



# JOHN LINDER

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE FOR GEORGIA

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## SECOND SESSION — 110TH CONGRESS

Thus far 2008 has proven to be an extremely turbulent time in America. Through our discussions in the office and at town hall meetings I have clearly heard your growing concerns about the issues we face.

There is trepidation regarding the state of the economy, and it is clear that the housing situation, the stock market and employment issues are dominating our thoughts this year. The economic and foreclosure numbers mask the fact that these are real American families losing their homes every day. People are looking to Congress to provide long-term economic solutions, job creation and economic growth. Instead, we are dropping government checks around the country – and doing it with borrowed money.

These solutions are merely political and will not achieve long-term economic growth. America needs economic policies that are permanent fixes to critical problems. To truly stabilize our economy, we must make the tax cuts of 2001 and 2003 and the business depreciation schedule permanent. Only through definitive tax relief and fundamental tax reform will we ensure growth and stimulate our economy for decades to come. We must start removing the heavy burden of government from the backs of small businesses and the American people. Only then will we spur the economy and create new jobs.

As all Americans know, the cost of energy has skyrocketed. This dramatic increase has hit Americans at not only gas pumps and grocery stores, but almost every area of our lives. It is for all of these critical reasons that we must pass the American Energy Act. As an original co-sponsor of this bill, I feel it is imperative that my colleagues and I work expeditiously. This comprehensive energy policy will allow exploration of deep water ocean resources and the Arctic coastal plain, provide tax incentives across the board to Americans who promote energy efficiency, and allow the United States to begin developing our vast coal resources. In short, through conservation and domestic exploration, this bill moves America towards energy independence, which we must achieve if our nation is to continue to prosper.

Lastly, I want to update you on the Global War on Terror. It is interesting to note that media coverage has decreased as tremendous progress has been made in Iraq. Violence has decreased; Iraqi Army units are operating alongside U.S. troops in joint security stations, patrol bases, and command outposts; and the Iraqi people now have some quantifiable measure of stability. That said, while U.S. troop casualties have decreased, we must always remember the sacrifices our brave men and women in uniform make everyday, especially those who made the ultimate sacrifice, offering others around the world a chance at freedom.

Sincerely,

## SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS

There is nothing more admirable than the dedication and commitment of the men and women that serve our country. Day after day I am inspired by their bravery and professionalism. It is my belief that as citizens, we should always keep these brave soldiers in our thoughts and prayers. I also hope you will consider supporting them in as many ways as possible. Currently there are several programs where we can simply say thank you to these honorable men and women or make a donation of money or time to honor their efforts. Through organizations like the USO and the Department of Defense you can become involved and assist the many active duty servicemen and women and their families. For more information on these programs please view the following websites: **[www.americasupportsyouth.com](http://www.americasupportsyouth.com) or [www.uso.org](http://www.uso.org)**

## ENERGY UPDATE

Congress is once again standing between the American people and lower gas prices. On July 14, 2008, President Bush boldly moved our country forward and rescinded an 18 year old Executive Order banning oil and natural gas exploration and production on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). Unfortunately, the Democrat-controlled Congress continues to maintain its ban on OCS drilling. Once again – Congress is getting it wrong.

As every high school student who has taken a basic economics class knows, supply and demand is what ultimately controls prices. Increase supply and you will lower the worldwide price of gasoline. To this end, I am pleased to inform you that I have supported and co-sponsored a number of bills, the most recent being H.R. 6566, the “American Energy Act,” that will increase our domestic energy supply and keep more money in the pockets of hard-working Americans. Unfortunately, even though H.R. 6566 has the support of 122 Members of the House, the House Leadership refuses to bring this bill to the House floor for a vote. This is the same House Leadership that told us in 2006 that it had a plan for combating the rising price of gas. To date, it has given us no such plan.

When visionary Members of Congress, both Republican and Democrat, wanted to increase domestic energy production years ago, we were told that it would be inconsequential to America’s energy future because it would take at least a decade to see any meaningful oil production from the OCS. Apparently, for many people in Washington, D.C., planning for the future is just too difficult. For thousands of people in the Seventh Congressional District of Georgia, however, who plan for their children’s college funds, for their own retirement, or just for that rainy day, the idea of planning for ten, twenty, or thirty years in the future makes perfect sense.

I pledge to you that as long as I am a Member of the United States Congress, that I will work tirelessly to convince my colleagues, and all Americans, that we can create a better future by investing in energy production today.

