

# Promoting Clean American Energy and Fighting Big Oil

With record high gas prices, the threat of global warming, and an increasing dependence on foreign oil from dangerous regions, America needs a new energy strategy. On August 4th, Rep. Lipinski helped the House pass H.R. 3221, landmark energy independence legislation that will reduce energy costs, fight global warming, help make our nation more secure, and create new American jobs. This bill also scores a victory for American taxpayers by repealing \$23 billion in tax subsidies for “big oil” companies. Some of this money will be used to develop clean alternative energy sources, promote “green collar” jobs, and increase energy efficiency.

## Two Lipinski Initiatives Included in Energy Bill



Congressman Lipinski speaks about the advantages of hydrogen fuel at IIT in August.

Rep. Lipinski contributed two significant provisions to the House energy bill. The first requires the government to begin using high-efficiency light bulbs—which use 75% less energy than common incandescent bulbs—in all federal buildings. Given

the size of the federal government, this change will significantly cut energy usage, thereby helping fight global warming, increasing American energy independence, and saving taxpayers tens of millions of dollars.



Joe Shacter of the Environmental Law and Policy Center, Congressman Lipinski, Rebecca Stanfield of Environment Illinois and John Gaudette of Illinois Environmental Council at an event at the Kluczynski Federal Building in Chicago, discussing the need for high-efficiency light bulbs in federal buildings.

The second provision, known as the H-Prize Act, establishes over \$50 million in competitively awarded cash prizes to spur innovations that advance the use of hydrogen as a fuel for transportation. Hydrogen powered cars exist, but some engineering hurdles must still be overcome to make them affordable for middle-class Americans. These vehicles would end our addiction to oil and provide a pollution-free fuel for transportation.

## ★ Winning Funding to Cut Dangerous Airplane Emissions ★

Rep. Lipinski was able to include two provisions in H.R. 2881, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization Bill aimed at developing alternative aviation fuels. The first provision establishes a new FAA Air Transportation Center of Excellence focused on researching alternative jet fuels to help reduce global warming and increase American energy independence. The contributions of aircraft to global

warming have been largely ignored but the threat is significant and must be addressed. The second initiative authorizes \$750,000 for the development, testing, and approval of an alternative to the leaded aviation fuel currently used by piston engine aircraft. Lead has been banned from gasoline for many years, but this dangerous pollutant is still used in aviation fuel.

# Representative Lipinski Delivers Funds to Keep Our Communities Safe

**Congressman Lipinski** has helped more than 20 local fire departments secure over \$2.5 million in federal funding through the Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighter Grants (AFG) program. These are some of the communities who have received funding:

- Berwyn Fire Department \$89,725
- Bridgeview Fire Department 91,392
- Brookfield Fire Department 137,420
- Burbank Fire Department 670,761
- Chicago Ridge Fire Department 201,476
- Hometown Fire Protection District 56,031
- Lyons Fire Department 127,666
- Merrionette Park Fire Department 199,956
- North Riverside Fire Department 186,787
- Oak Lawn Fire Department 118,572
- Riverside Fire Department 180,211
- Willow Springs Fire Department 76,000



Congressman Lipinski announces grant funding awarded to the City of Burbank Fire Department.

**As your Congressman, my staff is available to assist you with questions or issues that deal with federal agencies, such as:**

- Military Academy appointments
- Obtaining a United States passport
- Social Security and Medicare
- Student financial aid
- U.S. Small Business Administration services
- Immigration, naturalization, and citizenship
- Mail delivery service/issues with the USPS
- IRS problems
- Consumer protection issues
- Veterans' benefits and military service
- Planning your family/class trips to Washington D.C.
- Ordering a flag flown over the U.S. Capitol building

## November Events hosted by Congressman Lipinski

### Town Hall Meeting

Mon., Nov. 19, 2007  
7:00 p.m.  
Lyons Township Office  
Meeting Room  
6404 Joliet Road  
Countryside, Illinois

### Senior Fair

Fri., Nov. 16, 2007  
10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
Chicago Ridge Village Hall  
10455 South Ridgeland Ave.  
Chicago Ridge, Illinois



Congressman Lipinski talks with area seniors about Medicare needs at a recent Senior Fair in Berwyn.

