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Thank you for reading the Conaway Chronicle.



The debate on the 2007 Farm Bill has begun with the recent unveiling of the Administration's farm policy proposals. This is undoubtedly a crucial time for the U.S. agriculture industry. **The Administration's Farm Bill proposals** are based on information gathered by the Secretary of Agriculture, Mike Johanns, during his 2006 listening tour. While I appreciate the efforts of the Administration in bringing new ideas to the table, Congress, not the Administration, will draft language and direct funding as it relates to farm policy and the 2007 Farm Bill.

There are several areas of the Administration's proposal that concern me. Our domestic farm policies should be agriculture support programs, not income support programs. Changes in eligibility provisions and limitations will undermine the objectives of the legislation to provide a stable and predictable farm policy. A change in the structure of payment limitations may have a negative impact on agriculture producers in Texas and the entire Southwest. I do not see the benefit to creating more instability in an already fragile rural economy.



Last week in Congress, the House of Representatives passed a \$463.5 billion Continuing Resolution Appropriations Bill (C.R.), which will fund the majority of federal spending through the end of the fiscal year (September 30, 2007). I voted against this legislation as I disagreed with how Democrats advanced the bill without any committee consideration. The C.R. ignored all the work done in the appropriations committee during 2006 and is, for the most part, the chairman of the Appropriations committee's personal ideas on spending.

Last week, the Department of Labor announced that 111,000 new jobs were created in January, bringing the total to approximately 7.4 million since August of 2003. More Americans are working today than ever before, and a job is available to any American that is willing and able to work.

Earlier this week, President Bush announced his proposed 2008 federal budget and sent it to Congress. It laid out a plan to balance the federal budget within five years. The President's budget strikes a good balance to keep domestic program cuts to a minimum, fund the Global War against Islamic Jihadists, and reduce the current budget deficit without increasing taxes on hardworking Americans.



The announcement begins the crucial debate on America's budget future. Our economy is surging, benefiting working Americans and keeping our nation prosperous. We must make permanent the tax relief that continues to spur our nation's prosperity. I have seven grandchildren, and it is critical that we keep the next generations in mind as we make decisions about the fiscal future of

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America. I look forward to examining the President's Budget further within the House Budget Committee, which begins hearings this week.

On a personal note, I thank everyone who has expressed their condolences to me and my family on the death of my father. Dad enjoyed a long and loud life and is now at peace in the loving arms of his savior Jesus Christ. That is all for this week. Thank you for reading the Conaway Chronicle. We will be back with you next week with another update from Washington.

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 or don't hesitate to call me at (202) 225-3605. Check out my blog at www.conawayblog.com!

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