



CARTER COURIER

<http://carter.house.gov>

JULY 11, 2008

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 11

LETTER FROM THE CONGRESSMAN

Dear Friends,

This past week I had the opportunity to join my family and visit constituents back home in Texas. The number one concern in the district is the rising prices of gasoline, and while many different issues face Central Texans, this issue will continue to be on the forefront. I spoke with many of you in person or during my tele-town halls about this, and let me assure you, I will continue to put pressure on House Democrats to pass legislation that allows for the exploration of all types of American made energy, including oil and natural gas.

As always, I thank all of you in the 31st District for the opportunity to serve you in Congress and will keep you updated on the latest information regarding important issues. God Bless Texas!

Until next week,



USE IT OR LOSE IT FULL OF FALSE INFORMATION

This week I introduced an amendment to the FY 09 Homeland Security With Texas families and small businesses continuing to feel the pain at the pump, Congress has yet to bring forth an energy plan that will lower gas prices.

You may have heard of the Majority's "use it or lose it" proposal. This plan calls for Congress to force energy companies to "use" their leased federal lands to produce oil – or "lose" those leases. The truth is that "use it or lose it" is already the law of the land. Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Hoyer each voted for it in 1992. Under the law, federal energy lease holders already must produce oil or natural gas within five to 10 years after drilling begins. If companies fail to comply, the Secretary of the Interior has the power to cancel the lease. If Pelosi and Hoyer have already voted for this legislation, and it is already law, why are they insisting on bringing up another bill to do the exact same thing? Perhaps, it could be because they have no meaningful plan of their own to bring down gas prices.

The "use it or lose it" plan claims that energy companies are sitting on 68 million acres of federal land without exploring or drilling for oil and natural gas; however, this is nowhere near the truth. According to the American Petroleum Institute, companies actively develop their leases-but not every lease contains oil or natural gas in large enough quantities. Companies can evaluate leases for several years only to determine that they do not contain oil or natural gas. Those

CONTENTS

"Use It or Lose It" Full of False Information
1-2

Supreme Court Decision to Overturn D.C. Gun Ban
2

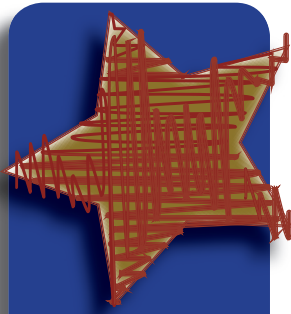
Outreach Schedule
2

Republicans Call 3.2 Million Americans to Talk Energy
2

Weekly Radio Address
2

Senate Confirms Odierno
3

Bipartisan FISA Bill Signed Into Law
3



of us in Texas know that it is not easy to bring oil and natural gas to the market. There is a long and costly process of obtaining the lease, evaluation and exploration before you can even begin the production phase.

Another false claim is the accusation that 4.8 million barrels of oil per day and 44.7 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day may be 'extrapolated' from the oil companies' unused federally-leased lands. The truth is that no Democrat or any federal authority can provide a source for this information. In fact, earlier this week, The American Association of Petroleum Geologists (an independent group funded by member fees, not oil companies) wrote Congress to explain the process of developing oil and gas leases, which completely goes against these facts.

The truth is that the only way to lower gas prices is to explore for new American energy in an environmentally safe way as well as increase our conservation. I remain committed to working in a bipartisan manner to increase the supply of American energy, promote conservation and help lower prices at the pump. Congress can't do that by simply voting on misleading or inaccurate bills that do nothing to solve the problem. I call on my Democratic colleagues to work with Republicans and produce energy legislation that will provide the American people with the relief they desperately are seeking.

CARTER APPLAUDS SUPREME COURT DECISION TO OVERTURN D.C. GUN BAN

The U.S. Supreme Court recently overturned Washington D.C.'s 32-year ban on handguns.

The decision is a huge victory for law-abiding citizens in Washington D.C. The right to keep and bear arms is a constitutional right which was intended for every American citizen, and should not exclude those who reside in the District of Columbia or any other state.

As a district judge for over 20 years, I remain dedicated to protecting the rights our forefathers put forth and cherish the freedom I have as an American to protect myself and my family. Now, after a 32-year battle over this right, I am proud to see that my fellow Americans who live in Washington, D.C. can do the same.

