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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.

Another Weak Attempt at Energy Legislation

Energy is an issue that affects every single person in our country and there is no doubt that our energy crisis is real. Yet once again Democrat leadership has crafted a harmful piece of legislation behind closed doors. After a second attempt to breathe new life into the energy bill, the revised legislation still implements higher costs on consumers and businesses, and requires large mandates in unproven science. This 'comprehensive' solution does nothing to increase our real energy production. Production of oil and natural gas, nuclear, coal-to-liquid, and other forms of energy are not even addressed in their version of the bill.



The imposed ethanol mandate would also result in higher consumer costs and is not yet been proven to be an efficient and effective source of renewable fuel. The Renewable Electricity Standard (RES) would require states to produce fifteen percent of their electricity from renewable sources. RES places an unfair burden on states that lack the natural resources to meet the renewable electricity standard. Consumers who live in these states will be forced to pay considerably higher electricity rates with no additional renewable electricity in return.



Before we can implement changes to our lifestyles, we must know what kind of effect these new changes will have on consumers and small businesses. If it were cheaper to produce electricity today by using alternative sources of energy, such as solar and wind, we would be using them - that is the genius of our economy. Until cost-benefit facts can be determined based on sound science and valid research, we must not act in haste and carelessly implement legislation that is harmful to our economy

and will not help the energy problems at hand. I beseech the Majority to stop wasting time with veto-bait legislation drafted in secret, and start working in a bipartisan manner to find real solutions to our energy crisis.

[Click here](#) to watch me speak on the House floor on this flawed legislation.

The Farm Bill

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The Senate amendment debate on the Farm Bill continued today in hopes that the legislation could be passed by the end of the week. Republicans and Democrats in the Senate came to an agreement late last week that would limit each side to 20 amendments in an effort to speed up debate. It is imperative that the Senate pass a bill soon as the new planting season is approaching and our farmers and ranchers need to begin making business decisions and preparations.



Massive workload to finish before Christmas

With less than two weeks remaining before Congress will adjourn for the Christmas Holidays, several essential funding bills have yet to be brought to the House floor for a vote. High on the list of importance is the Department of Defense Authorization Bill (H.R. 1585), which will provide the Pentagon with the authority to fund the War on Terror in the fiscal year 2008. The Terrorism Risk Insurance Act will also be up for reauthorization as it expires on December 31st of this year. This legislation places unfunded mandates on insurance companies to cover claims on terrorists. While I agree that this legislation is important, the proposed extension is for too long of a time period (seven years) and is very costly (\$4.2 billion over five years). We expect that the Democrats will also try to override the President's expected veto of the State Children's Health Insurance Plan (SCHIP) legislation. I will stand by my vote and sustain the President's veto. The Democrats also continue to delay forming a solution to fix the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT), which, among other things, will cause a delay in tax returns for Americans in 2008.

The Democratic House leadership has also failed to finish all but one of the eleven annual spending bills, which would provide for the federal government for fiscal year 2008. Also included is essential funding for the War in Iraq and Afghanistan. Normally, all spending bills are voted on as separate appropriations bills; however the Democrats' plan is to roll them all together into one giant omnibus bill, which makes it easier to hide frivolous spending items. I am opposed to the omnibus and President Bush has said he will veto it if it remains higher than his proposed budget.

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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