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Subject: The Conaway Chronicle
Date: Tuesday, May 20, 2008 2:14:27 PM

May 20, 2008 – Volume 4, Issue 15

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.

Final Farm Bill Passes House

Last Wednesday, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to pass the Farm Bill (**H.R. 2419, the Food Conservation and Energy Act of 2008**) by a overwhelming bipartisan vote of 318 to 106, more than the two-thirds margin necessary to override a potential Presidential veto.

The Farm Bill that passed the House is in the best interest of agriculture producers and consumers across the country. By passing this long-overdue and extremely important piece of legislation, a sense of certainty will be returned to farmers, ranchers and rural America. Since coming to Congress, I have worked alongside many Members on both sides of the aisle on this critical piece of legislation whose effects reach far and touch many. The Farm Bill has an impact on every single American from producers to consumers.

In the event that President Bush vetoes this legislation, as he has threatened to do, I will vote to override his veto. It is my expectation that any Presidential veto will be overridden and the passed legislation will become law.

Over the 2008-2012 period when the act would be in effect, spending on the programs it covers would total approximately $307 billion. Of that sum, $209 billion (68%) is for nutrition programs, $35 billion (11%) is for agricultural commodity programs, and $25 billion is for conservation programs.

War Supplemental gets Rare Treatment on House Floor

Last week, the House voted on three amendments to the War Supplemental Appropriations Bill (which is meant to only fund the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan). However, in a rare turn of events, House Republicans came together to vote 'present' on the amendment to provide troop funding, causing the amendment to fail because the Democrats did not have enough votes to pass the amendment without Republican support. This maneuver was done to send a message to Democrats and the American people of the need for a clean troop funding bill that is not packed with extra domestic spending and hefty tax increases.

I strongly support our men and women in uniform. I support their mission, and I support providing the Department of Defense, and all agencies involved in the Global War on Terrorism, with the best resources and tools available to win the mission

against the Islamic Jihadists. I do not, however, support letting politics interfere with and possibly compromise the mission of our military. The House Democratic Leadership must get serious about developing a supplemental package that is clean, straightforward, and is not loaded with domestic pork and tax hikes as this one is.

The Democrats have more than enough votes to pass their spending excesses and tax increases, under regular order, without using the welfare of our troops as a shield to get around their own spending rules.

House Democrats included an amendment in the War Supplemental that would implement a $51.6 Billion tax increase on individuals and couples to be used to pay for expanded GI benefits. This is bad policy that seeks to name winners and losers, and I will not support such maneuvers.

This erroneous tax increase could affect many small businesses in District 11 and across the country. While I support initiatives to improve Veterans programs, we should not resort to funding such programs by raising taxes, when funds from existing wasteful spending projects could, and should, be redirected.

An amendment was also included that incorporates withdrawal language for U.S. Armed Forces to begin withdrawal within 30 days and to have a completion goal of 18 months. I will not support any language that will put a time restraint on our missions in Iraq and Afghanistan. I will continue to work diligently to ensure the Department of Defense can carry out its mission, meet the needs of our soldiers and ensure our national security.

Click here to listen to my podcast on both of these important issues.

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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