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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.

**Internet Tax Moratorium**

On Tuesday, the House voted to extend the current Internet tax moratorium for seven years. I supported the bill that passed, despite the fact that House Democrats rejected two Republican proposals that would have banned Internet taxes permanently. The Internet is a dynamic force in our economy and millions and millions of people across the world have come to rely on the Internet for day-to-day activities. Small businesses, large corporations, and everything in between see the Internet as an irreplaceable tool, and it is important that we keep it affordable. The extension we sent President Bush last week is a positive step, however I will continue to work on behalf of small businesses and consumers to work for a permanent ban.

**Flag Folding Controversy**

Last week, a single complaint to the Department of Veterans Affairs led to the banning of volunteers reciting flag-folding ceremonies at America’s 125 national cemeteries during funerals. The banning of this recital, which includes 13 folds, the 11th and 12th folds honoring God, and the last as a reminder of our national motto: “In God We Trust”, sent veterans across the country into an uproar.



There are few ceremonies more moving than those that honor our nation’s heroes as they are laid to rest among their fellow service members. The flag-folding ceremony is an iconic symbol of respect and honor to those who selflessly fought for and defended our freedoms. It is unfortunate that there are officials in Washington who want to swing their heavy hand and overthrow sacred traditions for the sake of being politically correct. On Tuesday, Republicans in the House of Representatives introduced a resolution condemning any policy that would ban the recitations. I will continue to work in Congress to ensure that our values and religious rights are upheld and that this decision is overturned.

**Saving Local Radio**

On Thursday, I introduced a bipartisan resolution titled the Local Radio Freedom Act (H.ConRes 244) with Rep. Gene Green (D-TX). The resolution declares Congress’ support of free local radio and opposes any new performance fees, taxes, royalties or other charges relating to the public performance of sound recordings on a local radio station for broadcasting sound recordings. There have been rumblings in Congress recently about trying to add a “performance tax” on local radio broadcasters, making them pay for the music they play. Local radio broadcasters provide thousands of hours of essential information to our communities. By imposing a performance fee,

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thousands of radio stations will suffer economic hardship as will other small businesses and ultimately the American consumers who rely on the stations for local news, weather, etc.



Local radio broadcasters provide essential information to the local communities they serve. Communities rely on local radio stations to relay important weather information, national emergency information, and important news that will affect their community. The suggested performance taxes on local radio would devastate small local broadcasters in rural areas and ultimately hurt small businesses and consumers.

The bipartisan resolution was introduced with 51 original cosponsors.

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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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