

The Conaway Chronicle

March 4, 2008 – Volume 4, Issue 6

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.

ENERGY

The buzz on Capitol Hill this week was all about yet another version of the Democrat-led Energy bill, which passed the House on Wednesday by a vote of 236 to 182. The latest version of the Democrats' Energy bill is one that is set to place an enormous tax burden on the backs of our country's oil and natural gas producers and, ultimately, on American consumers. Each dollar that the oil industry earns is reinvested back into the ground to explore and produce crude oil and natural gas. Each dollar that we tax, or take away from, oil and gas producers is directly hurting our economy and placing a roadblock on the path to energy independence for America. The cost of these new taxes will ultimately be passed on to the American consumer by way of higher pump prices.

Energy is the lifeblood of our economy, and today gasoline prices are higher than ever. I urge the Majority to stop wasting time with legislation that will not get past the President's desk, and start working in a bipartisan manner to find real solutions to our energy crisis.

[Click here](#) to watch me speak to my colleagues on the House Floor about the major problems with this harmful legislation prior to the vote.

I also had an editorial appear in the Capitol Hill newspaper *The Politico* last week regarding the oil and gas industry and how they would be affected by the Energy Tax bill. [Click here](#) to read it.

Fires in Texas

Wildfires raged through much of West Texas this week and damaged ranches and livestock across hundreds of square miles in District 11. A lack of rain and high winds created conditions to produce these wind-driven fires that spread quickly throughout the region and forced many people to evacuate their homes. Tom Green County was declared a disaster area allowing authorities to assess the situation and respond quickly and effectively to quell these dangerous wildfires.

I commend the efforts of the many volunteer firefighters, first responders, and citizens who bravely fought to contain these fires and assisted their fellow Texans in safely evacuating the affected areas. I had the opportunity to view the damage in Sterling County this week and saw the devastating effects of wildfires. Although, thankfully, no lives were lost in the destruction, many miles of fencing, structures and livestock were destroyed. I will continue to work with Governor Perry to assist those whose lives were affected by the wildfires and ensure that we have the resources necessary to quickly respond and safely resolve these natural disasters.

Keeping our Nation Secure

The Democrat-led House leadership continues to delay taking up the Senate-passed FISA bill that will keep the terrorist loophole closed. This bill passed the Senate by 68 votes, and would pass the House with a bipartisan vote if House Democrat leaders would bring it to the floor and give it the vote that the American people deserve.

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It has now been over two weeks since the Protect America Act expired, leaving our country at a significant risk to potential new terrorist plots. Our intelligence agencies have lost critical tools that protect our national security and keep Americans safe. It is essential that this important legislation be taken up in the House and onto the Presidents desk as soon as possible, and I will continue to urge my Democrat colleagues to make it happen.

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

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