

Dr. Burgess Weekly Video Address February 8, 2013

“Oversight and Investigations in the 113th Congress”

Hello this is your Congressman Michael Burgess. Last week we had a town hall meeting in Watauga. A lot of you showed up voiced concerns and ideas on issues such as energy, health care, immigration, the budget, and social security. I appreciated the opportunity to hear from you on not only what is happening in Washington, what’s happening in our community, and the work where I am directly involved in the committee.

As a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee – and the Vice Chair of the subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations– I wanted to provide you with a look at the work and goals where the subcommittees going to be focused during the 113th congress.

Oversight is an essential role a constitutional role of the Congress. In a fair manner were required to oversee the implementation of laws and ensure that the executive branch and the departments and federal agencies are serving the American people, and spending every dollar of taxpayer money spent in a wise fashion. As the role and the functions of the federal government expand, so too has this responsibility.

A fundamental objective of congressional oversight is to hold the executive branch accountable for the delegated authority to implement the laws that Congress legislates. This function is – or should be – inherently bipartisan. Look, a dollar that’s wasted is a dollar that can’t provide an essential service or provide for our constituents or even provide for our soldiers, and at the end of the day it is taken by the tax payer by force.

With the broad jurisdiction of the Energy and Commerce Committee this task falls heavily on our shoulders. Yet, this is a responsibility that we should perform. We need to do our good diligence, ask the tough questions, review how the funding is used, and when necessary, investigate improper or illegal activity to maintain confidence in the areas under our view.

From the ongoing work in the last Congress, to the challenges we see coming ahead such as the implementation of the president’s Affordable Care Act, the FDA Safety and Innovation Act, the future of loan guarantee programs, and how the nation will tackle our ever growing energy needs, and inevitability there will be issues of the moment that come before us rather suddenly. There’s a lot of work that will happen over the next two years. I encourage you to visit my website, burgess.house.gov, for the latest information and to keep up to date on what’s happening in the committee.

Thank you for taking the time to listen. May God bless you and your family - and as always, may God bless Texas.