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The Royce Reporter

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Dear Friend,

I'd like to invite you to my upcoming coffee and town hall meetings on August 16th in Orange and Los Alamitos.

High gas prices are hurting the pocketbook of everyone in Orange County. Family budgets are strained. I have been pushing for short and long-term solutions to lower gas prices and to address our future energy needs.

Today, our economy is 70 percent dependent on foreign energy sources for gasoline, most of which we get from hostile countries. Over the next ten years, if no action is taken to increase energy sources, it is estimated that the U.S. will spend \$10 trillion on foreign oil, much of it going to Saudi Arabia, Iran, Venezuela, and other OPEC cartel countries.

The OPEC oil cartel controls more than three quarters of the world's global oil reserves and severely restricts both supply and access to its oil fields. This has caused a dramatic spike in the price of oil, which not only hits consumers at the pump, but harms nearly every aspect of the economy.

I am working on legislation to lift the prohibitions imposed on new domestic energy production—from nuclear, to oil and gas exploration, to oil shale, to coal liquefaction into gas, to new windmills and large solar projects, and to gas refineries.

These moratoriums help drive up energy costs and risk sinking the economy. The prohibition on exploration must be relaxed as we continue the development of new lithium-ion car batteries and flex fuels, which will make our vehicles less dependent on foreign oil. New, clean technology is doubling car battery capacity every two years for hybrid vehicles. Yet even as these advances compound, we must lift the moratoriums on new energy sources in the U.S. to drive down the price of gas. The Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board testified last week that oil supplies are so tight that a one percent increase in supply could drop the price of oil by ten percent.

I am working on a bipartisan approach to bring H.R. 3089, the "No More Excuses Energy Act," up for an immediate vote. Public pressure for action is helping to reverse the current moratorium. This bill allows for the sighting of oil and gas refineries, ending 30 years of negligence. No new refineries have been built in the U.S. in 31 years. It would also repeal restrictions on oil exploration in Alaska, and the outer continental shelf, which can be done in an environmentally safe way.

Renewable and clean energy sources like nuclear, wind, solar, and lithium-ion car batteries for electric hybrids will provide the base of our energy supply in the future. Improvements in vehicular fuel efficiency have also helped, benefiting the environment and lessening our reliance on oil. In the interim, however, it is vital that we tap into our natural resources. A now restricted Alaskan site has an estimated 10.6 billion barrels of oil, and the oil shale reserves in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming hold nearly 1.8 trillion barrels of crude oil, but are closed to exploration.

With gas prices increasing, it is vital that we utilize our nation's vast energy supplies. At the same time, we should continue to develop new, clean technology. This would significantly reduce our use of foreign oil. Doing so is an economic necessity and is vital to our national security.

Hope to see you on the 16th.

Sincerely,

Ed



Ed Royce was pleased to welcome students from Fullerton's Troy High School to our nation's capital. Troy High School had an unprecedented win at this year's Science Olympiad. This is the 3rd straight national championship for Troy.



Chapman's MBA students from Orange met with Rep. Ed Royce, who serves on Chapman's Board of Trustees, to discuss current financial services issues being considered in the House.

Coming Events

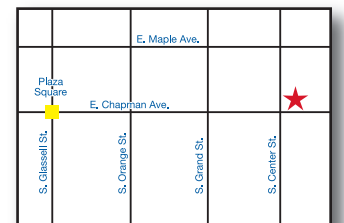
An opportunity to discuss constituent issues

Coffee with Rep. Ed Royce

Saturday, August 16th

10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

*Orange Public Library & History Center
 407 E. Chapman Ave.,
 Orange, CA 92866*

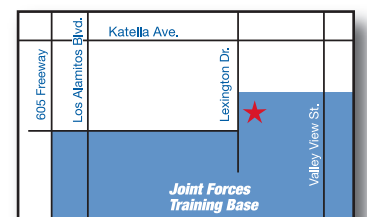


Town Hall Meeting

Saturday, August 16th

1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

*Los Alamitos Joint Training Base
 11206 Lexington Ave.,
 Building 244
 Los Alamitos, CA 90720*



Combating Identity Theft

Royce Holds Successful Combat Fraud Forum

As a member of the Congressional Internet Caucus, Rep. Ed Royce is familiar with the dangers of the Internet - hackers, viruses and online scams.

