



CARTER COURIER

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OCTOBER 17, 2008

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 17

LETTER FROM THE CONGRESSMAN

Dear Friends,

I have traveled around the district throughout the past weeks visiting many of you and discussing those important issues that affect Central Texans. Overwhelmingly, the issue that is most important to you is the economy. Like the rest of America, we want to see our economy grow strong once again. While we are experiencing tougher times, we must remember that America is still a country with great opportunity for anyone with a strong work ethic and good ideas. Texans will get through these tough times, and as your Congressman I will continue to work to improve the strength of our economy.

As always, I will continue fighting for the conservative principles that are so important to the people of the 31st District.

Until next week,



OUR CENTRAL TEXAS VALUES

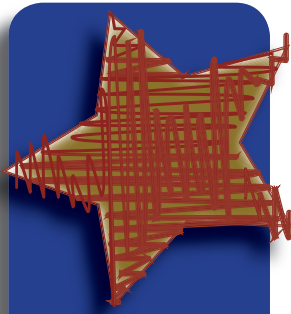
Now, maybe more than ever, the media is full of political scandals and mudslinging. The recent allegations of Rep. Tim Mahoney have flooded the news outlets, as well as stories linking Senator Obama to William Ayers, a founding member of the group that bombed the U.S. Capitol and the Pentagon during the 1970s. Not to mention the coverage surrounding the ACORN scandal and the fraudulent registration. With all the negative coverage out there, it is hard to remember the true reason for standing in line at the polls. When you cast your ballot in the upcoming weeks, remember the issues that are important to you.

As a Judge in Williamson County for over 20 years, and the Congressman for 6 years, I know what issues are important to Central Texans. Our region is full of commonsense people who want to work hard, protect their homes and families, and leave the next generation better off than the last.

Doing this means protecting your right to keep and bear arms. That is why I am proud to be a member of the National Rifle Association (NRA). This right is one of the most important granted in the Constitution because our Founding Fathers intended it to be the means by which Americans can guarantee all other rights. I believe that Congress must defend the rights of gun owners and that imposing

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federal gun regulation often creates burdens for law-abiding citizens and infringes upon constitutional rights.

I know that Central Texans want to see our economy grow strong once again. While our economy has experienced slower times of late, we are still a country with great opportunity for anyone with a strong work ethic and good ideas. However, Congress must work to maintain and improve this strength. I firmly believe that the first step in stimulating our economy is to implement legislation to provide tax relief for small businesses and American families. In order for tax cuts to be fruitful for our economy, Congress needs to drastically decrease federal spending. During a time where economic security is uncertain, the most important thing we can do is allow you to keep more of your hard-earned money. I will continue to work for lower taxes and will support other policies that create more economic opportunities for hard-working Americans.

Central Texans want to see America reduce its dependence from foreign oil. By exploring alternative and traditional sources of energy within the jurisdiction of the United States, our energy independence and national security can be improved. I believe Congress should implement legislation that will encourage conservation and promote the research and innovation necessary to develop new technologies. But, while doing this, we must also unlock new oil supply. Texans still put gasoline in their cars and trucks so we can't expect new technology to take the place of oil and gas overnight. I believe that creating a renewable energy portfolio-wind, solar, hydro-power, geothermal and ethanol-while maximizing our use of domestic fossil fuels-coal, oil and natural gas-will allow us to plan for our future needs while providing enough energy for today.

The rising cost of health care has caused many Texans to choose between basic needs and insurance. I know that Central Texans want more affordable health care. I believe that Congress should adopt a plan that promotes patients' choice among physicians and pharmacists as well as drugs and services over the government's choice. We need a plan that allows your health care coverage to stay with you should you switch employers. We need to implement reforms so that we can see the true cost of health care. Currently, our patchwork system, government and private based insurance are laden with fees and underlying costs. We can't begin to reduce costs until we first uncover the true cost of health care.

Border security and immigration issues are two of the most important issues facing Central Texans right now. I have devoted much of my time in Washington to this issue, and have been a strong advocate for an "enforcement first" approach. While I agree that the entire immigration system in our country should be overhauled in the near future, successful immigration policy begins by securing our nation's border. We must know who is entering and exiting our country. I remain strongly opposed to any sort of amnesty program. If you reward illegal immigrants with citizenship, that is amnesty, simply put. I do not believe that illegal immigrants should be rewarded for breaking our laws, while millions of immigrants are waiting in line to become American citizens.

