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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.

**Peru Free Trade Agreement Passed**

Last week, the House overwhelmingly passed the U.S.-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement with a vast majority of Republicans supporting the agreement and a minority of the Democratic Party supporting the measure. This well-negotiated trade agreement between the United States and Peru is a solid win for a vast array of sectors and workers in the U.S., and I am proud to have voted for it.

Additionally, this agreement constitutes a great win for Texas and American agriculture. With immediate elimination of taxes and fees on nearly 90 percent of current products, this agreement will provide Texas producers and exporters the opportunity not only to preserve, but to increase the market share of U.S. products in Peru. Furthermore, with regard to food and import safety, Peru agreed to continue to recognize the equivalence of the U.S. meat inspection and certification system to its own system.



Peru has long been a friend and supporter of the United States and is currently resisting the efforts of Venezuela’s authoritarian President Hugo Chavez as he promotes his socialist ideals and anti-American propaganda in Latin America. This agreement will help Peru continue to promote individual freedoms.

**FutureGen Update**

Last Thursday, the Department of Energy announced that the final Environmental Impact Study (EIS) for the FutureGen initiative has been issued. The study found all four of the proposed host sites to be acceptable. I am pleased with the findings of the final EIS and continue to wholeheartedly believe that the Odessa-Penwell site is the best site for FutureGen. From now until the site announcement on December 17th, I will continue to do everything I can to bring FutureGen to West Texas.



**ENDA Needs Work**

The Employment Non-Discrimination Act (H.R. 3685) passed the House last Wednesday by a vote of 235-184. Introduced by Representative Barney Frank (D-MA), H.R. 3685 would prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation. I have a number of concerns with this legislation and chose to vote against it. First and foremost, the idea of “perceived” sexual orientation is extremely problematic in that it is not clearly defined and is subject to different interpretations. The vagueness of this bill welcomes costly litigation, creating a gold mine for trial lawyers since virtually anyone will be able to claim that they have been

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“discriminated” against. This bill also eliminates current protections that allow employers to consider marital status as a condition of employment, diminishing states rights to define, protect, and preserve the institution of marriage.

### **Honoring our Veterans**

Our nation observed Veterans Day on Monday, giving us all time to reflect on the service our veterans have provided us over the years. Celebrated on the anniversary of the signing of the Armistice that ended World War I, Veterans Day is a day to pay tribute to the heroes of years past and those who have fought, and are currently fighting, in the War against the radical Islamic Extremists. With more and more Veterans returning home from the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, Congress must to do a better job taking care of them when they return and making sure that Veterans benefits are in place. It is my hope that we can quickly pass a Veterans Administration Military Quality of Life Appropriations bill. To this point, House and Senate Democrats have tried to play political games with the funding bill and have refused to send it to the President. It’s time for the games to stop.



Congress also passed another huge tax increase on Friday. [Click here](#) to listen to this week’s podcast, where I discuss legislation introduced by Rep. Charles Rangel (D-NY) that attempts to fix the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) by raising taxes on others and the impact that the new taxes will have on West Texas.

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The Conaway Chronicle will be issued every Monday or Tuesday 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](http://www.house.gov/conaway) or don’t hesitate to call me at (202) 225-3605. Check out my blog at [www.conawayblog.com](http://www.conawayblog.com)!

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