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Thank you for reading The Conaway Chronicle, a 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. A couple of weeks ago, I asked you to give me your opinion as to how often you would like to receive this newsletter. The votes are in, and we will be sending out The Conaway Chronicle twice a month, or every other week, that the House is in session. I want to thank everyone for their participation in the survey.

The Inauguration of the 44th President of the United States

On Tuesday, January 20, 2009, our nation watched as Barack Obama, the 44 th President of the United States, was sworn into office. Many of you were able to travel to Washington, D.C. to witness this historic day in person, and I want to thank those who were able to stop by my office and share your Texas kindness during the frenzy of the week.

I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to attend and watch as our country inaugurated the first Black American as President. It was a spectacular event, and it was truly awe-inspiring to look out from the Capitol steps at the more than a million people that were standing in the bitter cold to witness this occasion. The Inauguration is a true testament of the devotion and loyalty that we as Americans have to our great country, even in these times of trouble. I will pray for Barack Obama to be successful and for our country to thrive, just as I have for the last 8 years of the Bush presidency, and look forward to working with President Obama as we move forward with the 111 th Congress.

Click here to see the video that I took from the steps of Inauguration.

After the inauguration ceremonies, I had the privilege of flying back to Midland with President Bush. In 2001, President Bush left for Washington with a send-off rally in Midland, and eight years later he wanted to come back the same way. He was welcomed by a crowd of 30,000 and was in great spirits. I am proud of him and thank him for serving our country for eight years in an incredibly difficult job. He brought honor to the office in the way that he personally conducted himself and always did what he believed was right. He has kept our country safe in the seven years since September 11 th, and for that we owe him a great deal of respect and gratitude.

Last week, President Obama came to Capitol Hill to meet with House Republicans in a closed Conference meeting. He expressed his desire to work with Republicans and the need for compromise between Democrats and Republicans in the House. While I will not change my views on certain issues, or quit fighting for what I believe is right, I sincerely hope that President Obama and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi will work with House Republicans and allow for our voices to be heard on important issues.

The 'Unstimulating' Stimulus Package

I want to thank all of the constituents of District 11 who took time out of their week last week to call and write my office to speak out on H.R.1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Like the overwhelming majority of you, I believe that this legislation is not the answer to our nation's ailing economy.

My problem with this spending package is not only in the massive cost, but also where and how the money is spent. Roughly half of the Pelosi-Obey spending package funds non-stimulative social programs within the jurisdiction of the Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee. For example, the bill's original

language set aside $462 million for equipment, construction, and renovation of facilities at the Centers for Disease Control and $3 billion for prevention & wellness programs, including $335 million for STD education and prevention. Regardless of our country's need for these programs, there is no question that they are not necessary to revive our economy.

I was a cosponsor of the Republican alternative to the Pelosi-Obey spending bill. The Republican proposal would require that any new spending geared at stimulating the economy should be paid for by reducing other government spending. We cannot borrow and spend our way back to a growing economy, but we can offer incentives to small businesses and individuals that will put money back in their pockets to instill confidence in our economy and create new jobs.

We cannot leave the next generation with this giant mess to clean up. We are not only borrowing $825 billion that we do not have now, we are selfishly stripping money away from our children and grandchildren that they should have available to address their issues. Needless to say, I opposed this massive expansion of our federal government, and will continue to oppose legislation that will further burden our children by borrowing money that will never be paid back to fix a temporary problem. This bill passed by a vote of 244-288, with not a single Republican voting in favor.

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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