



May 15, 2007 – Volume 3, Issue 16

Thank you for reading the Conaway Chronicle.

Last week was another busy one in Washington. The House voted to pass both an Intelligence Authorization bill and a Homeland Security Authorization bill. Typically, an Authorization bill passes through Congress before the Appropriations process begins, authorizing which programs the appropriators should make a priority.



In this case, both bills are deeply flawed. The Intelligence Authorization bill puts harsh limits on our human intelligence gathering ability in addition to redirecting intelligence resources to study global warming. Yes, that's right, our spies will now be studying global warming! Our intelligence services, such as the CIA, are crucial tools in combating jihad terrorism and we must guarantee our intelligence

community has the authority and resources it needs to combat terrorist threats both at home and around the world.

In the Homeland Security Authorization bill, the Democrats' included an amendment that removes key provisions of the 9/11 Commission recommendations. Among the programs that the Democrats did not think important enough to keep in the bill are: checking the immigration status of workers at airports and power plants, using first responder grants to fund training and exercises, protecting America's food supply from attack, and biometric identification of individuals captured trying to enter the country. The safety and security of America is my top priority, and it is obvious that House Democrats are not interested in protecting our homeland to the best of our ability.

On Thursday, the House passed another version of the War Supplemental. This time around, the Democrats' short-term funding bill provides \$42.8 billion to fund our troops for two months. When the two months has expired, there will be another supplemental vote to fund the additional \$52.8 billion. This is no way to run a war. It is well past time to get our troops the funding they need to do their jobs, complete their missions, and return home to their loved ones. It is an embarrassment that the 435 'commanders-in-chief' on Capitol Hill are rationing funding to our troops. This funding does not allow our commanders on the ground to carry out operations efficiently with the equipment that they need. Our country is at war; we must give our troops the financial support they need to accomplish what we set out to do. Failure is absolutely not an option, and I beg the Democrats' to come up with a plan that will not set a slow-bleed deadline for troop funding. [Click here](#) to listen to my podcast on this issue.

### Tell a Friend

Please use this form to forward this message to up to five of your friends.

Your Name:

Your E-mail Address:

Your Comments:

Friend E-mail 1:

Friend E-mail 2:

Friend E-mail 3:

The supplemental was split into two separate bills, the second being legislation that provides drought relief for America's agriculture producers. Severe natural disasters have seriously impacted farmers and livestock producers throughout the nation. The state of Texas has been no exception and has been hit particularly hard by drought and destructive range fires. These disasters have led to extremely adverse conditions in the agriculture industry. Although the House considered the two bills separately, a special rule requires both the war supplemental and the agriculture disaster bill to be rolled into one package before being sent to the Senate and ultimately to the President. While I agree with the language in the drought relief bill, and I voted for Disaster Relief on the House floor, political maneuvers such as this do not get us any closer to providing real relief to our farmers and ranchers. I will continue to work with my colleagues in the House Committee on Agriculture to see that our agriculture producers get the assistance they need.



A couple of weeks ago, I introduced a piece of legislation that lifts costly regulations from drinking water systems in rural areas. Rural communities are harmed by water standards that allegedly promote health, setting unreachable standards for rural Texas at the expense of economic well being. Within rural communities throughout the country, home water bills have increased faster than the rate of inflation. This trend is likely to continue. The current requirements reach far beyond what is reasonable and are literally bankrupting local governments. The **[Small Community Options for Regulatory Equity Act of 2007](#)** provides for the economic viability of small rural water systems and the communities they serve. Currently, the

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) exempts water systems which service fewer than 25 users from these new regulations. This legislation extends the exemption to water systems which service fewer than 10,000 users and as a result provides optimism for the viability of small rural water systems. Although this legislation is not a complete solution to the underlying problem, it is a step in the right direction.

Thank you for reading the Conaway Chronicle. We will be back with you next week with another update from Washington.

---

The Conaway Chronicle will be issued every Monday or Tuesday 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](http://www.house.gov/conaway)** or don't hesitate to call me at (202) 225-3605. Check out my blog at **[www.conawayblog.com](http://www.conawayblog.com)**!

*If you received this message in error, or you no longer wish to receive messages from the sender, you may **[click here to unsubscribe](#)**.*

[Home](#) | [Mike's Biography](#) | [Constituent Services](#) | [Issues Center](#) | [News Center](#) | [Kids Center](#) | [District 11](#) | [Privacy Promise](#)



**Washington, D.C. Office**  
511 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
phone: (202) 225-3605  
fax: (202) 225-1783

**San Angelo, TX Office**  
33 Twohig, Suite 307  
San Angelo, TX 76903  
phone: (325) 659-4010  
fax: (325) 659-4014

**Midland, TX Office**  
6 Desta Drive, Suite  
2000  
Midland, TX 79705  
phone: (432) 687-2390  
fax: (432) 687-0277

**Llano Regional Office**  
County Annex  
104 W. Sandstone  
Llano, TX 78643  
phone: (325) 247-2826  
fax: (325) 247-2676

**Odessa Office**  
City Hall  
411 W. 8th Street, 5th Floor  
Odessa, TX 79761  
phone: (866) 882-3811 **Toll Free in  
Texas**  
**(866) 882-3811**  
**E-mail Congressman Conway**

**Brownwood Office**  
Brownwood City Hall  
501 Center Ave.  
Brownwood, TX 76801  
phone: (325) 646-1950  
fax: (325) 646-2979

This mailing was prepared,  
published  
and mailed at taxpayer  
expense. It is provided as a  
service to 11th Congressional  
District constituents.