



CARTER COURIER

<http://carter.house.gov>

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LETTER FROM THE CONGRESSMAN

Dear Friends,

This week Congress debated the Democrats plan to address our long-term energy needs. This bill, termed the “No Energy” energy bill, will raise taxes on the backs of hard working Americans as well as business. In addition, this plan provides no secure long-term strategy for ensuring our energy supply.

In addition, the clock continues to tick as the Democratic leadership refuses to pass vital funding for our veterans and military families. As time passes, fewer and fewer days remain to complete this important work before Congress adjourns for Christmas. I hope that all of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and that this Holiday Season will continue to bring you closer to family and friends. May each of us celebrate the rich blessings that have been bestowed upon us.

As always, I thank all of you in the 31st District for the opportunity to serve you in Congress and I look forward to advancing the conservative principles that make Central Texas so great.

Until next week,



CONGRESS MUST ACT ON AMERICAN PRIORITIES

As we return back to Congress after the Thanksgiving break, we face a long list of priorities the Democratic Majority has failed to address over the past year.

Chief among these is the critical funding for our veterans and military families that has been held up in political gridlock for nearly six months. Republicans and Democrats worked together to produce a good veterans’ funding bill. I was proud to be a part of the bipartisan negotiations that produced this bill, but not proud to see it held up for political reasons. Our soldiers have fought and are still fighting for our freedom, and frankly, they and their families deserve more than what Congress has given them.

It is critical that this Congress also pass an AMT patch to protect the 25 million taxpayers from the Alternative Minimum Tax. We need to do this without raising taxes or killing American jobs. Every year, Congress has worked together to fix this patch so Americans receive their tax returns on time. But due to Congress’ failure to address this issue, 50 million Americans will see their tax returns delayed next year. Worse, if a patch doesn’t pass at all, 48,000 of you here in the 31st district will be hit with a new tax

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you have never paid before and should never have to pay. Created by the Democrats to target about 155 of the very wealthy families who used deductions to avoid paying any federal income tax, the AMT has now grown out of control and is predicted to hit 25 million new taxpayers this year if it is not fixed. In fact, Congress' Joint Committee on Taxation estimates that, without a fix, about half of the taxpayers with adjusted gross incomes in the \$75,000-\$100,000 range will be affected by the AMT this year.

In addition, Congress needs to focus on permanently closing the terrorist loophole in our surveillance laws. Instead of working with Republicans to protect the American people against our enemies, Democrats passed fatally flawed legislation that re-opens the terrorist loophole and bars American officials from acting quickly on vital intelligence to protect our troops and the American people.

There are a number of big issues that still lack major action such as passing eleven remaining appropriations bills, producing an energy bill that actually includes energy and relief for consumers at the pump and at home, and giving our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan the resources they need-free of arbitrary withdrawal timelines. Indeed in these final days before the Christmas holidays, Congress will face its toughest test yet. The American people want to see Congress work together and my hope is that the partisan gamesmanship will stop and we will be able to work together on legislation that can pass before the holidays. However, if what we have seen this year from House Democrats is an indication for what is to come, I am afraid the American people will be left to pay the price for Congress' inability to act on American priorities.

ENERGY BILL PRODUCES NOTHING BUT MORE TAXES

This week I voted against the Democrat "No-Energy" Energy Bill that raises taxes, mandates that states derive 15 percent of their electricity from renewable resources, but produces no new energy.

Americans are looking for Congress to produce an energy bill that makes use of the resources and technologies we have available in an effort to deliver the most affordable energy we can to those who need it most. In order to do this, we need to unlock new supply, encourage conservation and promote the research and innovation necessary to develop new technologies.

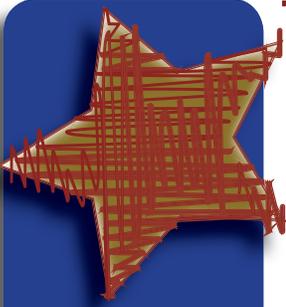
But unfortunately, the Democrats so called "energy bill" includes none of these. Instead, they impose \$21 billion dollars of new taxes on America's domestic energy produces, costs that are sure to be felt by American consumers. In Texas, we understand that this bill is bad for business and bad for American families.

The bill also includes a mandate requiring states to meet a Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) which requires all states to produce 15 percent of their electricity from renewable resources. For Texas this means that consumers will pay an additional \$700 million in energy costs from 2010 to 2030 because, like many other southern states, Texas lacks the resources to meet this mandate.

LISTEN TO MY WEEKLY RADIO ADDRESS

Please click on the link below to listen to my most recent weekly radio address that was sent to local radio and television stations. This week's 7:38 minute address discusses the priorities that Congress must act on before leaving Washington for Christmas.

<http://carter.house.gov/multimedia/>



AMARILLO NATIVE MAKES MOVE TO WASHINGTON D.C.

This week I proudly announced the addition of Margaret Matthews, of Amarillo, to my Washington, D.C. Congressional office. Matthews' will serve as staff assistant.

I am proud to welcome Margaret to my Washington, D.C. office. Margaret's hard work ethic is a testament to her good West Texas upbringing. Her good attitude and various talents will serve our office well in the essential duties as a staff assistant.

New to the Beltway, Matthews, 23 previously served as a congressional intern for Representative Mac Thornberry (TX-Amarillo). Matthews received her bachelor's degree in advertising and public relations from Texas Christian University in August 2007.

On TCU's campus, Matthews was know for her extensive work with the Make-A-Wish Foundation as well as her dedication to her education. She is a member of the Chi-Omega Sorority as well as the TCU Study Abroad Program. Matthews is the daughter of Kade and Chris Matthews of Amarillo.

I am proud of the dedicated staff we have assembled, and know Margaret will serve as a great asset to our constituents. My staff and I will continue to work hard on behalf of the people of Central Texas.

DEMOCRATS WAGE A WAR ON AMERICAN JOBS

This week I highlighted a report introduced by House Republicans detailing the threat the Majority's legislative agenda has on American jobs. The full report is available by visiting: <http://republicanleader.house.gov>. In addition, I made the following statement:

"Today, House Republicans unveiled a report that shows exactly how harmful the Democrats' big-government agenda is to the American economy. American families are feeling the strain of high gas prices, college tuition, health care, and a declining housing market. The last thing they need this holiday season is \$200 billion in new taxes.

"Democrats have shown their true colors all year by passing bills that raise taxes, on average, by over \$4000 on every American taxpayer and kill more than 16 million jobs. It is time to stop taxing working families to death, and time to start coming up with true bipartisan policy that promotes economic growth and a stronger American future."

MEDICARE OPEN SEASON ENROLLMENT SEMINAR

I will give opening remarks at the Medicare Open Season Enrollment Seminar scheduled to kick off today, and continue through tomorrow. The seminar, hosted by my office, is an opportunity for eligible seniors to enroll or adjust their Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit plan. Counselors from the Area Agency of Aging will be available to assist seniors with questions.

Friday, December 7, 2007
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Round Rock Baca Center
301 W. Bagdad Ave., Building 2
Round Rock, TX 78664

Saturday, December 8, 2007
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

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