorized immigrant population increased after 2007 given relatively high U.S. unemployment, improved economic conditions in Mexico, record low numbers of apprehensions of unauthorized immigrants at U.S. borders, and greater levels of border enforcement."

Perhaps, as you say, I have a "small town attitude". Thirty-five years spent in Nevada, California, Colorado, Alabama and Oregon all in towns of 100,000 plus may have narrowed my vision.

My concern is with upholding our civil rights and Constitutional values, the very freedoms immigrants are seeking. The U.S. Supreme Court, with its very knowledgeable justices, will interpret the law and we will abide by it, not because we agree with it, but because it is the law of the land. mkwoodyard@ruraltel.net

Preventative care is what is needed for our pets

Like you, our family wants the very best for our pets! Our goal is a good quality life, so that we might enjoy our pets for as long as possible. Preventative care is how we keep our animals healthy. Preventative care involves healthy well visits every 6 months, vaccinations, annual intestinal parasite exams, heart worm testing, dental cleanings every 6-12 months, and overall environmental management. So, we decided to try an all natural cat litter that was biodegradable. Can you guess what happened? A little background information may help. First, our cats are over five years of age. Second, they have only been exposed to a few brands of cat litter. Last, cats are incredibly habitual creatures. Have you guessed yet? Our cats refused to use the litter box for over 24 hours! When they finally relented, the mess was catastrophic! Who gave in? You guessed correctly, it was me!

Are you one of the millions of Americans who struggle with your cat having accidents outside the litter box? Have you ever tried to switch cat litter, only to have your cat refuse? If so, it's frustrating! Accidents make life at home

Vet tips Dr. Sara White



a challenge for both of you and your pet. Your veterinarian is the only one who can accurately assess your cat's bladder health and differentiate feline lower urinary tract disease (FLUTD) from purely behavioral causes of inappropriate urination. If the diagnosis of behavioral inappropriate urination is made, your cat's litter box may be the problem. Below are the ABC's of litter boxes.

A = Accessible. Position the box so it has at least two exit points. Cats hate being cornered. Avoid dead ends or access only via stairs. Avoid areas where your cat rests, sleeps, or eats. Provide as many boxes as there are cats, plus one additional box. Offer one box on every floor of a multi-level home. Do not place boxes near noisy machinery such as furnaces or appliances. Place litter boxes at locations that have been

inappropriately soiled in the past.

B = Big. Choose large litter boxes. Cats tend to use the largest available when given the choice. Cats prefer storage containers such as plastic storage boxes which are larger than commercially available litter boxes.

C = Clean & Clumping Clay. Offer your cat clay-based litter. Cats prefer fine-grained clay clumping litter to coarse litter. When in doubt, always choose the unscented litter. Always, always, always, scoop the box at least once daily, and completely change and wash the box monthly!

Follow the ABC's of litter boxes and your cat will thank you! And if you wondered why our cats refused the new cat litter, there were three reasons. The new litter was overwhelmingly perfumed, it was a completely different texture, and cats are incredibly habitual creatures! For future reference, we will not be changing brands of cat litter any time soon! Contact your veterinarian for further information on feline inappropriate urination. There are many aspects to consider with inappropriate urination, so please consult your veterinarian!

Congratulations Class of 2012!

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

E-mail: nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

ISSN 1063-701X

215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, KS 67654

Published each Tuesday and Friday by Haynes Publishing Co., 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, Kan. 67654. Periodicals mail postage paid at Norton, Kan. 67654.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Norton Telegram, 215 S. Kansas, Norton, Kan. 67654. Official newspaper of Norton and Norton County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, and the Nebraska Press Association

OFFICE HOURS:

8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Mon.-Thur.
8 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Friday
Phone: (785) 877-3361
Fax: (785) 877-3732

STAFF

Dana Paxton..... General Manager
Advertising Director/
email: dpaxton@nwkansas.com
Carleen Bell..... Managing Editor
cbell@nwkansas.com
Dick Boyd..... Blue Jay Sports
nortontelegram@nwkansas.com
Michael Stephens..... Reporter
Society Editor/Area Sports
mstephens@nwkansas.com
Vicki Henderson..... Computer Production
Marcia Shelton..... Office Manager

Nor'West Newspapers
Dick and Mary Beth Boyd
Publishers, 1970-2002

Kansas Press Association



Thumbs up to Mr. Melvin for organizing a wonderful baccalaureate for the Senior graduates. Emailed in.

Thumbs up to everyone who supported Hayli Bozarth at the Big 12 Competition. Called in.

Thumbs up to the Norton Community High School Art students and their instructor, Vicki Robison, for sharing their work with the public. It is great to see our local talent. Well done. Emailed in.

Thumbs up to the Norton Graduating Class of 2012, we are so proud of you and knew you could do it!!! Called in.