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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. Last week I returned to Washington after being in Texas for the Fourth of July district work period. It was great to spend a full week back in Texas and being able to visit with constituents about their concerns on a variety of issues.

### **FLOODING IN TEXAS**

Over the past few weeks, many areas of Texas have had a series of heavy storms causing several counties in District 11 to experience heavy flooding, damaging a number of homes and businesses. So far in District 11, Burnet County, Mills County, and Lampasas County have been declared a disaster area by President Bush. The Department of Homeland Security ordered FEMA to move into each county to provide individual assistance to citizens. I am very proud of our local leaders in the designated counties for the outstanding job they are doing in managing the response efforts to this disaster. Individuals may register for FEMA assistance by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or by visiting [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov). Please [click here](#) for more information on how to register for FEMA disaster assistance.



### **ECONOMY**

On Tuesday, the President and the White House's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) announced that this year's federal budget deficit will be nearly \$40 billion lower than originally projected, lowering this year's budget deficit to \$205 billion; less than half of what it was three years ago. The deficit now has been cut in half in just the last three years, and is at its lowest point in five years.

The announcement is confirmation that there is notable revenue growth due to our surging, healthy economy. The news is further evidence that Republican tax relief is working, leading to record federal receipts, new jobs, and low unemployment. Continued vigilance on behalf of hardworking American taxpayers is required if we are going to balance the federal budget. We must continue to hold the line on spending, reject attempts to raise taxes, and work to address runaway entitlement spending.

The administration also announced that 123,000 jobs were created in June. Our economy has now added jobs for 46 straight months and the unemployment rate remains low at 4.5 percent.

### **ENERGY**

Last Thursday, I participated in a press conference to discuss the lack of energy in the Democrats' Energy Plan. Former Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert (R-IL) and Chairman of the House Republican Conference Adam Putnam (R-FL) led the press conference.

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Some of the most credible estimates of future energy supplies for our country indicate that by 2025 we will still import millions of barrels of crude oil and refined products every day. We should begin today looking at policies that decrease our dependence on foreign crude oil, increase domestic production, improve the private investment of all energy resources, and help stabilize the price to consumers for gasoline and electricity. Any policy that does not include these vital proponents will reduce domestic production and private investment. The democrat “no-energy” plan increases prices to consumers and I will continue to challenge and oppose these wrong-headed ideas.

[Click here](#) to watch me discuss this issue on the House Floor.

### **SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS**

Last week, for the sixth time this year House Democrats sent legislation (H.R. 2956) to the floor to begin an abrupt troop withdrawal starting within the next 120 days, and to be complete by April 1, 2008. The measure passed by a mostly party-line vote of 223 to 201.

Democrats in Congress are once again attempting to take on the role of Commander in Chief and make the irrational decision to pull out of Iraq without any sort of post-pull out strategy. By blatantly allowing political considerations to trump national security priorities, Democrats are doing a disservice to Congress, our troops in harm’s way, and the American people. The brave young men and women who are putting their lives on the line every day to defend our freedom deserve better. Retreating from Iraq now would have catastrophic consequences and I cannot support legislation like this.



The Resolution calls for the retreat to begin within 120 days of enactment. General Petraeus, the Commander Officer in Iraq, is expected to be back in Washington with a progress report on “the surge” in September. His report will be the basis for a sound evaluation of our next steps and we should not act prematurely in the mean time.

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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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