



REAL SOLUTIONS TO LOWER GAS PRICES

June 26, 2008

Dear Colleague:

The Independence Day district work period arrives at a watershed moment for House Republicans – after a relentless, weeks-long energy push, no fewer than four national polls released in the last week have shown overwhelming public support for our meaningful energy solutions.

You know how you know you're winning a debate and playing offense? When your opponent is responding to your arguments. And in the last few weeks, in response to our disciplined, aggressive effort on the House floor and all forms of national and local media, Democrat leaders are reeling. They have scrambled to cobble together half-baked so-called energy bills that: one, do not produce an ounce of new energy, and two, have been called into question by independent experts and rank-and-file House Democrats.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS
WINNING THE
ENERGY DEBATE

This is still an uphill battle, however. We continue to operate in a challenging messaging environment. The American people lack confidence in Washington at record levels. Dissatisfaction with the direction of the country has moved clear past the 80% mark.

We must make use of the next ten days – we cannot cede this district work period to a majority that has failed to do anything that would lower prices at the pump. Agendas are good and positive poll numbers are encouraging, but as we have learned, there's no substitute for building grassroots support the old-fashioned way: by pounding the pavement, talking up our solutions in town halls, doing drive-time radio, writing op-eds.

This recess pack supplement – combined with the dedicated energy pack we put out last week – is designed to help you do just that. In addition to updated materials on energy, you will find talking points on some of the victories we have had in recent days, including a landmark emergency troop funding bill and bipartisan terrorist surveillance reform.



As always, the Conference is at your disposal for whatever support you need in planning your events and pushing back on faulty Democrat claims.

Thank you for all you do; have a safe and healthy holiday.

Sincerely,

Adam Putnam
Chairman House Republican Conference



Democrat “Use-It-or-Lose-It” Claims Debunked by Expert, Independent Voices

Independent Scientists

- **Willard R. Green**, president of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, wrote in a [letter to Speaker Pelosi and Leader Boehner](#), “As you can see, oil and natural gas exploration is not simple and it is not easy. It requires geological ingenuity, advanced technologies, and the time to do the job right. It also requires access to areas where exploration ideas can be tested—the greater the number of areas available for exploration, the higher the chance of finding oil and natural gas traps.”

“As Congress considers measures to deal with high crude oil prices, I urge caution. Policies that increase exploration costs, decrease the available time to properly evaluate leases, and restrict access to federal lands and the Outer Continental Shelf do not provide the American people with short-term relief from high prices and undermine the goal of increasing stable long-term supplies.” ([6/23/08](#))

- **Larry Nation**, spokesman for the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (funded by member fees, not the oil companies), points out that oil companies lease land that might have oil, but not all of it does, and it takes years to discover whether the oil is there. **To demand that companies develop every leased plot would be to force them to lose tens of millions of dollars on land that has little or no oil.** Meanwhile, unleased land where drilling is currently prohibited can have much greater potential. ‘Some of those (prohibited) areas are highly prospective and can come onto the market much sooner,’ he said.” ([New Hampshire Union Leader, 6/19/08](#))
- “There’s the misconception that every lease has oil,’ added **David Curtiss**, director of the [American Association of Petroleum Geologists] Washington office. ‘A lease is a line on a map. It has nothing to do with the geology of where oil is.’” ([CQ, 6/16/08](#))
- “Sadly, it just reflects the lack of understanding of our politicians of how the oil business functions,’ **independent petroleum geologist G. Warfield ‘Skip’ Hobbs III** of New Canaan, Conn., told us yesterday.” ([New Hampshire Union Leader, 6/19/08](#))

Hometown Editorials

- *Charleston (WV) Daily Mail*: “Now comes a new wrinkle, another attempt to dodge sensible policy - this one from West Virginia's Rep. Nick Rahall. He proposes to give big oil companies an ultimatum: Unless they drill on the 68 million acres of inactive land they now lease from the federal government - or give up those leases - they would be barred from getting new leases....

“Oh, for pity's sake. It may not be possible to produce from some reserves at the current price. Huffing and puffing around that American companies shouldn't have access to any new reserves until they have made full use of the reserves they have would unnecessarily delay the identification of new domestic sources, and production from those sources.

“Rahall's bill is yet another pitiful attempt to avoid doing what clearly needs to be done - make more U.S. reserves available to U.S. companies.” ([Charleston Daily Mail editorial, 6/18/08](#))

- *New Hampshire Union Leader*: “Of all the dumb ideas to come out of Washington in recent memory, last week Rep. Carol Shea-Porter embraced what might be the dumbest of them all. Shea-Porter has co-sponsored legislation to force oil companies that hold leases on federal land to commence developing that land or lose the lease ... Simply put, Shea-Porter hasn't the slightest idea what she's talking about.