He held a Combat Fraud Forum at the Fullerton Senior Multi-Service Center, which focused on identity fraud, and it was hugely successful with a great turnout.

Experts from the Federal Trade Commission, the California Office of Privacy Protection, and the United States Postal Inspection Service were on hand to provide invaluable information on how to better protect yourself from identify theft related crimes.

The Federal Trade Commission estimates that over 9 million Americans have their identity stolen each year. The good news is that you can do a great deal to protect your identity. Arming yourself with knowledge and awareness about identity theft will make identity thieves' jobs that more difficult. Here are 8 tips for making sure your computer is safe and secure:

- 1. Protect your personal information. Do not respond to unsolicited emails requesting personal information and shop at secure websites.**
- 2. Know who you're dealing with online. Do not open emails or download attachments from people you do not know.**
- 3. Use anti-virus and anti-spyware software and a firewall to help keep your computer and information safe and secure.**
- 4. Be sure to set up your operating system and web browser software properly, and update it regularly.**
- 5. Use strong passwords or strong authentication technology to help protect your personal information.**
- 6. Back up important files.**
- 7. Learn what to do and who to contact if you are a victim of identity theft. You can file a complaint with the FTC by calling their toll free hotline 1-877-ID-THEFT (438-4338) or going to their website at www.ftc.gov.**
- 8. Protect your children online. Discuss and set guidelines for computer use with your children. Teach them never to give out their personal information in chatrooms and implement parental control tools through software.**



Royce had an opportunity to thank representatives from the United States Postal Inspection Service and the California Office of Privacy Protection for attending his Combat Fraud Forum and providing constituents with information to prevent identity theft related crimes.

Taxpayers' Friend Award

The National Taxpayers Union (NTU), a nonpartisan citizen group, announced that Rep. Ed Royce received the highest pro-taxpayer score within the California delegation and was one of only a few dozen lawmakers in the House and Senate to win the 2007 "Taxpayers' Friend Award."

"Representative Royce's pro-taxpayer score of 93 percent is among the highest in the entire House of Representatives," NTU President Duane Parde said. "By consistently voting to reduce federal spending, taxes, and debt, he has led by example in the fight to ease the burden on taxpayers everywhere—something NTU's 362,000 members nationwide and 52,300 members in California greatly appreciate.

The award is presented to those Members who achieve an "A" grade in NTU's annual Rating of Congress. The Rating, which is based on every roll call vote affecting fiscal policy, assigns a "Taxpayer Score" to each Member of Congress that indicates his or her support for reducing or controlling federal spending, taxes, debt, regulation, as well as earmark reform.

"It is a great honor to receive this award and I will continue to fight to reign in government spending and balance the budget," said Royce.

"If every Member of Congress had voted as responsibly as Royce did in 2007, Americans could have enjoyed much lower taxes and less waste in government," Parde concluded. "Overburdened taxpayers in California and across the nation owe him a debt of gratitude for his hard work on their behalf. He has truly earned the title 'Taxpayers' Friend.'"

The Farm Bill - America's Largest Corporate Welfare Program

This year's farm bill contains \$25 billion in agricultural subsidies which will go to protecting farmers, often through direct payments, from lower crop prices. This 75 year old tradition has developed into America's largest corporate welfare program and it needs to end. Hundreds of billions of dollars have been spent sending checks to farmers over the years leaving the American taxpayers with the bill and, at the same time, hampering our trade relations throughout the world.

When President Franklin D. Roosevelt first introduced agricultural subsidies, America's farming industry was struggling through the Dust Bowl and the Great Depression. Initially the subsidies were going to help a large portion of the population who was disproportionately struggling economically. At that time, 25 percent of the country was living on 6 million farms and farm incomes were just half of the national average. But as you know, those days have long passed. Today farmers make up just 1 percent of the population and have an average income of nearly double that of other Americans. While the proponents of these subsidies would like us to believe they are still helping those small struggling family farms; in reality, the majority of the taxpayer money is going to a group of profitable business conglomerates dominating the industry. The wealthiest 10 percent of farmers take in 75 percent of the subsidies and the average farm subsidy recipient makes \$200,000 in income and has a net worth of about \$2 million. Clearly the \$25 billion in subsidies is headed toward an industry doing very well for itself. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, net farm income will hit \$92.3 billion this year, up 56 percent from just two years ago.

