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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.

Second Amendment rights prevail

Last week's Supreme Court ruling to overturn the unconstitutional District of Columbia gun ban is a monumental victory for not only citizens of the District of Columbia, but for all Americans. Specifically, the Supreme Court determined that the second amendment is intended as an individual right, and not a collective right of the state. Under the second amendment of the U.S. Constitution, every citizen has the right to defend themselves; yet for more than thirty years, this right has been denied to the citizens of Washington, D.C. For years, lawmakers have been working to overturn this ban, and I am pleased to be a part of this victorious event that is sure to go down in the history books.

The handgun ban had been in place in the District since 1976. Last week's ruling was the first major second amendment ruling in 70 years.

In Memorium: Iconic Texas legislator Buddy West

Last Wednesday, George E. "Buddy" West, a longtime State Representative serving Odessa and the West Texas area, passed away at the age of 71. Buddy lived a full and purposeful life, and his legacy as an influential Texas legislator will serve as an example to Texas lawmakers for years to come. Buddy served as Vice Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee and Chairman of the Energy Resources Committee in Austin during his legislative career. He received the John Ben Sheppard Public Leadership Institute's Outstanding State Leadership Award last fall at the University of Texas at the Permian Basin.

He was a longtime friend who served the people of West Texas with strong conviction and passion. He will be forever missed, but never forgotten.

Energy

House Republicans continue to push Democrat leadership for real energy reform legislation to combat ever-increasing gas and energy prices. I am disappointed that they chose to recess for the Fourth of July without doing so, leaving Americans to head into the holiday paying record prices.

Last week, I, along with Congressman Jeb Hensarling (R-TX) and Congresswoman Marsha Blackburn (R-TN), introduced legislation to repeal section 526 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, which became law last year. Section 526 prohibits federal agencies from contracting for nonconventional, or alternative, fuels that emit higher levels of greenhouse gas emissions than "conventional petroleum sources." Though short, this section – which raises concerns over national security, economic security, and bureaucratic uncertainty – has powerful and harmful implications and needs to be repealed immediately.

I believe that, with record-setting prices at the pump, Americans are desperate for real relief. Section 526 of the Energy Independence and Security Act handcuffs the Federal Government to only conventional sources of diesel, gasoline, or jet fuel thus barring the purchase of American coal shale, American tar sands and American coal to liquid fuel. It does not make sense to restrict our access to American fossil fuels and then continue buying those same fuels from countries that are, at best, not our allies.

Click here ***to sign a petition to lower gas prices.***
Click here ***to listen to my podcast on energy.***
Click here ***to see the Republican solution to our energy crisis.***

Happy 232nd Birthday America

This coming Friday, many Americans will celebrate with fireworks, parades, barbecues, carnivals, picnics, and baseball games, without remembering the real meaning behind Independence Day. This July 4th marks the 232 nd anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, declaring our freedom from the Kingdom of Great Britain. It is my hope that everyone will show off their patriotism this 4th of July and celebrate our heritage and the many freedoms that we share as Americans.

Have a safe and happy holiday. The Chronicle will return in two weeks when Congress convenes after the 4th of July recess.

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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