“Furthermore, [AAPG's] Nation says, current leases already require oil companies to take certain steps to use the land. The premise behind the bill [Rep. Carol] Shea-Porter is cosponsoring -- that oil companies have huge reserves of untapped oil wealth sitting beneath already leased federal land, which they can tap right away if only Congress orders it -- is unsupported by the facts. Nation called it ‘laughable.’” ([6/19/08](#))



National News Outlets

- *The Wall Street Journal*: “**Companies don’t know how much oil is under the lands they lease**, so they buy up large swaths in hope that a fraction will work out. Much of the area that isn’t producing, they say, doesn’t have oil or gas in commercially viable quantities. Moreover, bringing a new field into **production can require years of mapping, testing, drilling and construction** – during which time the land would show up in statistics as being ‘not in production,’ even as companies spend millions or even billions of dollars to bring it on line.” ([6/16/08](#))
- *Brit Hume, FOX News Managing Editor*: “**The fact is that those leases on 68 million acres are already under a use it or lose it process** in which if they—they don’t own them, for one thing. They lease the rights to drill for such oil as may be found there. There are no proven reserves to speak of when the process starts. ...

“Nobody can seem to tell us tonight where the number that Rahm Emanuel and other Democrats are using that says 14 years worth of supply in the United States exists underneath that land. **Nobody seems to be able to determine where exactly that comes from.**” ([Fox News, 6/19/08](#))
- *The Houston Chronicle*: “Under existing law, producers can lease a block for up to 10 years, but **a company typically must begin producing oil or gas in that time or lose the lease.**” ([6/13/08](#))
- *CongressDaily*: “House Republicans, meanwhile, said Democrats were actually promoting a ‘use it or lose it’ idea already under law. They pointed to a section of U.S. code which states that any lease ‘may be forfeited or canceled ... whenever the lessee fails to comply with any of the provisions of this chapter, of the lease.’ The Interior secretary can cancel the lease after 30 days ‘upon the failure of the lessee to comply with any of the provisions of the lease,’ the law states.” ([6/12/08](#))

AMERICANS LINE UP BEHIND REPUBLICAN ENERGY SOLUTIONS

76%

Fox News Poll: “Just over three-quarters (76 percent) support immediately increasing oil drilling in the United States. More than seven in 10 Democrats (71 percent) also hold this view.” ([6/21/08](#))

68%

Los Angeles Times/Bloomberg poll: When all registered voters are asked whether they support increased exploration for oil and natural gas, 68% respond in the affirmative. ([6/24/08](#))

67%

Rasmussen Reports: “According to Rasmussen, 67 percent of Americans support oil drilling off the nation’s coasts and 64 percent think it will lower gas prices.” ([The Hill, “The Briefing Room,” 6/17/08](#))

60%

Reuters/Zogby Poll: “Most Americans support more U.S. oil drilling ... Some 59.6 percent of Americans surveyed in the poll released on Wednesday said they would favor government efforts to boost domestic drilling and refinery construction to cool record prices.” ([Reuters, 6/18/08](#))

57%

Gallup Poll: “Americans also support ... drilling in U.S. coastal and wilderness areas now off limits (57%).” ([Gallup, 5/28/08](#))



TALKING POINTS: Emergency Troop Funding Bill a Victory for Troops, Taxpayers, and the American People

OUR PRINCIPLE. *Less than 18 months ago, the Democrat majority put forth a severely misguided plan to slow bleed our fighting men and women in harm's way. Last week, those same leaders joined with Republicans to support an emergency troop funding bill that provides the resources our troops and their commanders need to succeed in their mission – without politically motivated restrictions. No bill is perfect, yet this compromise legislation is nonetheless a victory for our servicemembers, our veterans, and the American people.*

House Republicans fought for, and won, an emergency troop funding bill that provides the resources our troops need to succeed without micromanaging their mission. The supplemental includes funding for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan through next spring. This bill does NOT include any provisions that would force our commanders on the ground to adhere to policy restrictions that would endanger the success of their mission.

With their success on the battlefield, our troops have earned this vote of confidence from the Congress. By joining Republicans in supporting a troop funding bill without restrictions that would undermine our mission in Iraq and Afghanistan, Democrats are tacitly acknowledging the failure of their misguided slow-bleed strategy, and in turn, validating the progress our military has achieved on the ground in Iraq.

This supplemental provides for a long-overdue modernization of the Montgomery GI Bill by ensuring those who have served our country – or their families – receive the best education benefits this government can provide them. Republicans and Democrats agree on the need to enhance and modernize GI educational benefits. What Republicans fought for, and won, is a landmark reform that will allow veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan to transfer these benefits to his or her spouse and children. In addition, Republicans ensured that this important reform strengthens America's all-volunteer force.

