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To: Koch, Anna;
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Thank you for reading The Conaway Chronicle, a weekly review of my activities in Congress. This newsletter is to let you know what's going on in Washington and what important issues are being debated in Congress.

Your Taxes, Washington's Spending Problem

Last week, as Americans across the country raced to the nearest post office to meet the tax-filing deadline, Congress is still grappling with pending major tax increases and difficult spending decisions.

Since the Democrats took control of Congress in early 2007, there has been a great deal of partisan rhetoric and bickering from both sides of the aisle on the issue of taxation. While it is important for the American people to know where members of the House stand on this issue, such squabbling is unproductive. It is time to have a serious discussion on tax relief and reform and pass sensible legislation for the hard-working Americans that deserve it. We must control the growth of entitlement spending, which includes important programs such as Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security. Without reform, these programs will not exist in the future to aid those in need. I will continue to work to ensure your tax dollars should be spent wisely, or not at all, and revaluate and reform the spending process in Washington in a bipartisan manner.

Farm Bill Extension Update

Last week, the House and Senate passed another week-long short-term extension of the 2002 Farm Bill, which the President signed into law. The past short-term extension expired last Friday, April 18th and the new extension runs through this Friday, April 25th. While logistically one more short-term extension is likely in order to place finishing touches on the legislation, it is time for Congress to finish a bill that everyone can support and that the President will sign into law. The ever increasing uncertainty that is being created by a steady flow of short-term extensions is unacceptable. America's producers, consumers, rural communities and financial institutions deserve a level of certainty for the foreseeable future. It is my desire to craft new farm legislation, but if the trend that has been set continues Congress and the White House will need to begin weighing the option of extending the 2002 Farm Bill for a much longer period ! of time. As I have previously stated, it is my hope to craft and pass long-term bipartisan farm policy. However, if it becomes apparent that Congress cannot accomplish such a goal we, as elected Representatives of the People, will need to act to end the constant uncertainty by extending the 2002 Farm Bill for a much longer period of time.

Reaction to FLDS Sect in Eldorado

I want to applaud the community leaders of San Angelo and Eldorado for their hard work and hospitality during the transition of hundreds of children from the raid on the YFZ ranch. This overwhelming situation has been handled with excellence and discretion by

the local authorities, city officials, and volunteers who have opened their hearts to the sect's children refugees. I also want to recognize the legal teams that have travelled to San Angelo to represent the children pro-bono.

As the investigation into the severity of the situation at the YFZ ranch continues, I will continue to encourage officials in West Texas to maintain their hard work and stay vigilant to find answers to the tough questions that are to come.

** Click here to see which bills I co-sponsored last week in Washington**

The Conaway Chronicle will be issued every week when Congress is in session. I hope that you will find it informative and will continue to stay informed with my recent legislative activities in Washington. In the meantime, if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions for future issues of the Conaway Chronicle, please visit the website at **www.house.gov/conaway** or don't hesitate to call me at (202) 225-3605. Check out my blog at **www.conawayblog.com**!

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