From: Mike Conaway
To: Koch, Anna;
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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.

President Lifts Ban on Offshore Drilling

Early last week, President Bush, in an effort to combat ever-rising gas prices, lifted an executive ban on offshore drilling that has been in place since 1990. However, the President's move will do nothing unless Congress follows suit and listens to the American people by removing the obstacle of its own moratoria on OCS drilling.

It is my hope that the actions of the President will spur Democrats in Congress to join Republicans in supporting lifting the moratorium that is currently in place.

Deep water exploration can be conducted in a safe manner that does not damage the environment and provides additional production of crude oil. Having grown up in Odessa and working as a roughneck, I know we can increase our production of American-made energy in a way that does not damage the environment. The current market price of oil is partly based on the belief that we will not drill in the Outer Continental Shelf and in ANWR. Lifting these moratoriums is the best way to send the market a clear signal that America is serious about increasing production of our own energy resources and reducing our dependence on foreign oil.

Another Week in Washington with no real Energy Legislation

Last week, after weeks of House Republicans urging that a meaningful and productive energy bill be brought to the floor, the Democrat Leadership brought the DRILL Bill (H.R. 6515) to the floor which is neither productive nor responsible. In all actuality, this bill would not lead to any new oil or gas production or lower gas prices for the American people.

Speaker Pelosi once again ignored the overwhelming call from the American public to move towards increasing our domestic energy supply. The bill which I voted against did not pass the House, and would have done nothing to increase supplies. By using "energy" legislation as a handout to unions, we are actually hampering the progress of producing a real energy solution. Last week, I, along with 68 other House Republicans, sent a letter to Speaker Pelosi urging her to immediately schedule legislation to increase energy supply in the market. We must open up Alaska, the Intermountain West region, and the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) to potentially develop millions of barrels of production per day.

It is time that we stop placing the blame on speculators, oil companies, OPEC and other various conspiracy theories, and act on real solutions and cease playing the blame game. The American people want and deserve better.

Click here to view a copy of the letter sent to Speaker Pelosi.
Click here to sign a petition to lower gas prices.
Click here to listen to my

podcast on energy.
Click here to see the Republican solution to our energy crisis.

Local Olympic Hero

An Olympic hero is among us in District 11. Leo Manzano from Granite Shoals made the United States Olympic team in the 1500 meter relay, and will compete in the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing. Manzano came to the US when he was four years old, became a citizen in 2004, and has developed into a world class runner at Marble Falls High School, the University of Texas and now with the United States Olympic team. I am proud to represent young champions such as Leo and encourage everyone to join me in cheering him on to victory next month in the 2008 Summer Olympic Games.

Picture courtesy of the River Cities Tribune / Kathy Kasparek

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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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