House Republicans successfully kept Democrat tax increases and \$8 billion in unrelated Washington spending out of this troop funding bill. Because of House Republicans, this legislation does not include the Democrats' massive tax hike on small business owners – who are responsible for creating most of our economy's new jobs. The same goes for the new Washington spending Senate Democrats had been pursuing.

This bill protects taxpayers by providing for a responsible extension of unemployment insurance benefits. House Republicans successfully fought for an extension of unemployment insurance that maintains the 20-week work requirement in order for a worker to receive extended unemployment benefits. In addition, the bill limits the extension of benefits to 13 additional weeks, half of the amount Democrats had sought in their stand-alone unemployment insurance bill.

This bill provides emergency assistance to Americans affected by the devastation in the Midwest, ensuring that the resources needed are available to respond to the tornadoes and flooding.

GI Bill Update

(Courtesy of Veterans Affairs Republicans)

Republican House members overwhelmingly supported new GI Bill provisions contained in H.R. 2642, the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008, to which the House agreed 416-12. This legislation is currently awaiting Senate action. This bill would:

- Increase the GI bill education benefits to allow most veterans to attend a public four-year school at no cost.
- Allow servicemembers to transfer their education benefits to their spouse and/or dependents if they have served a minimum of six years and have a commitment to serve four more.
- Pay veterans with at least three years of active duty since 9/11/2001 up to 100 percent of in-state tuition and fees at the highest cost public four year school in their state.
- Pay veterans a living stipend ranging from about \$600 to over \$2,600 per month depending on the veteran's zip code.
- Pay \$1,000 for books per school year.



TALKING POINTS: New Terrorist Surveillance Law a Victory for the American People

OUR PRINCIPLE. *It has been more than four months since Washington Democrats allowed a key counterterrorism measure to lapse and vital national security tools to be stripped. As a result, we have been blinded to new terrorist plots. Last week, however, after Republicans stood shoulder to shoulder with the Directors of National Intelligence and the Attorney General, 25 bipartisan state attorneys general, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and countless editorial boards across the nation, a compromise passed that gives our intelligence officials the tools they need to thwart terrorist attacks. This legislation is a victory for our intelligence community and the American people.*

House Republicans have closed the terrorist loophole. This bipartisan legislation is the result of more than a year's work on the part of House Republicans. When the Administration called on Congress to modernize our terrorist surveillance laws, it was House Republicans who acted first, with one goal in mind: preventing the next planned terrorist attack on our homeland.

House Democrats did the right thing and compromised on this critical issue 125 days after they recklessly allowed the Protect America Act to expire. Make no mistake, this legislation is a victory for our intelligence community and the American people, but it should have come sooner, especially given the fact that the Senate passed a perfectly acceptable bipartisan bill more than four months ago.

This legislation gives our intelligence community the tools it needs to do its job and protect the American people. This legislation will make certain that our intelligence officials will have the ability to initiate foreign surveillance on foreign targets. At the same time, after-the-fact court review will be permitted.

This legislation does right by the telecommunications companies who have patriotically assisted the government in protecting the American people, just as any other American would if asked to help. This bill ensures that the process by which telecommunications companies receive liability protection is not subject to a feeding frenzy of trial lawyers. Once enacted, this legislation will instruct federal district courts to dismiss civil suits filed against companies that may have provided or are believed to have provided this critical assistance after being directed to do so by the federal government after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

The nation's top intelligence and law enforcement officials "strongly support" passage of this legislation. U.S. Attorney General **Michael Mukasey** and Director of National Intelligence **Mike McConnell** wrote a letter to Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) "strongly support[ing]" passage of this bipartisan legislation.

This legislation provides strong civil liberties protections. Republicans and Democrats worked together to guarantee that constitutional rights would not be compromised. In fact, this bill provides for FISA court review of future surveillance authorizations and federal district court review of civil liability determinations.

Republicans Declare FISA Victory, National Newspapers Agree

The New York Times: A "Major Victory" for Congressional Republicans and President Bush ([6/20/08](#))

The Los Angeles Times: After "a yearlong battle," the agreement "signaled an end to a bitter standoff between the Bush administration and leading House Democrats." Despite criticism from Sen. Feingold, who called the deal "a capitulation," the measure "now appears poised to prevail in the House as well" as the Senate. ([6/20/08](#))

The Wall Street Journal: "The best news about yesterday's White House-Democrat deal on overseas eavesdropping is that the **ACLU and the anti-antiterror Internet mob are apoplectic. This can only be good for U.S. national security.**" ([Editorial, 6/20/08](#))