When they were first introduced, the Secretary of Agriculture under Roosevelt, Henry Wallace, declared the subsidies "a temporary solution to deal with an emergency." Clearly they have achieved their initial purpose. There is no need to continue subsidizing this group of farmers. Not addressing these subsidies is simply bad government and it is unreasonable to ask the American taxpayers to continue to pay for them. This is why I have introduced legislation which will immediately end the distribution of all farm subsidies. I am hoping my colleagues will join me in this effort to end an absurd policy which has cost the government hundreds of billions of dollars and strained our trade relations for far too long.

This is an excerpt of an editorial by Ed Royce



Royce earned the distinction of being the highest pro-taxpayer member for California's delegation and is pictured here receiving the Taxpayers' Friend Award.

IMMIGRATION UPDATE

Pressing for Continued Presence of National Guard on Border

In 2006, the U.S. launched Operation Jump Start, deploying 6,000 National Guard troops to the border to allow the Border Patrol to move agents into front line enforcement positions. On the border, guardsmen have built 37 miles of fence, repaired 700 miles of roadway, assisted Border Patrol Agents in confiscating 298,000 pounds of drugs, offered support in over 166,000 border crossing arrests and helped in 100 rescues. Despite this success, the Administration cut the number of National Guard troops at the border in half last year and the last of the troops are expected to leave this month.

Rep. Royce took the lead in drafting a letter to the President, which has been signed by 26 other Members of Congress, calling on him to continue this program. He also cosponsored a resolution recognizing the dedication and honorable service of members of the National Guard who have served in Operation Jump Start.

"The bottom line is that resources are being pulled off the border at a time when the fence is becoming a reality, and there is a drug-cartel war along our Southern Border and it is threatening to spill into the U.S.," said Royce.



A quarter of a million petitions flooded a press conference, urging lawmakers to build the fence along our border.

The National Guard comes with its own helicopters and bulldozers. They man observation posts, build roads and fences, repair vehicles, monitor cameras and free up Border Patrol agents to actually police the border. The result of this cooperative effort has been a more efficient deployment of resources.

Putting the National Guard on the border has been an unqualified success. There are still significant infrastructure needs that must be met. The Guard should continue to be used as an asset in this regard. Royce is especially concerned since the authorization granted under the Secure Fence Act to build new fencing expires at the end of this year.

Supporting E-Verify

On June 6th, the U.S. Government required all federal contractors to use E-Verify to check the work status of employees. Praising this effort Royce said, "This will give contractors the tools needed to ensure that workers used for federal contracts are legal."

Ed Royce is a coauthor of the Secure America with Verification and Enforcement (SAVE) Act. This bill expands the E-Verify program across the United States. It also closes existing loopholes in E-Verify to detect multiple people using the same Social Security number and to detect people using stolen identities.

E-verify is an essential tool and has been 99.5% effective. Employers who use the pilot program are pleased with the results, and an outside evaluation found that less than 1 percent of employees who are eventually determined to be work-authorized receive a tentative non-confirmation and undergo secondary verification. The states of Arizona, Mississippi, Oklahoma and South Carolina all require employers to use E-Verify, which is otherwise a voluntary federal program.

Unfortunately, the California Assembly passed a bill, which would bar local municipalities from using E-Verify. Royce sent a letter, along with other Members of Congress urging Governor Schwarzenegger to veto the legislation. The letter clarifies the misrepresentations made by opponents to E-Verify.



During a press conference, Rep. Ed Royce made the case that border security is national security. He urged his colleagues to cosponsor pending legislation which will strengthen the border.



Realtors from the 40th District talked to Rep. Royce about the turmoil in the housing industry as well as the HOPE Now Alliance's efforts to help in refinancing mortgages. Since last July HOPE Now has helped 1.7 million homeowners avoid foreclosure, and can be reached at (888) 995-HOPE.

Task Force Probes U.S. Efforts to Combat Terrorist Financing

Since September 11th, the United States has taken a number of new steps to stop the financing of terrorist groups. There have been successes, but much work is left to be done. Co-chaired by Rep. Ed Royce, the bipartisan Task Force on Terrorism and Proliferation Financing is teaming up with outside experts to develop recommendations to improve efforts to combat the flow of money to terrorists.

