



CARTER COURIER

<http://carter.house.gov>

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LETTER FROM THE CONGRESSMAN

Dear Friends,

Over the past few weeks I have had the opportunity to travel around Texas' 31st District and visit with constituents about the issues that affect them most. When I decided to run for Congress, I wanted to run with the initiative to bring more of our common sense Texas values to Washington, and after six years in Congress, I strongly believe that many in Washington could learn a thing or two from the good folks in Texas.

Also during the Congressional recess, I flew up to Washington multiple times to continue the fight on the House floor which has been going on consistently since Speaker Pelosi decided to skip town. Republicans will continue to speak out on behalf of the American people until we get a vote on a comprehensive energy bill that will lower prices at the pump.

Until next week,



A DOSE OF CENTRAL TEXAS COMMON SENSE

After visiting with hundreds of you over the past weeks and thousands of you during weekly telephone-town halls, I have put together a list of the most important issues Central Texans are facing and what I plan to do once Congress resumes in September.

Without a doubt the number one issue in Central Texas and across the country is the rising cost of gasoline. Week after week I have spoken on why I believe it is critical to our national and economic security that we drastically reduce our dependence on foreign oil. To do this, we must explore for every single drop of American energy, including drilling for oil and natural gas, as well as, utilizing solar, nuclear, and wind energy. We must harness our resources here at home if we want to see the prices of gasoline and diesel drop to an affordable price. While Congress has taken a five-week break, many of my colleagues and I are returning to Washington periodically to speak on behalf of the American people, and we won't stop until the Democratic leadership has allowed us a vote on an energy bill that encompasses all types of American energy, including oil and natural gas.

Next to energy, no issue affects Central Texans like the issue of illegal immigration. During the 110th Congress I introduced the Secure America For Everyone (SAFE) Initiative. This initiative focused

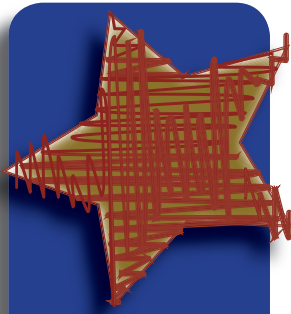
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on three definitive steps to make it easier for immigrants to come into the country legally and harder to come here illegally. While this bill was not acted upon by Democrats in Congress, I am working on a new bill to introduce during the next Congress that will help alleviate the illegal immigration problem we are currently facing. Rest assured that as this problem continues to grow, I will keep hammering on Congress and our next president to step up to the plate and pass legislation that will stop the hemorrhages on our borders and help those who want to become American citizens do so without breaking the law.

There is no doubt that the Global War on Terror will continue to be a rising issue in Congress. Fort Hood is the heart of Central Texas, and we see first-hand the difference our soldiers are making. Having visited Iraq and Afghanistan numerous times over the past six years, I can tell you that our brave men and women believe strongly in their mission. I will continue to support our soldiers and our generals as they make the critical decisions necessary to keep our country safe. I do believe we are at a turning point in the war, and I expect we will see more and more of our troops return home.

Lastly, there are many in Congress who would like to raise your taxes. I have consistently voted against tax increases and will continue to do so. It is never a good thing to have an increasing national deficit, but I believe we should solve this problem by cutting frivolous domestic spending and targeting waste, fraud and abuse – not by raising taxes. Republicans have proposed a way to balance the budget without raising taxes, but unfortunately our Democratic colleagues do not see this as a solution. Instead, they would rather raise your taxes tremendously and increase spending on government programs.

As I continue to travel across the district I look forward to the opportunity to meet and talk with you. After long weeks in Washington, it is always refreshing to come back to Texas and get a healthy dose of common sense from the constituents I so proudly represent.

CARTER RETURNS TO WASHINGTON TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

This past Wednesday, I joined Republicans in Washington, D.C. to continue the unprecedented fight on the House Floor to help reduce gas prices and begin serious domestic production of oil and natural gas resources.