The Washington Post: "House and Senate leaders agreed yesterday on surveillance legislation that could **shield telecommunications companies from privacy lawsuits**, handing President Bush one of the last **major legislative victories** he is likely to achieve. ... The breakthrough on the legislation came hours after the White House agreed to Democratic demands for domestic spending additions to an emergency war funding bill. The negotiations **underscored the political calculation made by many Democrats who were fearful that Republicans would cast them as soft on terrorism during an election year.**" ([6/20/08](#))



Republicans Support a Clean AMT Patch - Without Tax Increases

(Courtesy of Ways and Means Republicans)

- **House Republicans strongly support a clean AMT patch without tax increases.**
 - Last month, House Republicans unanimously supported a clean AMT patch for 2008 – along with long-term extensions of other expiring tax provisions – without tax increases. (MTR on H.R. 6049, Roll Call #343, May 21, 2008)
 - Without the patch, more than 25 million families – including 21 million families who didn't owe the AMT in 2007 – would pay an additional \$61.5 billion in taxes next April because of the AMT, an average tax hike of more than \$2,400 per return.
 - Last December, Republicans unanimously supported a clean AMT patch for 2007 without tax hikes. (H.R. 3996, Roll Call #1183, December 19, 2007)
 - From 2001-2006, when Republicans were in the Majority, we always enacted a patch to protect middle-class taxpayers from falling victim to the AMT.
- **There is simply no good reason to raise taxes to pay for the AMT patch.**
 - We shouldn't be raising taxes, generally, and we certainly shouldn't be doing so just to extend current low-tax policies, such as the AMT patch.
 - The other body will not pass an AMT patch with tax increases.
 - "I think it's important to recognize the reality that at the end of the day, the AMT patch will not be paid for." Senate Finance Chairman Max Baucus (D-MT), *BNA*, 6/10/08
 - "Quite frankly, we all know it not going to be paid for, so why go through all the motions?" Senate Finance Chairman Max Baucus (D-MT), *CongressDailyAM*, 6/11/08
- **Middle-class families are already struggling with record-high gas prices under the Democratic Majority – the last thing Americans need is higher taxes, too.**

Democrats Were for a "Clean" AMT Patch Before They Were Against It

House Democrats' current position is that the AMT patch should not be enacted unless it is coupled with massive, unnecessary tax hikes. However, House Democrats previously supported "clean" AMT patches without offsetting tax increases, including as recently as last December:

- 2007 patch (110th Congress): Passed the House 352-64 on December 19, 2007 (H.R. 3996, Roll Call # 1183; D: 157-64, R: 195-0)
- 2006 patch (109th Congress): Passed the House 414-4 on December 7, 2005 (H.R. 4096, Roll Call # 613; D: 188-4, R: 225-0)
- 2005 patch (108th Congress): Passed the House 339-65 on September 23, 2004 (H.R. 1308, Roll Call # 472; D: 125-65; R: 213-0)

Democrats' current approach – marrying the AMT patch with controversial, unwarranted tax increases – threatens the traditional spirit of bipartisan cooperation that Congress has brought to this issue.

Even more regrettably, the Majority's tax-heavy approach threatens to expose millions of middle-class taxpayers to an average tax increase of \$2,400 due to the AMT.



Housing Update

Chicago Tribune Editorial on Countrywide

"Winners, losers and 'friends'"

June 26, 2008

For all those who are too busy leading normal lives to keep score on the subprime housing mess, here's how the winners and losers stack up at the moment:

Countrywide Financial Corp., the nation's largest mortgage company, leads both categories. The tarnished company at the center of the mess has to be labeled a winner after its shareholders Wednesday approved a takeover by Bank of America. Without that rescue under fire, Countrywide might well have sunk under the weight of its damaged mortgage portfolio and the growing number of lawsuits it will have to defend.

Countrywide also has to be called a winner because the housing bailout plan working its way through Congress could minimize the financial damage of that mortgage portfolio. The bailout has passed the House and survived a key test vote in the Senate Tuesday... But Countrywide also came up a loser Wednesday when Illinois Atty. Gen. Lisa Madigan and her California counterpart sued the company...

Democratic Sens. Chris Dodd of Connecticut and Kent Conrad of North Dakota still rank high in the loser category. They had to admit that they received special treatment on mortgage loans from Countrywide. They insist they had no idea they got a break -- everybody else in the country is saying, "Gimme a break." Conrad is chairman of the Senate Budget Committee and Dodd is chairman of the Senate Banking Committee. They are two very powerful senators whose committees have jurisdiction over Countrywide's business. It turns out they were also "Friends of Angelo," as revealed by Conde Nast Portfolio Magazine. That's Angelo as in Angelo Mozilo, chairman and CEO of Countrywide.

