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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.

Since the last edition of The Conaway Chronicle, our nation voted in a historic election, sending our nation's first Black American President to the White House. In Congress, Democrats expanded their majority in both the House and the Senate. This will certainly pose a new legislative dynamic for my colleagues and me in the 111 th Congress. I hope to promote new ideas and a return to our fiscally conservative roots of limiting the growth of government and controlling spending.

In that regard, there has been discussion of an auto bailout bill in the works. As of now, I oppose a bailout for the 'Big 3' automakers as is currently being discussed. At this point, I believe that it would be in their best interests to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy so that they can drop their legacy union contracts and get their labor costs in line with competition from across the globe. The U.S. auto industry needs a business model that is radically different than the one they have now. The bailout bill that has been proposed will simply extend the current flawed business plan, and not allow them to make the necessary, systematic changes needed to be more competitive with foreign automakers.

There has also been some conversation in Washington about a broader economic stimulus package, which I would also oppose at this time. There is no doubt that we have more hard times ahead of us with our struggling economy. There is no easy fix, and we must work to remedy the events and bad decisions that have caused this economic turmoil. If Federal spending were a path to a robust economy, then we would currently have an incredibly strong economy given the fact that this year's Federal spending is more than has ever been spent. Therefore, increasing federal spending is not the answer.

This past week, leadership elections were held in the House of Representatives to decide who will lead the Democrat and Republican parties during the coming Congress. Congressman John Boehner (R-OH) will continue to serve as Republican Leader, with Congressman Eric Cantor (R-VA) serving as Republican Whip. Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) is expected to remain Speaker of the House, with Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-MD) and Rep. James Clyburn (D-SC) serving as Majority Leader and Majority Whip respectively. I am looking forward to the 111th Congress. It will be a new, exciting challenge to work with President-elect Obama and the new Congress, and I am ready to hit the ground running in January to get to work on getting our country back on the track to prosperity and opportunity.

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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