For more information or to seek assistance call 312-886-0481 or visit online at [www.lipinski.house.gov](http://www.lipinski.house.gov)



**Congressman Dan Lipinski**  
3rd Congressional District

1717 Longworth Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-5701

Toll free from IL (866) 822-5701

Public Document

Official Business

ECRWSS  
Residential Customer IL03

*Dan Lipinski*  
M.C.  
Presorted Standard



# CONGRESSMAN DAN LIPINSKI

## Representing the Third District

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE | FALL 2007



Dear Neighbor,

As your member of Congress, I continue to be a leader at home and in Washington by working for changes that will improve your everyday lives and the future of our country. There are many issues that I have been working on for you this year including protecting the environment, improving America's security, strengthening Social Security and Medicare, honoring veterans, making education better and more affordable, changing the President's Iraq policy, providing needed funding for our communities, promoting American jobs and defending workers, improving the quality and affordability of health care, and improving transportation in our region.

This newsletter provides an update on how I have been working for you on these issues and information on some of the successes that I have recently achieved.

If you are unable to make it to one of the meetings listed in this newsletter and you wish to share your concerns about an issue, or if you have questions or problems regarding Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Veterans' Benefits, or other programs, please contact any of the offices listed below on the right.



At the meeting Congressman Lipinski presented Victoria Dressel with medals earned by her brother Edward J. Krygowski during WWII.

For additional information and updates, or to sign up to receive newsletters delivered to you by e-mail, please visit [www.lipinski.house.gov](http://www.lipinski.house.gov).

It is an honor to serve you. Please do not hesitate to contact me for assistance.

Sincerely,

Dan Lipinski

### November Events hosted by Congressman Lipinski

#### Town Hall Meeting

Mon., Nov. 19, 2007

7:00 p.m.

Lyons Township Office

Meeting Room

6404 Joliet Road

Countryside, Illinois

#### Senior Fair

Fri., Nov. 16, 2007

10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Chicago Ridge Village Hall

10455 South Ridgeland Ave.

Chicago Ridge, Illinois

### Congressional Assistance is available locally at one of the offices listed below:

6245 South Archer Avenue

Chicago, Illinois 60638

312-886-0481

5309 West 95th Street

Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453

708-484-0853

19 West Hillgrove Avenue

LaGrange, Illinois 60525

708-352-0524

# Protecting Our Great Lakes, and Other Environmental Treasures

**Growing up in Chicago**, Congressman Lipinski learned that the Great Lakes are one of America's most important treasures, providing everything from fresh drinking water, to transportation, tourism, recreation, and the \$4.1 billion fishing industry. That is why Rep. Lipinski fights hard to protect the Great Lakes, as well as other environmentally-sensitive lands such as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR).

This summer when BP proposed an increase in the amount of pollutants it dumps into Lake Michigan, Congressman Lipinski joined with environmentalists to fight this plan and met with BP America's President Bob Malone to strongly urge the company to change its proposal. Bowing to the pressure, BP announced in late August that they would expand the refinery without increasing pollution.

While this was an important victory over "big oil," more must be done to protect the Great Lakes. As a member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, which has jurisdiction over our nation's inland waterways, Rep. Lipinski is working to pass the Great Lakes Water Protection Act (H.R. 2907). This bill, which was introduced along with Rep. Kirk (pictured at right), would establish a federal deadline to end sewage dumping in the Great Lakes and impose fines on municipalities who violate the Act.



## Lipinski Brings IDOT Secretary to Meet with Local Officials on Transportation Issues

**In September**, Congressman Lipinski brought Illinois Secretary of Transportation Milt Sees to the Third District to discuss transportation issues with local elected officials. In addition to discussing other local transportation projects, Secretary Sees briefed officials on the continuing progress of the Central Avenue Underpass, including the recent hiring of a Project Manager to oversee this critical project.

Rep. Lipinski has fought tirelessly to ensure that crucial transportation projects which reduce congestion and improve the quality of life for area residents—such as Central Avenue—continue to move forward, including securing \$126 million for our communities in the most recent federal transportation funding bill.

**At left:** IDOT Secretary Milt Sees, Congressman Lipinski, and Alderman Ginger Rugai discuss local transportation issues with other elected officials.