It's a pretty seedy story: When Conrad was looking for a mortgage for his Delaware beach house, he called his good friend, former Fannie Mae CEO James Johnson. Mozilo happened to be in Johnson's office and Johnson handed the phone to him. Countrywide financed the beach house and, later, an investment property of Conrad's. According to Conde Nast, Mozilo instructed a subordinate via e-mail to "[T]ake off 1 point" and in another e-mail wrote, "Make an exception due to the fact that the borrower is a senator." Dodd never spoke directly to Mozilo, but Dodd was aware that his two Countrywide mortgages were in a "VIP section." Dodd says he assumed that was just some kind of "courtesy." The Senate Ethics Committee is investigating.

Incidentally, Johnson is the same guy who was briefly tasked by Obama to vet potential running mates.

Johnson stepped aside when it was revealed that he had received preferential loans from Countrywide.

Taxpayers could be losers if the risky refinanced loans taken off Countrywide's books and added to the FHA portfolio go belly up. They got no special treatment. Ninety-five percent of them pay their mortgages on time, so they'll get no special congressional bailout. But then, they aren't "friends of Angelo."

House Republican Housing Principles

- **Support Homeownership.** Homeownership is central to the American dream and a key part of our free economy. We need to keep the dream of homeownership within reach of middle-class families.
- **Jump Start the Housing Market.** The best way out of the housing crisis is to get Americans purchasing homes again. The housing market needs a jump-start, not a bail-out.
- **Lower Taxes on Middle-Class Families.** Lower taxes on middle-class families will help increase homeownership. We cannot tax our way to a housing recovery, and higher taxes on American families will only add to the middle-class squeeze.
- **Help Needy Homeowners Who Are Truly Victims.** We must address the threat to our economy and help needy homeowners who are truly victims without a taxpayer bailout that rewards reckless behavior.
- **Reform and Transparency.** We must bring reform and transparency to the housing market and improve our overall economy, as well as ensure that this situation doesn't become a feeding frenzy of trial lawyers eager to profit from people's misfortune.
- **Fairness for Responsible Homeowners.** As a matter of fairness, we should stand up for Americans who saved and invested responsibly, not reward reckless behavior at the expense of those who did the right thing.
- **Protection for Taxpayers.** We should protect taxpayers from having to bail out speculators and scam artists.
- **Stake in the Outcome.** Anyone receiving government assistance should have to make a financial sacrifice and have a stake in the outcome.



Fairness Doctrine Talking Points

(Courtesy of Rep. Mike Pence)

Speaker Nancy Pelosi told reporters at the Christian Science Monitor Breakfast on June 24 that she supports reviving the Fairness Doctrine. As reported by Human Events' John Gizzi: "I asked Pelosi if [Rep. Mike] Pence failed to get the required signatures on a discharge petition to get his anti-Fairness Doctrine bill out of committee, would she permit the Pence measure to get a floor vote this year. 'No,' the Speaker replied, without hesitation. She added that "the interest in my caucus is the reverse."

- The American people love a fair fight, especially when the issues of the day are debated. In a free market, fairness should be determined based upon equal opportunity, not equal results. As some voices are calling for Congress to enforce their idea of "fairness" upon the American people, it would be good for us to proceed with caution whenever some would achieve their "fairness" by limiting the freedom of others.
- Since the demise of the Fairness Doctrine, talk radio has emerged as a dynamic forum for public debate and an asset to the nation. Unfortunately, in the name of fairness, there has been much talk in recent days about the need to level the playing field of radio broadcasting by restoring the Fairness Doctrine. Some elected officials have said that Congress should "deal with that problem" and others are "looking at" bringing back this outright regulation of the American political debate
- Bringing back the Fairness Doctrine would amount to government control over political views expressed on the public airwaves. It is a dangerous proposal to suggest the government should be in the business of rationing free speech.
- Congress must take action to ensure that this archaic remnant of a bygone era of American radio does not return. There is nothing fair about the Fairness Doctrine.
- In June, Rep. Mike Pence (R-IN) offered an amendment to H.R. 2829, the Financial Services Appropriations Bill that would ban the Fairness Doctrine for the current fiscal year. There were 309 Members of the House who voted for the amendment, but more must be done. This led Rep. Pence to introduce H.R. 2905, the Broadcaster Freedom Act along with Rep. Greg Walden of Oregon.
- The Broadcaster Freedom Act will prohibit the Federal Communications Commission from prescribing rules, regulations, or policies that will reinstate the requirement that broadcasters present opposing viewpoints in controversial issues of public importance. The Broadcaster Freedom Act will prevent the FCC or any future President from reinstating the Fairness Doctrine. This legislation ensures true freedom and fairness will remain on our radio airwaves.
- In October, Reps. Pence and Walden sent a letter to the Speaker of the House, the Majority Leader, and the Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee seeking immediate action on the Broadcaster Freedom Act. After receiving no response and no action to schedule the bill for further consideration, the two lawmakers filed a discharge petition on the Broadcaster Freedom Act.
- The discharge petition currently has 200 signatures. If 218 Members of Congress sign this petition, we can demand an up-or-down vote on legislation that would keep the Fairness Doctrine from ever coming back.
- If 218 Members of Congress will sign the Discharge Petition on H.R. 2905, The Broadcaster Freedom Act will come to the floor and it will pass, because, as we witnessed in the vote on the Free Flow of Information Act, when freedom gets an up or down vote in the People's House, freedom always wins.



