



CARTER COURIER

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LETTER FROM THE CONGRESSMAN

Dear Friends,

Since I wrote you last, Congress had one more week in session before Speaker Pelosi and the House majority decided to adjourn for summer vacation. During our last week in session we were able to pass the Military Spouses Residency Relief Act, a bill which I authored.

Despite the accomplishment of passing this bill, we were still not able to persuade Speaker Pelosi to allow a vote on serious energy legislation before going on summer vacation. So I and many of my Republican colleagues are protesting the adjournment and continue to take our messages to the American people on the floor of the House of Representatives and in our districts.

As always, I thank all of you in the 31st District for the opportunity to serve you in Congress and will keep you updated on the latest information regarding important issues. God Bless Texas!

Until next week,



A CALL TO ACTION ON AMERICAN ENERGY

Last week, Speaker Nancy Pelosi adjourned the House of Representatives for a five-week vacation rather than allow an open debate on our current energy crisis. And as many congressmen and women head for the beaches, or the open roads, millions of American families are sitting at home due to the cost of high energy prices.

To protest the Speaker's actions, I was one of a number of House Republicans that remained on the House Floor to discuss the need for Congress to work through the August recess and take-up legislation that addresses rising energy prices. While this unprecedented protest began last Friday, it has continued this entire week, and included dozens of Republicans and hundreds of American citizens on the House Floor. On this issue, House Republican will not take "no" from Speaker Pelosi, and instead we are asking the Speaker to call Congress back from vacation and into session for a vote on producing more American energy.

With prices at record highs and families feeling the strain, the American people deserve a rational, transparent debate about developing domestic energy resources. For Congress to adjourn without an up-or-down vote on any of these issues is unconscionable. While the lights and microphones may be turned off on the House Floor, it has not extinguished the sound of Republicans who are voicing the

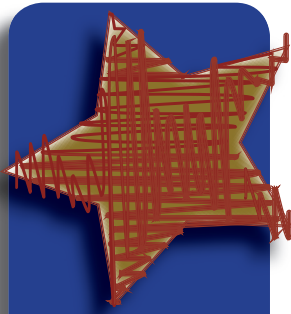
CONTENTS

*A Call to Action on
American Energy*
1-2

Military Families Bill
2-3

*Fighting for Lower Gas
Prices From House Floor*
3

*\$9 Million for local lake
repair*
3



will of the American people. The American people are suffering and we must continue to take a stand until the Speaker agrees to call Congress back to debate legislation to lower gas prices and move America toward energy independence. That is why I came back to Washington this week to participate in the ongoing energy protest.

I support an “all of the above” energy policy. More domestic energy production means more American jobs. While I support alternative and renewable sources of energy, this currently only makes up 10.05 percent of the energy consumption in the United States. I also support energy exploration and drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), as well as, the Arctic National Wildlife Reserve (ANWR). We need to diversify with a broad mix of clean coal, from natural gas, nuclear power, solar energy, and wind. We need options and choices of energy from which to draw to move America toward energy independence and self sufficiency. A real long-term, comprehensive energy policy is the only way Americans are going to see lower energy prices, and it is time Speaker Pelosi allows us an up-or-down vote on serious legislation.

As our respectful protest continues, we will continue to demand that House Democrats allow a vote on responsible oil and gas production and securing America’s overall energy security. We will not stop until Speaker Pelosi finally heeds our call for an emergency session and schedules a vote on the American Energy Act.

I am standing with the American people because I share their determination and passion for more energy production and energy independence. I have accepted Texans call to action and will continue to fight to keep the energy debate going so we can finally get relief from high energy prices.

HOUSE PASSES CARTER BILL TO HELP MILITARY FAMILIES SAVE THOUSANDS

Last week, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 6070, the Military Spouses Residency Relief Act, that I introduced. The bill allows a military spouse who moves out of the state with their servicemember because of military orders to have the option to claim the same state of domicile as their active duty spouse, regardless of where they are stationed.

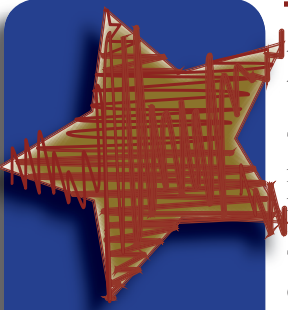
With Fort Hood in Texas’ 31st District, we are reminded daily of the sacrifices made by our service men and women. We owe the highest merit to these brave soldiers.