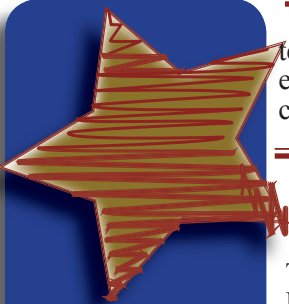
I am a proud American and a proud Texan. There is nothing that we cannot overcome with hard work and a determined spirit. We still have the power to affect great change in the world and be the beacon of hope for all humanity. Our conservative values, along with our tried-and-true Texas spirit make our region the best in the nation. I know how important these values are to you, and I will continue to uphold them as I represent you in Congress.

TEMPLE HOUSING AUTHORITY AWARDED HUD GRANT

I recently announced that the Housing Authority of the City of Temple was awarded a \$150,000 Resident Opportunities for Self Sufficiency (ROSS) Public Housing Neighborhood Networks (NN) grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

I am proud to represent the Temple Housing Authority and congratulate them on receiving this grant. As the Representative for Central Texas, I know what a great impact this grant will have on families who live in Temple. These funds will help community technology centers provide residents with access to computers, computer training and the Internet. These funds will also assist with equipment upgrades, expansion of services and needed physical improvements.

The Public Housing NN program funds new and existing community technology centers.



Existing centers may be upgraded to add equipment, make necessary physical improvements and expand services. New centers are established when there is no infrastructure, space or equipment currently in use for a computer technology center.

CARTER SECURES FUNDING FOR ROUND ROCK HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER

This past week I had the privilege to announce that \$1.52 million was included in the 2009 Defense Appropriations bill for Texas State University to establish a center for geospatial intelligence and investigation that will enhance the Criminal Justice Program at the Round Rock Higher Education Center.

I am pleased to have secured funding for this program that will give tools to RRHEC and will enhance their criminal justice program. This program will ultimately teach our soldiers and law enforcement how to track terrorist activities.

CARTER OPPOSES BAILOUT

The economic future of America is uncertain, and the bad news seems to be piling on. Unemployment rates are rising as hardworking Americans are losing their jobs. The fiscally irresponsible policies of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac implemented by Congress, with the policies of the Clinton administration, have caused some of our oldest and most revered financial institutions to teeter towards the edge of insolvency.

While all of these seem disheartening, we should take comfort in knowing that during these times of peril and difficulty, Americans band together and respond with greatness.

Twice last week I voted “NO” to a bailout bill that would give the same financial companies that created this crisis \$700 billion of American taxpayer money. I strongly believe that poor decisions made in the private sector should not be bailed-out by taxpayers. Unfortunately, many of my colleagues believed we were out of time and had to act immediately. I believe that if we had taken a little extra time, we could have created an economic “workout” plan paid for by Wall Street, rather than you, the American taxpayer.

At a time when recession seems certain, American resourcefulness and ingenuity can temper the economic decline of the financial sector with new growth in the energy sector. Now, maybe more than ever, Congress needs to unleash the American Energy Act. This act will bolster American creativity by creating thousands of jobs in the energy sector. In the short term, jobs could be created through new energy exploration and production in the Outer Continental Shelf and ANWR. Jobs would also be created by the first new construction of oil refineries in the United States since the 70s.

The American Energy Act does not stop at conventional oil production. New jobs will be created through the expansion of alternative energy research and development. The United States is the Saudi Arabia of coal, and this energy plan will reward companies investing in clean coal technology. New jobs will be generated by expansion of wind, solar and additional nuclear energy, all of which are great for our economy and easy on the environment.

Most importantly, the American Energy Act will decrease our reliance on foreign oil. It will no longer be necessary to export billions of dollars in order to import the oil we need to meet the energy demands of our country. This is money that can be reinvested into the infrastructure of the United States and used to create new jobs and expand economic growth.

America stands at a crossroads. We can choose to accept the looming economic problems as inevitable, or we can choose to act decisively in order to make this economic crisis as short and painless to the American people as possible. I refuse to sit on the sidelines during this time of uncertainty, and I will continue to push for sound energy policies that will positively affect the current economic situation.