THE HOUSE GOP SECURITY AGENDA: PROTECTING AMERICAN FAMILIES AT HOME AND ABROAD

American families today face an array of growing threats to their security. Because of flawed Washington policies that prohibit the production of American-made energy, gas prices are skyrocketing, and America's energy supply is vulnerable to manipulation and blackmail by foreign dictators. Illegal immigration continues and our borders are still open. In many communities, crime is on the rise. And our intelligence agencies still do not have all the tools they need to stay one step ahead of the terrorists who seek to kill innocent Americans here at home.

This has to change. Washington is broken. It will take a Republican Congress to fix it.

A Republican majority will work to lower gas prices and make America more energy independent, secure our borders once and for all, take on the rising criminal threats in our communities, and give terrorists plotting new attacks no place to hide. Here is how we will do it:

- We will lower gas prices and move America away from its dangerous dependence on foreign oil through an "all of the above" energy reform strategy.
- We will continue to fight for a more democratic, stable, and secure world by preemptively combating terrorism, preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and isolating rogue nation states.
- We will support our troops in harm's way, take care of our veterans and make sure our reservists and National Guard receive the benefits they have earned through their service.
- We will crack down on the gangs in our communities by establishing anti-gang task forces across the country and impose tougher penalties on gang-related crimes.
- We will protect our children through new laws to stop sex predators before they harm kids, and ensure that a child cannot be transported across a state border for an abortion without the consent of a parent or legal guardian.
- We will combat cybercrime and help Americans protect their personal information from identity theft.
- We will continue to combat the drug epidemic in our country and impose tougher penalties for trafficking the drugs that are destroying our communities.
- We will bring state-of-the-art technologies and old-fashioned American might to bear in securing our borders and our ports.

For more details on the House GOP security agenda, read on. . .



ENERGY SECURITY

For years, flawed Washington policies have prevented new production of American-made energy, driving up gas prices and making America dangerously dependent on foreign oil. These flawed Washington policies have enriched foreign regimes hostile to U.S. interests, including the regime of Venezuelan socialist dictator Hugo Chavez, whose country is currently America's fourth-largest supplier of imported oil. Chavez is a close ally of Iranian leader Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, whose nation is a leading state sponsor of terrorism. Chavez has worked in tandem with the Iranian leader to encourage OPEC to drive up international oil prices at the expense of American families and consumers. At the same time, Chavez has provided free oil shipments to Cuba, helping to prop up the island nation's entrenched communist regime.

A Republican majority will:

- Lower gas prices and move America away from its dangerous dependence on foreign oil through an "all of the above" energy reform strategy that includes increasing supply, expanding environmentally sound production of American energy, promoting new technologies to deliver new, cleaner energy, and providing incentives to increase our energy efficiency.
- End misguided federal rules that prevent the use of 21st century environmentally-responsible technology to produce oil and natural gas in the Alaskan coastal plain and deep ocean energy zones; increase American refinery capacity; accelerate development of clean, alternative energy sources; encourage free-market energy innovation; and provide incentives to boost conservation and efficiency.
- Cut red tape that prevents the construction of new American oil refineries, and allow land from decommissioned military bases closed under the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission to be used as locations for new American oil refineries.

NEIGHBORHOOD SECURITY

As part of our effort to lead a national crackdown on violent gangs, a Republican majority will:

- Establish anti-gang task forces, which would include federal, state and local law enforcement authorities in order to combat gang activity.
- Impose tougher penalties for interstate gang-related crimes, including racketeering, firearms and drug trafficking Offenses, and murder-for-hire.
- Increase enforcement against the criminal use of guns.
- Impose tough penalties for violent crimes and drug crimes committed by illegal aliens, alien gangs, or those that smuggle illegal aliens across the border.

As part of our effort to lead a national crackdown on child predators, a Republican majority will:

- Impose mandatory minimum penalties for possession of child pornography.
- Impose tougher penalties for sexual exploitation of children.
- Impose tough penalties for the financial facilitation of Internet child pornography through virtual money.
- Provide law enforcement agencies the tools to identify child pornographers and operators of child pornography websites.
- Require background checks of applicants for K-12 teaching positions and ensure states and school districts can share information on employees who have a record of criminal misconduct against children.

