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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.

Funding our Troops

After more than six months of the Democrat leadership repeatedly bringing ill-advised, misguided troop funding legislation to the floor, they have finally decided to join House Republicans and comprise a troop funding bill that will be signed by the President and will fund our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

This emergency supplemental spending bill will send our troops the funding they need for success without restricting commanders in the field with politically-motivated limitations. It also provides modernization of the GI bill, which will give new resources to help our veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan get a better education, without raising taxes unnecessarily on the American people. It also allows veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan to transfer benefits to his or her spouse and children. This bipartisan package is long-overdue and will help to further strengthen America's strong all volunteer military force and their efforts in the Middle East.

Terrorist Surveillance Bill Finally Agreed on

Last week, an agreement was reached in the House to modernize the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA). This surveillance legislation is crucial to keeping our nation safe, as it provides our intelligence officials with the authorities and tools necessary to monitor the communications of foreign terrorists suspected of plotting attacks on American soil, as well as protect our troops who are fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. This bill will strengthen the Nation's intelligence capabilities while protecting the constitutional rights of Americans, and I strongly support its passage.

Protecting our Farms and Small Businesses

Last week, I introduced H.R. 6289, the Family-Owned Farms and Small Businesses Act of 2008. This legislation would increase the special use valuation for farms up to $1,850,000 and increase the qualified family-owned business interest deduction to $2,000,000.

The increasing value of farm and ranch real estate is making it difficult for farmers and ranchers to pass on their working ranches and farms to their descendents without the burden of the death tax. This legislation specifically targets those family farms, ranches and small businesses who will be hit by the death tax the hardest if the tax is not permanently repealed.

In 2000, there were 108,322 farms and small businesses that filed estate tax returns. The average value for farms and small businesses in the year 2000 was over $2 million. In 2011, the Estate Tax rate will be 55% for all estates valued over $ 1,000,000.

Energy problem intensifies, yet no action is taken

Another week went by full of rising gasoline prices and heated debate, yet nothing has been accomplished to take us in the right direction toward dealing with the energy crisis at hand. Last week I was a guest on the G. Gordon Liddy radio show where I was able to express my views on the current energy situation in the United States, and what action should be taken to alleviate the high, painful prices at the pump. I encourage you to **click here** to

listen to the show.

Click here to sign a petition to lower gas prices.

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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