CAMERON, ROCKDALE & COPPERAS COVE OUTREACH SCHEDULE

In order to better serve the constituents of the 31st District, the caseworkers of my office will be traveling to towns throughout the district and setting up local office hours. During these hours constituents can ask questions about services that my office offers or seek help with problems dealing with federal agencies.

Cameron: Tues. July 22, 2008 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. (Bea's Kitchen, 101 E. Main)

Rockdale: Tues. July 22, 2008 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Central TX Workforce, 313 N. Main)

Copperas Cove: Thurs. July 31, 2008 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. (Chamber, 204 E Robertson Ave.)

REPUBLICANS CALL 3.2 MILLION AMERICANS TO TALK ENERGY

In a major collaborative effort to speak with millions of constituents regarding skyrocketing gas prices, House Republicans called some 3.2 million households throughout the country during the last two weeks in June. The effort was in response to surging gas prices and the direct affect they have on American families. These tele-town hall events allowed constituents to participate in "live" interactive question-and-answer sessions over the phone with Republican officials.

Democrats abruptly left town without addressing our nation's energy crisis. This isn't what the American people elected us to do, and after talking with my constituents, the vast majority of them want Congress to take every reasonable action to bring gas prices down. This includes promoting conservation and opening up America's energy supply.

Republicans remain committed to working in a bipartisan manner to increase the supply of energy, and we will use every opportunity to talk about solutions with our constituents.

CARTER'S WEEKLY RADIO ADDRESS NOW AVAILABLE

In this week's 7:31 minute address, I discuss Congress' lack of action on a number of bills including energy. The audio file is available for download on my website at <http://carter.house.gov/multimedia> (right click on "MP3" and select "Save Target As" to download.)

SENATE CONFIRMS GENERAL ODIERNO

This week the Senate confirmed Lt. Gen. Raymond Odierno to replace Gen. Petraeus as the commander of the chief military officer in Iraq.

As the Representative for Fort Hood, Texas, the largest military base in the nation and the former station of General Odierno, I have had the privilege to meet with him both in Texas and on the ground in Iraq. He worked hand in hand with General Petraeus to implement the new counter-insurgency strategy in Iraq. I can tell you that there is no one better qualified to lead our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. We in Texas are proud of our new General and look forward to his success.

The Senate voted 95-2 in favor of Gen. David Petraeus as the top commander in the Middle East and 96-1 for Lt. Gen. Odierno to replace Petraeus as the chief military officer in Iraq. General Odierno will receive a 4th star as part of his promotion.

BIPARTISAN FISA BILL IS A VICTORY FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Texans know that there is nothing more important than the safety of our children and grandchildren, and after months of political antics, Congress finally sent a clear message to our enemies that we will not take this security for granted.

This week, in a victory for the American people, the President signed into law the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA). This bipartisan bill modernizes the outdated 1970's-era law which was written to protect Americans from 1970's threats. Communicating in the 70s was very different than communicating today. There was no Internet, email or cell phones. Dealing with a 21st century al-Qaeda with 1970's tools doesn't work, and although this bill is long overdue, I am glad to finally see the Democrat leadership compromise in order to get it passed.

If we are serious about protecting the American people, as well as our soldiers abroad, then we must give our intelligence officials the tools they need to monitor terrorists plotting to kill Americans and our allies. This bipartisan measure provides tools, safeguards the civil liberties of every American, and adds critical retroactive liability protections for telecommunication companies that assisted our government after 9/11.

House Republicans worked hard to ensure that the process by which telecommunication companies receive liability protection is not subject to a feeding frenzy of trial lawyers. This bill instructs federal district courts to dismiss civil law suits filed against companies that worked with the federal government to snuff out possible terrorist attacks after September 11.

House Democrats have done the right thing and compromised on this critical issue after they stalled for months. 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 five months ago.

I have said repeatedly that keeping America safe from terrorist attacks is not, and never should be, a partisan issue. I am pleased to see both parties come together for the safety of Americans. I will continue to fight to give our intelligence community the tools they need to keep our country safe, and I hope this compromise signals the beginning of both parties working together for the betterment of our country.