As part of our effort to promote stronger communities, a Republican majority will:

- Increase punishments for criminals who commit crimes against the most vulnerable amongst us.
- Ensure that a child cannot be transported across a state border for an abortion without the consent of a parent or legal guardian.
- Protect communities and voluntary organizations from governmental discrimination.
- Institute "loser pays" in non-governmental constitutional rights suits filed against voluntary civic or religious organizations.



BORDER SECURITY & HOMELAND SECURITY

Americans – and millions of immigrants who are desperately and legally seeking asylum on America’s shores – are outraged by illegal immigration. To end the threat of illegal immigration and help current and aspiring Americans who respect our laws, a Republican majority will:

- Secure our borders to prevent illegal entry.
- Pass reforms to support the deportation of violent criminals who are illegal immigrants.

To strengthen homeland security, a Republican majority will:

- Improve emergency planning and first responder training grants.
- Ensure cyber-security against terrorists and criminals.

NATIONAL SECURITY & VETERANS’ SECURITY

To champion freedom and help our troops and intelligence personnel defeat radical Islamic jihadists throughout the world, a Republican majority will:

- Supply our troops with everything they need to win the Global War on Terror.
- Support our military in incorporating the lessons of counter-insurgency learned in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- Defend the Jewish state of Israel.
- Support policies that preemptively combat terrorism, prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and reject state-sponsorship of terrorism by the Iranian regime and others.
- Install a missile defense shield with our NATO and Pacific allies.
- Strengthen our intelligence and security agencies by expanding our human intelligence gathering; increasing the accuracy of analysis; intensifying our counter-intelligence to catch foreign spies; and strengthening our military and industrial cyber-defenses.
- Give our national security personnel the tools and support needed to comprehensively identify and prepare for future national security threats and challenges.
- Support creation of a Liberty Alliance of free nations dedicated to expanding human liberty to oppressed peoples. U.S. contributions will be redirected from current U.N. dues.
- Support free nations threatened by the interventionism of Hugo Chavez; maintain our embargo on the Cuban dictatorship; and press for reform of regimes throughout the world that restrict freedom and oppress their people.

To ensure all veterans and especially our citizen soldiers in the National Guard and reserves, who have sacrificed so much alongside America’s active duty military forces, receive the benefits they have earned and deserve, a Republican majority will:

- Ensure Congress keeps its promises to our veterans who have served our country with honor, including medical benefits, new and increased college tuition GI Bill benefits to match rising costs of higher education and the long-overdue ability to transfer GI Bill benefits to spouses and children – an accomplishment by House Republicans in the recent troop funding bill.
- Eliminate the backlog in veterans’ benefits claims by improving the effectiveness of VA training programs, by using information technology and by simplifying claims processing.
- Improve veterans’ health care through expanded choice and other reforms to be detailed in the forthcoming House Republican health care reform agenda.
- Require full implementation and continued oversight of the Wounded Warrior Assistance Act by federal agencies and facilities to ensure top quality care for wounded service members.
- Simplify and streamline the disability retirement system for veterans with disabilities attributable to military service.
- Strengthen the federal commitment to hiring veterans, especially service-disabled veterans, and improve private sector employment opportunities for veterans, including those who require retraining to acquire new skills for reentering the workforce.
- Ensure the federal contracting goals for service-



THE HOUSE REPUBLICAN ECONOMIC REFORM AGENDA: LOWER GAS PRICES, CUT THE PORK, STOP THE TAX HIKE

AMERICANS ARE PAYING RECORD HIGH GAS PRICES. NOW PORK-BARRELING DEMOCRATIC POLITICIANS WANT YOU TO PAY RECORD HIGH TAXES, TOO. IT WILL TAKE A REPUBLICAN MAJORITY TO STOP IT AND FIX A BROKEN WASHINGTON.

- Families and small businesses are being pummeled by soaring gas prices, which are squeezing family budgets and endangering American jobs. Instead of taking action to increase production of American energy and help families struggling with the rising cost of living, the Democratic Congress is imposing the largest tax increase in American history to bankroll billions in new pork-barrel spending and bigger government.
- This has to change. American families and small businesses need comprehensive energy reform – not a tax increase that will kill jobs and further squeeze family budgets.
- If put in charge of Congress, Republicans will take action immediately to create jobs and protect families. We'll put our nation on a path to permanent energy independence and security. We'll also stop the Democrats' tax increase, cut the pork, and put America's economy back on track.

