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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.

2008 Farm Bill Update

Last week, House Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin Peterson and Ranking Member Bob Goodlatte unveiled to House Agriculture Committee Members an illustrative outline for ten-year farm bill that was developed through bipartisan House negotiations with the Administration.



I would like to commend both Chairman Peterson and Ranking Member Goodlatte on the bipartisan effort that they put forward in working with the United States Department of Agriculture on a proposal that all involved parties can ultimately support. While I am still reviewing the proposal that was outlined to Members of the Committee last night, the discussions seem to be a positive step in the right direction. I am encouraged by the hard work of Chairman Peterson, Ranking Member Goodlatte and the Administration in their efforts to put political and partisan differences aside while working in order to advance the interests of American agriculture and rural communities across the country. I anxiously await the next step of this process, which will involve working with our colleagues in the Senate to build on the negotiations and draft final legislation.

According to the documents circulated in the meeting, the proposal that was put forth provides for no tax increases with the goal being to develop a Farm Bill that can pass both the House and Senate and ultimately be signed by the President before current program extensions expire on March 15, 2008.

House Republicans Demand Action on FISA

Last Thursday, the tension in the Capitol was palpable as my Republican colleagues and I walked-out of the House chamber in protest of the irresponsible and politically-driven maneuvers of the Democratic leadership. Thursday should have been a day of legislative achievement; it was the last day in session before the President's Day work period and the House had yet to pass the crucial extension of the Senate-passed FISA bill, which helps intelligence officials monitor terrorist communications overseas. Instead, House Democrats opted to schedule a partisan resolution citing White House Chief of Staff Josh Bolten and White House counsel Harriet Miers with contempt of Congress for their alleged involvement in the firings of several U.S. attorneys in 2006.



With FISA's expiration only hours away, the Democrats chose partisan pandering over our national security and stone-walled the House into adjournment. Following

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the motion of Minority Leader John Boehner, House Republicans walked off of the House floor in unison and onto the Capitol steps where we demanded action on the wiretapping bill. But our call did not come to fruition as the Democratic leadership voted to adjourn for the week. I promise to work diligently on bringing this pressing issue of national security back to the fore when we return in a week. The terrorist threats to our nation are very real and grave, and inaction by the House in the face of these risks is unacceptable.

I hope everyone has a wonderful and safe Presidents Day weekend. The Conaway Chronicle will return in two weeks.

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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