We will not give up this fight until Speaker Pelosi allows an up-or-down vote on a comprehensive energy bill, the American Energy Act, which will relieve stress at the pump for Americans.

While many of our colleagues were at the Republican National Convention taking care of critical business, a handful of us have stayed in Washington to bring reconciliation to rising gas prices. The American people deserve for their elected officials to work to bring down the crippling costs of gasoline and diesel, and now after a month of protests by Republicans, I hope Speaker Pelosi will listen to Americans and schedule an immediate vote on the American Energy Act.

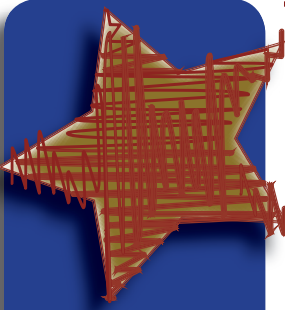
On Friday August 1, 2008, after Congress adjourned for the August recess, House Republicans stayed on the House Floor to protest and debate the need for an up-or-down vote on energy legislation that promotes drilling and exploration for domestic sources of energy. Many of those House Republicans have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

CARTER ANNOUNCES OCTOBER OUTREACH SCHEDULE FOR MILAM COUNTY

The caseworkers of Congressman John Carter's office will be traveling to towns throughout the district and setting up local office hours. During these hours constituents can ask questions about services Congressman Carter offers or seek help with problems dealing with federal agencies.

Cameron: Tuesday, Sept. 16, 9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m., Bea's Kitchen, 101 East Main

Rockdale: Tuesday, Sept. 16, 1:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m., Central Texas Workforce Center, 313 North Main



PREPARE YOURSELF FOR THE UNEXPECTED

Hurricane Gustav once again proved that unpredictable weather is inevitable. In the true and generous nature of Texans, we opened our arms and welcomed our neighbors from the East as they waited out the storm. No doubt it was hard for folks to pack their bags and move out of their homes not knowing what the final outcome might be. America definitely learned lessons from Hurricane Katrina and Rita, lessons that saved lives during Hurricane Gustav.

Although Hurricane Gustav didn't reap havoc on the Texas coast like the hurricanes of 2005, we can never be too prepared for nasty weather. The Department of Homeland Security has designated September as National Preparedness Month. Considering that Texas ranks number one among all fifty states when it comes to declared disasters, the importance of emergency preparedness cannot be overstated. Texas families and small businesses need a plan to make sure they are prepared when disaster strikes.

National Preparedness Month is designed to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and communities. The main goal is to encourage families and their children, as well as community business owners, to prepare for emergencies by having a preparedness kit, making a plan and staying informed about potential natural disasters. Those three steps are the key to ensure your safety and security.

Families and children should put together a basic supply kit consisting of supplies like food, water, batteries and a first aid kit. They should draft a preparedness plan and go over it with each family member. It should include designated meeting places and emergency contact lists. Families should also stay informed of the changing threats in their areas. Both families and kids can check out resources to keep them prepared at <http://www.ready.gov>.

Better businesses need an emergency plan as well. A plan designed to both save lives and keep you in business. The Department of Homeland Security's "Ready Business" web site points to three steps to safeguard your employees and your investment. First, business owners should plan in advance for any emergency and evaluate their current resources to make sure their employees are safe and their investment is protected. Businesses should involve employees from all levels in emergency planning. Everyone should practice the plan, and there should be detailed information about how employees and customers will be contacted after a disaster. Finally, businesses should have insurance coverage and secure their physical assets and information technology systems as soon as possible. For more information about disaster preparedness for business owners, visit <http://ready.gov/business>.

Our nations' first responders and civil servants do an impeccable job during times of major disasters. As good Americans, let us repay them by preparing our own families should disaster strike. Preparation is good sense; it should be a civic duty. Let's take time this September to talk with our families and work with our business partners to put a plan of action in place. Unfortunate circumstances can be avoided and lives saved if we just take a little time and effort into readying ourselves.