



CONGRESSMAN DAN LIPINSKI

Representing the Third District

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE | SPRING 2008

Dear Neighbor,

Today, Americans are working harder and finding everyday life more difficult because of record high gas prices, unaffordable health care, high local taxes, a sinking housing market, a shaky economy, skyrocketing college tuition, and other increasing burdens.

As your representative my top priority is being a leader in the fight to help Third District residents – especially middle class families and seniors – cope with these hardships. This newsletter provides you with an update on how I have been working for you on these issues at home and in Washington, and some of the successes we have recently achieved.

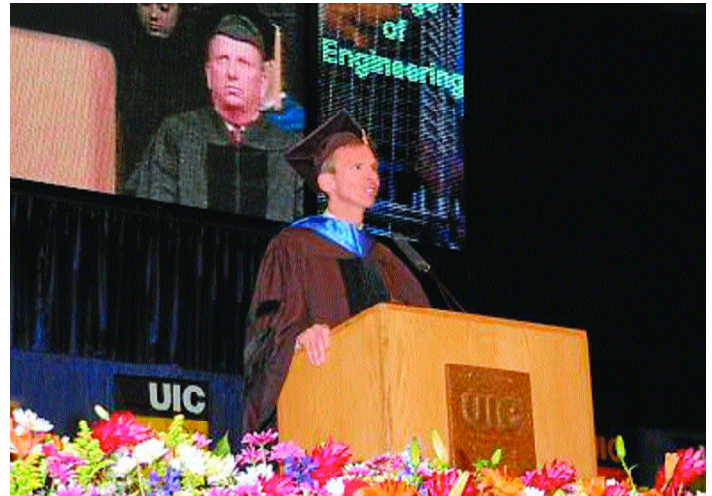
On June 21st, I will be holding a Town Hall Meeting at the Louis S. Viverito Senior Center in Burbank to give us an opportunity to discuss these and other issues of interest to you.

If you are unable to make it to this meeting and you wish to share your concerns about an issue, or if you have questions or problems in regard to Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Veterans' Benefits, or other programs, please contact me at any of the offices listed below. For additional information and updates,

TOWN HALL MEETING hosted by Congressman Lipinski

Saturday, June 21, 2008 at 10:30 a.m.
Louis S. Viverito Senior Center
7745 South Leamington in Burbank, Illinois

Congressional Staff will be available starting one hour prior for assistance with issues related to federal agencies.



Representative Lipinski delivered the keynote address at the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Engineering Commencement ceremony where he congratulated graduates and discussed the importance of developing alternative energy solutions.

or to sign up to receive newsletters delivered to you by E-mail, please visit www.lipinski.house.gov.

It is an honor to serve you. Please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Dan Lipinski

Congressional Assistance is available locally at one of the offices listed below:

6245 South Archer Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60638
312-886-0481

5309 West 95th Street
Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453
708-424-0853

19 West Hillgrove Avenue
LaGrange, Illinois 60525
708-352-0524

Fighting High Gas Prices

Long Term Solutions

In the long term we must develop clean alternative energy sources that protect our environment and provide energy security for the country. Earlier this year, Rep. Lipinski cosponsored and helped pass the Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act which cuts subsidies for big oil companies to pay for tax credits for increased production of renewable electricity from sources such as solar, wind, fuel cells, and biodiesel. The bill also creates tax incentives for energy efficient commercial buildings and improvements to existing homes such as the purchase of energy efficient dishwashers, clothes washers and refrigerators. In addition, on May 21, Rep. Lipinski helped pass the Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act which provides nearly \$20 billion in tax incentives for renewable energy, carbon capture and sequestration projects, energy efficiency, and conservation.

Last year, Rep. Lipinski—as Vice-Chairman of the House Committee on Science and Technology—introduced and helped pass into law two pieces of

legislation that will reduce our dependence on oil and combat global warming. The H-Prize Act of 2007 establishes \$50 million in cash prizes for advances in the use of hydrogen as a pollution-free replacement for gasoline. The BRIGHT Energy Savings Act requires all federal buildings to transition to energy efficient light bulbs, saving energy and saving tens of millions of dollars for taxpayers.



At a district event, Congressman Lipinski discusses energy issues and takes a test drive in a GM Hydrogen car.

Americans are being pummeled by record high gas prices and a faltering economy. And with gas costing more than \$4 a gallon, Chicago area residents are paying some of the highest prices in the nation. At the same time, oil corporations are reaping record profits.

Short Term Relief

The oil and gas industries claim that the solution to high prices is to open environmentally sensitive federal lands to drilling. However, these companies are currently not using more than 33 of the 44 million acres they are leasing on the Outer Continental Shelf and 33 of the 40 million acres they have under lease on federal lands.

Instead, to fight high prices Rep. Lipinski helped pass legislation that cracks down on gas price gougers and holds OPEC accountable for price fixing, and is working to pass a bill that imposes a windfall profits tax on the oil industry.