# Improving the Quality and Affordability of Education

**As a former educator**, Congressman Lipinski understands the importance of providing a quality, affordable education for all children. On October 1st, Rep. Lipinski hosted a hearing at Lyons Township High School to hear recommendations from local educators about how to improve the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act when it is reauthorized. A number of local school superintendents and principals from the Third District attended and Rep. Danny Davis (pictured at right), a member of the House Education and Labor Committee, was a special guest. This hearing was one of a series of events Rep. Lipinski is holding to address ways to improve elementary and secondary education.

In order to address the rising costs of higher education, Rep. Lipinski strongly supported and helped pass the College Cost Reduction and Access Act which provides the greatest increase in college financial aid since the GI Bill of 1944. Students will receive more than \$20 billion in financial aid over the next five years without imposing new costs on taxpayers. The bill raises the

Pell Grant scholarship value to at least \$5,400 and cuts interest rates in half on student loans.



Rep. Lipinski is also working to lower the ballooning price of college textbooks by cosponsoring the College Textbook Affordability and Transparency Act. This bill would require publishers to unbundle course products, encourage the publication of textbook prices in course schedules, and require textbook companies to disclose prices when marketing books.



## Fighting for Consumer Choice Savings on Cable TV



Rep. Lipinski (pictured with Rep. Fortenberry) announcing the introduction of the Family and Consumer Choice Act.

**In order to subscribe** to popular educational, news, and sports channels, consumers have no choice but to also pay for an additional 40 to 60 channels that they may not want and never watch. This is an extremely unfair practice. Americans deserve greater control over their choice of cable or satellite channels.

In June, Congressman Lipinski introduced the Family and Consumer Choice Act of 2007. This legislation, supported by Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Kevin Martin, would offer consumers more choices by giving them the ability to choose and pay for their own tailored selection of channels. Under the a la carte provisions in the bill, Americans would only have to pay for the channels they want to receive, potentially saving hundreds of dollars a year.



# Leading the Battle Against the President's Iraq War Policy



In September, Rep. Lipinski (pictured with Ambassador Henry Crumpton) helped bring foreign policy and terrorism experts to Chicago to discuss a new direction in Iraq.

**Congressman Lipinski** has fought to change America's misguided and costly Iraq policy, voting numerous times to begin bringing our troops home safely. But the President has been able to block these bills. That is why Rep. Lipinski has taken the lead in developing legislation that

will gain enough support in Congress to force a change. Earlier this year, Rep. Lipinski helped introduce H.R. 2574, a bill that would implement the recommendations of the Iraq Study Group (also known as the Baker-Hamilton Commission). This legislation calls for a surge in diplomacy, establishes reform benchmarks the Iraqi government must meet, shifts the mission of U.S. forces to training and counterterrorism, and sets a deadline goal for completing troop redeployment. This is the only legislation changing America's Iraq policy that has significant Republican support, including 35 of the bill's 61 cosponsors.

## Working for Women's Pay Fairness

**This Supreme Court** has undercut some important rights of workers, especially women. A recent decision made it harder for women to claim pay discrimination when the Court ruled that employees may not bring suit under federal anti-discrimination law unless they have filed a formal complaint within 180 days after their pay was originally set. To eliminate this overly burdensome barrier, Representative Lipinski supported and helped pass H.R. 2831, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act which restores the ability of victims of pay discrimination to effectively assert their rights under the Civil Rights Act.

In addition, Congressman Lipinski (pictured to the right talking with local educators about pay and other issues) is a proud co-sponsor of H.R. 1338, the Paycheck Fairness Act. This bill would require the Department of Labor to enhance outreach and training efforts to work with employers to eliminate pay disparities, prohibit employers from retaliating against employees who share salary information with their co-workers, and allow women to sue for punitive damages under the Equal Pay Act.

## Supporting Cutting Edge Research to Fight Deadly Diseases

**As a juvenile diabetic**, Congressman Lipinski is deeply committed to helping find a cure for this and other diseases. Earlier this year he introduced H.R. 1892 which would establish a National Amniotic and Placental Stem Cell Bank to make these types of cells available for research and treatment purposes. Amniotic and placental stem cells have shown great promise in combating afflictions such as diabetes and multiple sclerosis and they can be safely extracted from a woman during pregnancy without harming the fetus.

