



CARTER COURIER

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LETTER FROM THE CONGRESSMAN

Dear Friends,

In the past weeks I have had the opportunity to address key issues that our nation is currently facing. We have been discussing possible solutions to alleviate the soaring gas prices as we head into the summer travel season. I was proud to introduce the Military Spouses Residency Relief Act, which allows a military spouse who moves out of the state with their servicemember because of military orders to have the option to claim the same state of domicile as their active duty spouse, regardless of where they are stationed.

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

Until next week,



A PLAN FOR RELIEF

Gas in Texas has reached the \$3.70 mark and is expected to continue to rise. For years, Republicans have brought forth commonsense, environmentally responsible energy policies that would provide our country with its own secure oil and gas supply, but those policies have been road blocked by Democrats in Congress, the Senate and the White House. Even now, as gas and diesel prices set record highs across the country, the Majority Leadership continually refuses to tackle this mounting problem.

The truth is simple-Congress must take action to encourage conservation and promote the research and innovation necessary to develop new energy sources and technologies. But while doing this, we must unlock new energy supplies here at home. This week Republicans in Congress unveiled an energy plan that will bring the much needed relief American families are anxious for by safely and responsibly increasing American supplies. These good reforms are the only way Americans are going to see lower prices at the pump.

I will work with my colleagues to deliver a plan that works with meaningful solutions that make our nation more energy dependent. Here is how we will do it:

First, we will increase the production of American-made energy in an environmentally-safe way by supporting actions that reduce America's dependency on energy from unstable foreign govern-

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ments and dictatorships by increasing environmentally-safe production of oil and natural gas in areas such as the arctic coastal plain and in deep ocean energy resources. We will also promote unconventional fuels such as coal-to-liquids technology and recovering our vast oil shale reserves by increasing access for environmentally responsible development of conventional and unconventional domestic oil and natural gas production, provide coal-to-liquid financing and tax incentives, and advance the commercialization of the nation's two-trillion barrel shale oil resource, 80 percent of which occurs on government-owned land in the West. This is enough to supply all of America's needs for over two centuries.

Second, we will promote new, clean and reliable sources of energy. We will do this by encouraging more production of environmentally-safe energy to increase the use of our vast domestic supply, reduce emissions and keep coal-dependent communities strong. We will also expand emissions-free nuclear power, including long term nuclear waste storage solutions and recycling spent fuel by providing production and investment tax credits for all new base-load electricity projects such as advanced nuclear power and clean coal. We must also allow immediate expensing for new renewable or zero emission power.

Next, we will cut the red tape and increase the supply of American-made fuel and energy. We will expedite permitting for enhanced oil recovery projects, including CO2 delivery and injection, as well as permitting for new refining capacity. We will improve environmental review and permitting to encourage the deployment of technologies which increase the efficiency of existing power plants, and we will end ill-advised policies that have led to the production of unique gasoline and diesel fuel formulations known as "boutique fuels," which have fragmented our motor fuels distribution system and choked off supply.

Finally, this plan will encourage greater energy efficiency by offering conservation tax incentives. We will support technologies to help increase energy efficiency in all sectors of the American economy, including removing barriers that prevent businesses from upgrading their facilities with newer, more efficient energy. We will do this by making home energy efficiency upgrades tax deductible, providing incentives for home builders and homeowners to make their homes more energy efficient, offering investment expensing for industrial and commercial building efficiency upgrades, extending the residential and business solar and fuel cell investment tax credits, extending the fiber-optic distributed sunlight investment tax credit, and increasing the energy efficiency of government-owned buildings.

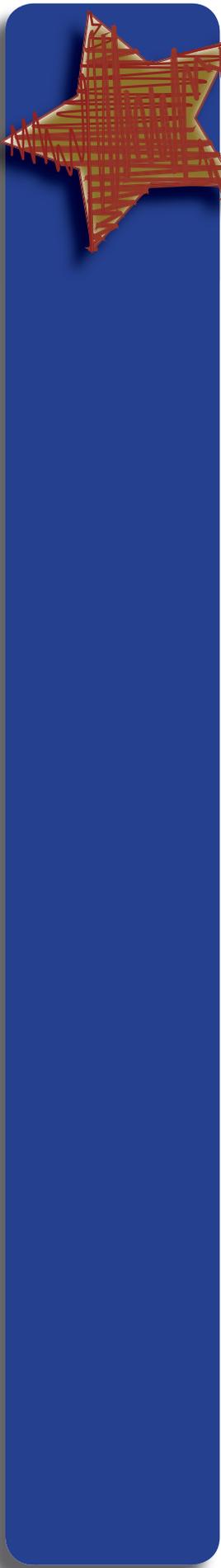
I am committed to a comprehensive energy reform policy that will increase the supply of American-made energy, improve energy efficiency, and encourage investment in groundbreaking research in advanced alternative and renewable energy technologies. With 21st Century technologies and the strictest standards in the world, American can and must produce more of our own energy and protect the environment at the same time. That is the change Americans deserve. I call on my Democratic colleagues to work with Republicans and pass these commonsense solutions.