Rep. Lipinski is also cosponsoring the COMMUTER Act of 2008 that gives tax breaks for companies that offer their employees no-cost public transportation vouchers. This could save current Metra, CTA, and Pace commuters over \$1200 a year and encourage more people to take public transit and cut down on gasoline purchases.



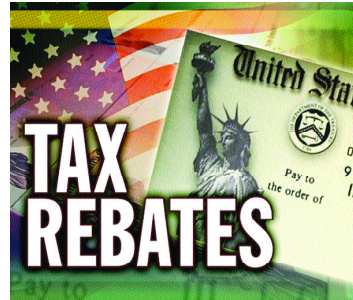
Putting Money in Taxpayer's Pockets

American families have been hit hard by skyrocketing energy and health care costs, a failing housing market, and increasing job insecurity. Middle class families are working harder than ever but struggling to make ends meet.

To assist Third District residents in meeting these challenges, Congressman Lipinski helped pass into law H.R. 5140, the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008. This Act will provide tax rebates to more than 130 million middle class households to help families face their economic hardships and jump start the economy. These rebates will amount to \$600 for most individuals and \$1,200 for married couples, with additional rebates for families with children. These rebates began in May by direct deposit and paper check.

To ensure that more people who need assistance will benefit from this stimulus package, Rep. Lipinski

helped pass a provision that will allow individuals and couples to count Social Security benefits, veterans benefits, and Railroad Retirement benefits towards the \$3,000 in earned income necessary to qualify for a rebate check. However, all individuals must file a 2007 income tax return in order to receive their payment, even if they normally are not required to file.



The IRS website, www.irs.gov, is the best place to learn additional information about the rebate including the

amount you should receive. If you have not yet received your payment, check the website or call Congressman Lipinski's office for help.

Increasing College Financial Aid



Congressman Lipinski speaks with students at St. Louis de Montfort School regarding the importance of studying hard in school and pursuing a college education.

As a former college educator, Representative Lipinski knows how critical a college degree is for an individual in today's job market and for our nation's future prosperity. That is why he helped pass the College Affordability Act, H.R. 4137, which expands access to college by improving financial aid programs and removing obstacles that deter students from applying for aid, such as a complicated application process and predatory lending practices. It also facilitates greater access to information about college costs such as textbook prices. In addition, Congress recently approved and the President signed into law the Ensuring Continued Access to Students Loans Act of 2008 to ensure that students and parents have continued access to college financial aid during the current turmoil in the U.S. credit market.

Leading the Fight for Local Transportation Needs

Congressman Lipinski continues to fight to secure funding for local transportation projects that improve commutes for area residents. On May 12, former Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert and former Congressman Glenn Poshard – co-chairs of the Illinois Works Coalition – came to the Third District to hear from local leaders about the need for state funding for local transportation projects (pictured at right).

The top priorities discussed at the meeting were funding to continue the CREATE Rail Modernization Program and funding to implement groundbreaking for the Central Avenue Bypass. When completed these projects will ease congestion on the roads with new underpasses,



saving area residents time and money on the roads and helping speed passenger rail service.

In the last federal transportation funding bill Rep. Lipinski secured \$126 million for local projects.

Easing Congestion and Growing Jobs

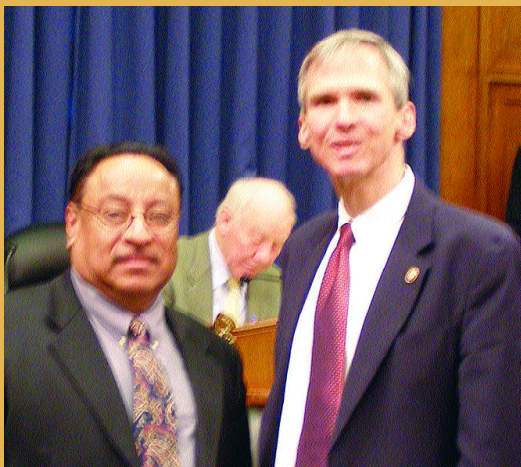
As Congress considers ways to further stimulate the U.S. economy, Representative Lipinski continues to advocate for investments in our nation's deteriorating transportation infrastructure. Every one billion dollars invested in infrastructure creates and supports 47,000 American jobs which cannot be outsourced.

Infrastructure investments are especially important for the Third District and all of Chicagoland. As the nation's rail and aviation hub, and the crossroads

for several major highways, investments in local infrastructure not only benefit area residents and businesses, but also the national economy.

As the only Representative from northern Illinois on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Representative Lipinski will continue to urge congressional leaders and the President to invest more in local and national transportation infrastructure.

Protecting Airline Passengers



Rep. Lipinski and Tony Padilla of the Transport Workers Union discuss concerns about airline mergers at a recent Transportation meeting in D.C.