"Since the September 11th attacks, combating terrorism has been a major focus of our government. Stemming the flow of financial support to terrorist organizations is a critical component in preventing future attacks," commented Royce, Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee with jurisdiction over terrorism. He also serves on the Financial Services Committee, bringing banking expertise to the issue.

Tracking terrorist financing has proven an effective way not only to disrupt terrorist plots and organizations, but also to gain intelligence on terrorist operatives. However, because of its complexity and variety of methods, shutting down terrorist finance networks has been a difficult challenge for the FBI and Treasury Department.

Terrorists have quickly adapted their funding strategies and sources in order to stay one step ahead of the authorities. Extremist groups now rely on a combination of private donations, smuggling rings, and a secretive, complex network of clandestine financial institutions. In particular, these terror groups are increasingly raising their money through petty crime, drugs, money laundering and front companies. Recently, the Kuwait-based Revival of Islamic Heritage Society was designated as a terrorist financier for bankrolling al-Qaeda, demonstrating how terrorists continue to exploit charities to fund operations. Organizations such as Hezbollah or Hamas are drawn to relatively lawless regions where crime and terrorism thrives.

The 9/11 Commission recommended that tracking terrorist financing must remain front and center in U.S. counter-terrorism efforts. This bipartisan Task Force, with its upcoming recommendations, is working to make sure that it is.

Troy High School's Science Olympiad Team Sets National Record

In May, the Troy High School Science Olympiad Team set a national record by winning its third Olympiad National Championship at George Washington University in Washington D.C., making them the first to win three consecutive years in the 24 years of the competition. The Science Olympiad, which students prepare for during the year, require students to compete in events and competitions involving feats of mathematical and scientific calculations. Students earned the opportunity to compete in the National Tournament by winning top honors at their state competitions. Royce was proud to honor their achievement by inviting the team to his D.C. office to present them with certificates and to host them on a tour of the U.S. Capitol Building.

The success of Troy High School's Science Olympiad Team, from Fullerton, is a testament to the benefits of providing quality math and science education programs in our nation's schools. As science and engineering jobs are increasing exponentially, demand for students with a solid foundation in science continues to grow. As the rest of the world is catching up in terms of innovation, economic competitiveness and educational achievement, it is important that our schools are effective in preparing our students to succeed in the 21st century global workforce. However, current science education in the United States falls short of these goals.

It is for this reason that Rep. Ed Royce supports innovative approaches to reform our nation's education system so that we can produce educated, skilled workers to keep pace with our changing world. One measure he supports is the "10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds" Science and Math Scholarship Act (H.R. 362) which passed the House. This bill would offer scholarships to students studying science, technology, engineering, and mathematics who commit to becoming math and science teachers in elementary and secondary schools. It would also authorize training programs for current math and science teachers to improve their content knowledge as well as teach them how to teach challenging courses in science and math such as the Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses.



During a tour of the Capitol, Royce sat down with students from Troy High School to answer their questions on how our laws are made.

Congressional Happenings

It has certainly been a busy time in Orange County, with public service groups, educational institutions, seniors, service members young and old and youth groups all very active in the community.



During Royce's most recent townhall, constituents were able to hear about new technologies that are allowing them to better understand the events occurring in our nation's capital and how he is working to voice their opinions and concerns in Washington, D.C.



Students from El Rancho Charter School, located in Anaheim, sat in Rep. Royce's office to hear first hand about important issues facing our nation.



Amanda DeFrancis, from Villa Park, is this year's Art Competition Winner for the 40th District. She traveled to D.C. to receive her award for her outstanding achievement in art; her artwork hangs in the Captiol.



Customs and Border Patrol agents implement stricter border security measures at LAX pushed by Rep. Ed Royce, ranking member of the terrorism subcommittee. He received an overview of the lost and stolen passport database at LAX's International terminal while touring with Sergio Espinoza, Assistant Port Director.

Royce had the privilege of touring Rossmoor Elementary School to witness first hand some of the interactive programs the school has to offer.



Firefighter chiefs from around Orange County met with Rep. Ed Royce to discuss homeland security issues affecting them locally.



Students from St. Paul's Lutheran in Orange sat on the U.S. Capitol steps to hear from Rep. Ed Royce about what issues were important to Orange County—curtailing deficit spending, securing the border and increasing our energy independence.