A REPUBLICAN MAJORITY WILL:

- I. Lower gas prices
- II. Cut the pork
- III. Stop the tax hike
- IV. Fix Washington to ensure long-term economic growth

For further details, read on...



I. A REPUBLICAN MAJORITY WILL LOWER GAS PRICES

We'll lower gas prices by increasing supply, expanding environmentally sound production of American energy, promoting new technologies to deliver new, cleaner energy and provide incentives to increase our energy efficiency—implementing energy reforms long delayed at America's expense by short-sighted Democratic politicians, including increasing environmentally-responsible production of oil and natural gas in areas such as the Alaskan coastal plain and deep ocean energy zones. (Click [here](#) for complete text of the House Republican energy reform plan)

II. A REPUBLICAN MAJORITY WILL CUT THE PORK

- We will restore fiscal responsibility in Washington by reining in spending and balancing the federal budget by 2012 without raising taxes.
- We will enact an immediate moratorium on congressional earmarks and establish a bipartisan panel to fundamentally reform how Washington spends taxpayer dollars.
- We will reduce the size of government by making it more efficient and transparent while eliminating duplicative or wasteful programs.
- We will limit the growth of federal spending to a level families can afford by adopting a spending limit that would prohibit federal spending from growing faster than the economy except in time of war or national emergency.
- Instead of giving tax breaks to rich trial lawyers, we will enact reforms to stop lawsuit abuse and prevent American jobs from being destroyed by abuse of the legal system.

III. A REPUBLICAN MAJORITY WILL STOP THE TAX HIKE

- We will stop the largest tax increase in American history on workers, parents, married couples, small businesses, and those saving for retirement. We will offer new tax breaks for Americans—including eliminating the unfair Alternative Minimum Tax and making the Internet permanently tax-free.
- We will end a tax code that is too long, too complex and too unfair by providing individuals an alternative, two-tier flat tax system that can be filed on one page. Taxpayers can choose the new, simplified system or stay with the current tax code—whichever option suits them.
- We will make the tax code more family-friendly by reforming the child tax credit and lowering taxes on retirement benefits.

IV. A REPUBLICAN MAJORITY WILL FIX A BROKEN WASHINGTON TO SUPPORT LONG-TERM ECONOMIC GROWTH

- To encourage a welfare safety net that fosters marriage and work, we will extend many of the current welfare work requirements to other programs—namely food stamps and housing—so that those who are not old, young, or disabled are either working in the private sector or serving in their community.
- We will strengthen education by supporting increased state and local control and flexibility, increasing parental options through school choice, and encouraging states to provide extra support for good teachers through teacher performance pay initiatives.
- We will tear down barriers that prevent U.S. products from being sold abroad. We will reject policies that retreat from world trade and segregate America from the rest of the world, in favor of policies that level the playing field for American employees and employers and give our workers the ability to go toe-to-toe with workers overseas.
- We will level the playing field for American workers and start importing jobs here by cutting taxes on those who create American jobs.
- We will save Social Security and Medicare by reforming these programs to put them on a fiscally responsible path, address their unfunded liabilities, and ensure they can continue to meet the needs of future generations of seniors.
- We will strengthen homeownership in America through a series of reforms that encourage home purchases and help needy homeowners who are truly victims.
- We will reform and improve our current health care system. The House GOP health care reform plan, to be unveiled in detail in the coming weeks, will include reforms that will help small businesses deal with skyrocketing health care costs and help patients by broadening the array of health insurance choices available to them by allowing them to purchase health plans available in other states.

July 2008

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Month: -National Recreation and Parks Month -UV Safety Month -Fireworks Safety Month -Ice Cream Month			1 District Work Period	2	3	4 Independence Day	5
6 President George W. Bush's Birthday (1946) 1st official Republican meeting in Jackson, MI (1854)	7 G-8 Summit in Japan	8 Votes – 6:30 p.m.	9 GOP Conference Meeting (HC-5) 14th Amendment ratified (1868)	10	11	12	
	13	14 Votes – 6:30 p.m.	15 GOP Conference Meeting (Cannon Caucus) FEC Quarterly Report Due	16	17 Congressional Baseball Game	18	19 160th Anniversary – Women's Rights Convention at Seneca Falls (1848)
20 FEC Monthly Report Due	21 Anniversary of Neil Armstrong's walk on the moon (1969)	22 Votes – 6:30 p.m. 9/11 Commission report issued (2004)	23 GOP Conference Meeting (Cannon Caucus)	24	25	26 Armed Services Unified-Executive Order ending Segregation (1984)	
27 Parents' Day	28 World War I begins (1914)	29 Votes – 6:30 p.m. NASA established (1958)	30 Medicare & Medicaid law signed (1965)	31	1	Note: August District Work Period commences August 4.	