Nearly every airline passenger has at one time or another experienced long delays, cancellations, or lost luggage. And with the price of flying continuing to soar, these inconveniences are becoming increasingly costly.

Rep. Lipinski has been a strong voice in Congress for aviation consumers. He worked hard to include a "Passengers Bill of Rights" in H.R. 2881, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization.

To help protect consumers in airline mergers, Rep. Lipinski authored a letter – cosigned by 46 other Members of Congress – urging the Attorney General and the Secretary of the Transportation to carefully scrutinize merger proposals to make sure consumer interests are served. Past airline mergers have resulted in fewer flight options, higher tickets costs and increased lost luggage.

Working to Stabilize the Housing Market

Some areas of the Third District are being hit hard by home foreclosures and all homeowners are suffering to some extent from the downturn in the housing market.

To help address the housing crisis at home and across the country, Rep. Lipinski worked to pass H.R. 3221, the Foreclosure Prevention Act, and H.R. 5818, the Neighborhood Stabilization Act. These comprehensive bills provide responsible and fair mortgage refinancing assistance, protect neighboring home values, curb predatory lending practices, and increase financial literacy. A better housing market is critical to the economic well-being of all Americans.

Easing the Digital Television Transition

On February 18, 2009, over-the-air analog television broadcasts are scheduled to end, leaving only digital signals. This switch is intended to free up broadcast space for police, fire, and rescue communications, as well as provide improved picture and sound quality for broadcast television.

In order to make this transition as easy as possible for those who may be impacted by the switch, Congressman Lipinski recently sent a letter to the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission calling for additional outreach efforts to help educate and prepare the public and especially seniors for the upcoming conversion.

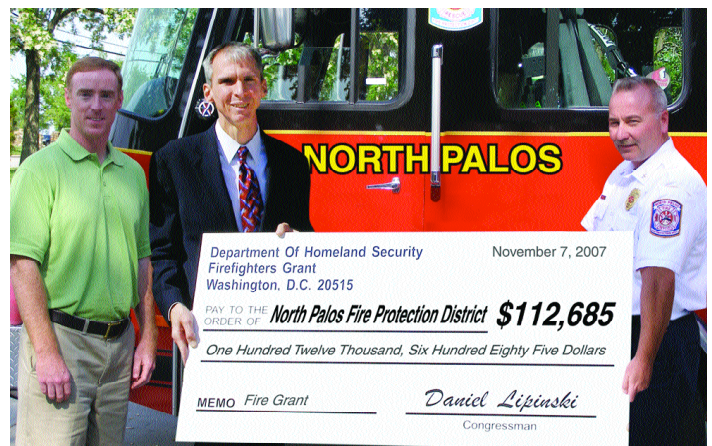


In addition, Rep. Lipinski helped pass legislation that will subsidize purchases of digital-to-analog converter boxes. Each household can apply for up to two \$40 coupons for these boxes.

For more information, visit <http://www.dtv2009.gov>, call 1-888-DTV-2009 (1-888-388-2009), or contact Congressman Lipinski's office.

Assisting Local Fire Departments

Congressman Lipinski has helped more than 20 local fire departments secure over \$3.2 million in federal funding through the Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighter Grants (AFG) program and other sources.



Rep. Lipinski discusses federal fire funding needs with Mayor Mike Howley of Hickory Hills and Battalion Chief Carlson of the North Palos Fire Protection District.

Since October of 2007, the following communities have received funding:

McCook Fire Department	\$28,500
Oak Lawn Fire Department	\$600,000
Willow Springs Fire Department	\$48,200
Burbank Fire Department	\$571,500
North Palos Fire Protection District	\$112,685

Congressional Assistance

As your Congressman, my staff is available to assist you with questions or issues that deal with federal agencies, such as:

- Military Academy appointments
- Obtaining a United States passport
- Social Security and Medicare
- Student financial aid
- U.S. Small Business Administration services
- Immigration, naturalization, and citizenship
- Mail delivery service/issues with the United States Postal Service
- IRS problems
- Consumer protection issues
- Veterans' benefits and military service
- Planning your family and/or class trips to Washington D.C.
- Ordering a flag flown over the United States Capitol building



Rep. Lipinski discusses healthcare needs with area seniors.



Representative Lipinski Honored for Leadership and Support of Troops

Rep. Lipinski was honored by the William McKinley American Legion Post #231 (pictured above) for his leadership and continued support in Congress for our nation's soldiers and veterans. In the 110th Congress, Rep. Lipinski helped to pass several pieces of veterans' legislation, including the biggest funding increase in the history of the VA. In addition, last year he secured nearly half a million dollars for the Catholic Charities of Chicago St. Leo Campus for Veterans that will provide all aspects of rehabilitation services for homeless veterans.

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3rd Congressional District

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A handwritten signature of Dan Lipinski in black ink.

M.C.

Presorted Standard