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To: Koch, Anna;
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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.

Moving One Step Closer to Securing America's Bridges

Last Thursday, the House of Representatives voted to pass The National Highway Bridge Reconstruction and Inspection Act (**H.R. 3999**). The legislation included language from my bill, the "Bridge Life Extension Act of 2008" (**H.R. 6234**), which I introduced last month.

I am pleased that Congressman Jim Oberstar (D-MN), Chairman of the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, agreed to the language I brought forward, and it is my hope that a corrosion prevention mitigation plan will be required in next year's transportation reauthorization bill. The recent bridge collapses and closures should be a wakeup call for all lawmakers. This legislation sets new standards for bridges that receive federal funding by encouraging states to develop corrosion mitigation and prevention plans for all bridges undergoing repair, rehabilitation or construction.

The ongoing cost of corrosion on US bridges represents a risk that can be mitigated with proper planning and attention. I am pleased that my colleagues understand the importance of taking a proactive initiative on this issue.

GOP Energy Legislation Proposed

Last week, House Republicans introduced the 'American Energy Act' which aims to lower gas prices by incorporating new technologies, urging conservation, and increasing the supply of American-made energy in an environmentally-sensitive way.

A vast majority of Americans now support expanded domestic drilling to increase our supply of American-made energy, thus reducing the strains on demand. It is a simple equation of supply and demand, yet my Democrat colleagues don't seem to understand the concept. Even after President Bush lifted the ban on drilling in the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), they refuse to bring a helpful, resourceful energy bill to the House floor. House Republicans have developed the 'American Energy Act' as a comprehensive solution to our energy crisis and we will be using every legislative tool at our disposal to force a vote on this legislation before Congress parts for the August recess.

Click here for a detailed description of the Republican Energy Plan.
Click here to sign a petition to lower gas prices.

Flawed Housing Bill Passes the House

Last Wednesday, the House voted to pass the 'Foreclosure Prevention Act of 2008' (**H.R. 3221**), which forces taxpayers to fund a $300 billion "bailout" of speculative subprime lenders and housing scam artists. I voted against this legislation because this is not the answer to our housing crisis. We must enact a comprehensive plan to help innocent Americans struggling to keep their homes while also protecting hard-working

taxpayers. This legislation will actually make the foreclosure crisis even worse, and will force the federal government to clean up the mistakes of irresponsible homeowners and lenders. The legislation also includes reforms aimed at shoring up the two government-sponsored entities "Freddie Mac" and &! ldquo;Fannie Mae". While these reforms are important, the price tag placed on them by the Democratic leadership is way too high. I am disappointed that President Bush reversed course and plans to sign this harmful, irresponsible legislation into law.

Click here to listen to this week's podcast.

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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