MILITARY SPOUSES RESIDENCY RELIEF ACT

In honor of Military Appreciation Month and to recognize the importance that family plays in maintaining morale and retention in the U.S. military, I introduced the Military Spouses Residency Relief Act (H.R. 6070), which amends the Servicemember's Civil Relief Act (SCRA) to allow a military spouse who moves out of the state with their servicemember because of military orders to have the option to claim the same state of domicile as their active duty spouse, regardless of where they are stationed.

With Fort Hood in Texas' 31st District, we are reminded daily of the sacrifices made by our service men and women. We owe the highest merit to these brave soldiers. But it is also important that we recognize the sacrifices and efforts made by the spouses and families of these soldiers, and assist them in the challenges they face.

The SCRA allows military men and women the ability to claim a home of domicile and maintain that home regardless of where military orders may send them. This state of domicile can be the state where the member lived prior to joining the military, or a new state of domicile may be used if the servicemember intends to live in that state upon separation from the armed forces. This not only allows a small level of tax relief, but also makes the move from station to station easier, as common headaches from interstate moves like updating drivers' licenses and vehicle



registration are no longer necessary.

Unfortunately, military spouses are not granted this same consideration though they still move around the country and interrupt their lives because of military orders. In addition to the stress of looking for a job every few years, this inequality means that military spouses potentially pay up to \$5,000 more annually in state taxes than if they had not committed to support the military in this way. Spouses are also much less likely to have their names on deeds and titles of family property because of the implications of moving to another state leaving many feeling like second class citizens.

“I am ready to live in the same state as my soldier,” said Rebecca Poynter, a military spouse who came to Carter with the idea for the legislation.

If a spouse chooses to take advantage of this, the service member and the spouse must have the same state of domicile.

Military families have shared in the sacrifices of service men and women and I strongly believe they should have the ability to share in the benefits. It is only fair to allow them to claim the same state of residency as their spouse. As the representative for the largest military base in the nation and so many military families, I look forward to seeing this bill signed into law.

DEM BUDGET LEAVES TEXANS WITH EMPTY POCKETS

Last week, Democrats once again imposed the largest tax increase in American history. Death and taxes may be certain in life, but Congress can and should work to prevent taxpayers from paying any more in federal taxes. Unfortunately, many Democrats don't feel that way and proved it today by passing the largest tax increase in American history.

The Democrats \$683 billion budget will impose an average tax hike of \$2100 on Texas taxpayers, not to mention additional tax increases for small businesses. On top of this, the budget once again fails to address the looming crisis in the Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid entitlement programs.

Like Central Texas families, I am mindful that some things in the budget are “needs” while others are “wants.” This budget requires Texas families and small businesses to pick up the check for billions in new wasteful Washington spending- ‘wants’ if you will.

At a time when Texas families are scaling back due to record high gas prices, decreasing home values and rising health care costs, Congress should be tightening their belts as well and allowing families to keep more of their hard-earned money. Instead, Democrats in Congress have done the exact opposite, leaving Americans with nothing but empty pockets and a crushed economy.

NEW GALLUP POLL SHOWS AMERICANS WANT MORE ENERGY EXPLORATION

A USA TODAY/Gallup Poll recently highlighted that 57 percent of Americans favor more energy exploration in the United States to help bring down gas prices. Last week Republicans brought forth an energy plan that calls for more American energy exploration.

Americans are tightening their belts and canceling family vacations because they can't afford to pay the Pelosi Premium at the gas station. This poll shows Americans agree with Republicans and want more energy exploration to happen here at home. Republicans have brought forth a common-sense, environmentally responsible energy plan that will provide our country with its own secure oil and gas supply and deliver the relief Americans are looking for.

Many of the ideas included in the Republican energy plan are not new. For years Republicans have pushed for energy policies that would provide our country with a stable energy supply, but time and time again Democrats have put up road blocks to keep these solutions from happening. Even now, as gas and diesel prices set new record highs, the Majority Leadership continues to ignore the mounting problem.

The American people believe that Congress must take action to unlock new energy supplies here at home. Republicans have a plan and stand ready to work with Democrats to deliver solutions the American people deserve.