It is also important that we recognize the sacrifices and efforts made by the spouses and families of these soldiers, and assist them in the challenges they face. The Servicemember’s Civil Relief Act creates a state of domicile so that as a service member moves, he or she does not change the state of residence. This is important because it allows the servicemember to continue voting for the same congressman, pays taxes to one state over the course of their career, and provides basic stability to the servicemember as they move around the country and the world on military orders.

While we provide these benefits to those that volunteer to serve our country officially, they do not provide protection to their families who shoulder a burden just as great. It is not longer enough for Congress to provide relief to just the men and women who serve our military in an official capacity. We must broaden the scope of the original relief act and other regulations to address the needs of the military family.

The folks at Fort Hood use the phrase, ‘We recruit a soldier, but retain a family,’ and that is exactly what my bill is aimed to do. We should allow military spouses who move out of the state with their soldier because of military orders the option to claim the same state of residency as their active duty spouse, regardless of where they are stationed.

In closing, in a time when retention and recruitment is so important, we must take every opportunity to remove potential disincentives to serving in our nation’s military. While you and I may not think of this as one of the most pressing issues for our servicemembers, for these husbands and wives, it is one more stressful change they have to deal with as they help lead their families through re-stationing and deployment. I look forward to working with Mrs. Herseth-Sandlin and our colleagues in the Senate to remedy some language changes needed



to complete this goal and I urge the Congress to join me in support of this important change to the Servicemember's Civil Relief Act.

The Military Spouses Residency Relief Act will stabilize the spouse's tax base to prevent the military family from losing as much as 9.3 percent of the spouse's income due to moving for military purposes.

The bill also provides stability by allowing the family to continue to vote for the same elected officials, and will also allow a military spouse's name to appear on important documents like property deeds and car titles.

CARTER FLIES BACK TO WASHINGTON TO HELP FIGHT FOR LOWER GAS PRICES FROM HOUSE FLOOR

Earlier this week, I continued to help lead House Republicans in the third day of an unprecedented fight from the House Floor to help reduce gas prices and begin serious domestic production of oil and natural gas resources.

This fight will not go away until Speaker Pelosi allows an up-or-down vote on energy legislation that relieves the back-breaking burden on our citizens. It is ridiculous to walk away from critical work at a time like this for five weeks of vacation.

The chairs where Democrats should be seated are now filled with everyday Americans who have come to the House Floor to listen and respond to the Republican call for greater supplies of domestic energy. This is a vote that must occur. I am proud to help lead this effort for those here in Washington, and I also salute the congressmen and women scattered across the country working to force a vote from Speaker Pelosi.

On Friday August 1, 2008, after Congress adjourned for the August recess, House Republicans stayed on the House Floor to protest and debate the need for an up-or-down vote on energy legislation that promotes drilling and exploration for domestic sources of energy. Many of those House Republicans returned on Monday to continue urging Speaker Pelosi to bring Congress back into session.

CARTER ANNOUNCES \$9 MILLION IN CRITICAL FUNDING FOR LOCAL LAKE REPAIR

This week I announced critical funding for the repair of Belton and Stillhouse Hollow lakes. Belton Lake received \$5 million and Stillhouse Hollow Lake received \$4 million in federal money to repair damage to parks and recreational areas surrounding the lakes.

I am pleased to announce this funding which will repair the damage to our lakes. Central Texas residents, businesses, and our servicemen and women at Fort Hood rely on the use of these lakes for recreation and to sustain the local economy. With money in hand, our goal is to get these recreational areas completely repaired as soon as possible. I was happy to work with the Corps of Engineers to bring this money back to Central Texas for such an important project.

Dan Thomasson with the Corps of Engineers said, "This funding will allow the Corps to address damages that occurred as a result of the 2007 flooding at the lake. We regret that our park closures had a catastrophic impact on the local community and we welcome the opportunity to make the parks even better than they were prior to the flooding."

The damage to Belton and Stillhouse Hollow Lakes was the result of excessive flooding that occurred in the summer of 2007. According to the Corps of Engineer, repairs could be completed in about a year. Funding was made available through H.R. 2642, the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 and was signed into law on June 30, 2008.