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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.

**IMMIGRATION REFORM**

As many of you have heard, certain Senators reached an agreement last week on an immigration reform plan. I have serious concerns regarding this legislation, as it fails to address some serious reforms. I was able to express my apprehensions to Senator Kyl, one of the lead Republican negotiators in the Senate on this issue. I have stayed consistent on immigration reform: we must secure our borders and create a non-amnesty temporary worker program to deal with those who come to this country to find a better life. I also expressed to Senator Kyl my belief that any guest worker legislation should address birthright citizenship and that social security should not be available for temporary workers. The current state of immigration in our country puts America in a vulnerable position; our security must remain the top priority when discussing comprehensive reform. I will continue to follow the legislation in the Senate and work with my colleagues in the House to come to an agreement on the best way forward on this important issue.



**THE FEDERAL BUDGET AND TAXES**

Last week, the Democratic led House passed the fiscal year 2008 budget by a vote of 214 to 209. This budget blueprint calls for \$2.9 trillion in federal spending in fiscal year 2008 and will raise taxes by at least \$217 billion during the five year budget period. Unless averted by future legislation, this tax increase will be the second largest tax increase in American history. The Democrat budget increases the size of the federal government and is more than \$20 billion above the President’s overall spending request, most of which is set to fund domestic programs and earmarks with no significant reform, offsets or emergency reserves. Their budget ‘agreement’ threatens our continued economic growth and job creation that we have enjoyed due to conservative tax policy. It promises massive new spending, and ignores entitlement reform for at least five years, The Democrats’ tax-and-spend philosophy is no way to balance the budget. [Click here](#) to listen to my podcast on this issue.

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### WASTE, FRAUD AND ABUSE

Last week, the House debated the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act. This bill provides sweeping reforms to government sponsored enterprises, including Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. These enterprises improve the availability of credit to finance home purchases for low and moderate income families. Included in the reform is the creation of a new agency titled the Affordable Housing Fund, which would force Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to contribute \$500 million per year to finance housing for extremely low and very low income families. This new agency will cost middle class homeowners over \$3 billion in new taxes through higher interest rates. While expanding our nation's affordable housing is good, we should not expect middle income home buyers to bear the burden of these costs. I voted against this legislation as it passed the House of Representatives.



### FARM BILL

Formal consideration of the 2007 farm bill begins this week with hearings in two House Agriculture subcommittees on up to six of the ten farm bill titles. The Subcommittee on Conservation, Credit, Energy, and Research will convene Tuesday to consider provisions of the 2007 Farm Bill within the subcommittee's jurisdiction. On Thursday the Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry Subcommittee will meet to consider provisions within its authority. Various livestock competition issues will likely be debated as well as a multitude of dairy policy issues.

### PASSPORTS

I have been receiving many phone calls in my district offices over the past couple of weeks from constituents who are having problems getting their passports on time. I want to encourage everyone who is in need of a passport to apply well in advance by calling 1-877-487-2778 or visiting [http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport\\_1738.html](http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html).



Continue to call the passport office to receive updates and if you have not received your passport within three weeks of your travel departure date, please call my district office nearest you.

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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)!

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