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Subject: The Conaway Chronicle
Date: Monday, August 04, 2008 6:24:54 PM

Special Edition:

Republicans Return to Washington during August Recess to Fight for Action on America's Energy Crisis

August 4, 2008 – Volume 4, Issue 25

Action on the House Floor

This past Friday, following an intemperate adjournment, House Republicans, along with hundreds of constituents from both political parties from across the U.S., took to the House Floor chanting and cheering in a form of protest to call the House back to session for a vote to implement domestic drilling legislation. The Democrats turned off all lights, cameras and microphones, and scattered off on vacations and trips back to their districts, but Republicans were persistent in their efforts.

Today, I returned to Washington to continue the call to action on American energy.

Friday we witnessed the power that the American public is granted in the words of the Constitution. The level of energy and tenacity on the House floor was unlike anything I have ever witnessed before. For months, the American people and Republicans in Congress have pleaded with the Democrat leadership to provide real energy legislation for relief at the pump. Unfortunately, those pleas have fallen on deaf ears. Instead, my Democrat colleagues have chosen to scatter into the five-week recess without any substantive vote addressing our energy crisis, leaving Americans to deal with five more long weeks of higher-than-necessary prices at the pump. We are dependent on foreign crude oil and must deal with our current situation and drill domestically to achieve lower prices. It is that simple. I want to encourage Americans across the country to join me today in demanding action from Congress on this important issue.

In addition, I sent an emergency letter to President Bush asking him to use the power vested in him by the Constitution to convene an immediate energy special session of Congress. Under Article II, Section 3 of the Constitution, the President has the power 'on extraordinary occasions to convene the Congress.

Let me give you an example of the shallow and dismissive disregard for the seriousness of this issue. The Speaker's office released this statement in response to Monday's efforts on the floor by Republicans to draw attention to this issue: **"*Republicans are too scared to go home to face their constituents after voting against bills to force Big Oil companies to use it or lose it, demand that the President free our oil from the government stockpile and crack down on speculators,*" *said Drew Hammill, a spokesman for House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California.*** **"*In a week where Exxon Mobil made the largest quarterly profits by a U.S. corporation, Republicans are staying in***

Washington to argue that Big Oil deserves more taxpayer lands. Republicans must think Big Oil is paying them by the hour. ***"***

It is difficult to make progress in this arena when flippant comments such as this are coming out of the Speaker's office.

Click here to read a copy of the letter Congressman Conaway sent to President Bush.

Click on the picture to watch a video taken today on the steps of the U.S. Capitol. I also encourage you to visit my blog at www.conawayblog.com to view more videos taken this morning, where I visit with citizens outside the Capitol about high energy prices.

Proposed GOP Energy Legislation

House Republicans have introduced the 'American Energy Act' which aims to lower gas prices by incorporating new technologies, urging conservation, and increasing the supply of American-made energy in environmentally-sensitive ways.

A vast majority of Americans now support expanded domestic drilling to increase our supply of American-made energy, thus reducing the strains on demand. It is a simple equation of supply and demand, yet my Democrat colleagues don't seem to understand the concept. Even after President Bush lifted the ban on drilling in the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), they refuse to bring a helpful, resourceful energy bill to the House floor.

Click here for a detailed description of the Republican Energy Plan.

Click here to read an open letter to Speaker Pelosi from House Republicans.

The Conaway Chronicle will be issued every week 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** or don't hesitate to call me at (202) 225-3605. Check out my blog at **www.conawayblog.com**!

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