## 21ST CENTURY WATER SECURITY UPDATE

Our country lacks a national vision for what is arguably the most important natural resource on earth - water. There is enough if we manage it correctly, but we are not currently doing that.

There are thousands of water experts all working separately around the country to bring new ideas and technologies to the forefront to enhance our water conservation efforts. We need to bring these people to the same table and evaluate what has worked, and what can work, and make these resources available nation-wide.

My Water Commission bill, H.R. 135, establishes a commission of private-industry water experts who would meet for 3-5 years to study and develop recommendations for a comprehensive water strategy to address our nation’s future water needs. They would then submit their recommendations to Congress and the President.

My bill has passed the House in the last two Congresses, but the Senate has failed to act on it. I am hopeful that this year will be different. I expect the Senate to vote on my bill in the near future, and thanks to Senator Johnny Isakson’s support, there is a real chance that it will pass. The bill passed out of the Senate’s Environment and Public Works Committee in May.

In 1973, our nation’s last National Water Commission report was released. Since then, a number of studies have been done, but none of these has been charged with, or considered a nationwide look at, maintaining and increasing our water supplies. I think you will agree with me that a 35-year hiatus in this inquiry is long enough.

## THE FAIRTAX

Throughout the 110th Congress the FairTax has made enormous progress. As the movement continues to grow larger and larger, gaining greater momentum, not just in Georgia, but throughout the country. Since the beginning of the 110th Congress in January 2007, the FairTax has received 22 new co-sponsors, bringing the total to 72 co-sponsors altogether. Another exciting sign of the growing strength of this grassroots movement is the national media attention that the FairTax garnered during the 2007 Presidential primaries. This has helped to bring the FairTax and tax reform in general, to the forefront of American politics. The FairTax has become a nationwide grassroots movement and a force to be reckoned with.

Furthermore, the FairTax continues to enjoy strong bi-partisan support while the hopes of implementing this monumental piece of legislation seem to grow brighter every day. So, to all of those who hope to one day make the annual stress and pains of April 15th a memory of a bygone era, the future is bright and the time for realization is closer than ever before. I encourage you to visit my FairTax website at <http://linderfairtax.house.gov> to learn more about the FairTax and see the momentum that is growing across the nation for this revolutionary tax reform proposal.

## INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

There are a few great programs within my office that help the youth of this nation attain a sense of investment in our great country. One opportunity is my Seventh District Internship Program. Participation in my Internship Program is open to any college or university student, and internships are available in both my Washington, D.C., Office and my Georgia District Office.

There are full-time internship opportunities available in Washington D.C. and full and part-time opportunities available locally in the Gwinnett District Office. If you or a college-age student you know is interested in learning more about the political process and how Congress really works, I encourage you to contact my Washington Office at (202) 225-4272 or my District Office at (770) 232-3005, extension 11.

## 2008 MILITARY ACADEMY NOMINATION PROCESS

Summer is a time for many rising seniors to begin reviewing the opportunities available after high school. An option I hope all students will consider is attending one of our nation's service academies. It is not a decision to be taken lightly, but I certainly hope that all eligible high school seniors residing in the Seventh Congressional District who are interested in attending one of our nation's military academies will consider submitting an application for a nomination to one of the following service academies:

Military Academy at West Point, New York.  
Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland.  
Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York.  
Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, Colorado.

I say it every year, but it is true that one of the greatest privileges I have as a Congressman is the opportunity to nominate young men and women to the United States Service Academies. Every year so many rising seniors apply with my office for a Congressional Nomination to obtain one of the greatest educations in the nation. It is an important decision to attend one of the academies that prepare America's young men and women to become professional officers. There will be a lot of hard work, early mornings and late nights, and they will be held to the highest ideals of duty, honor, and loyalty.

All of the required paperwork for a nomination must be filed with my District Office no later than 5:00 PM on Friday, October 17, 2008. Qualified applicants will then be notified of the time of their interview before the Seventh District Service Academy Advisory Panel on November 8, 2008.

## SEVENTH DISTRICT ONLINE OFFICE

My online office at <http://linder.house.gov> is regularly updated in an effort to provide a central location that benefits citizens of the Seventh Congressional District looking for resources, information and services. The purpose of the site is to host a true online office that provides resources and services to constituents, students and those interested in legislative activities in Congress. This site allows me to continuously update information for you – empowering my constituents, improving our democracy and providing more efficient services.

The site is designed to enhance online communication with you by providing easy access to updated legislative and constituent services information. Also, I am pleased to note that the site was recently honored with a “Gold Mouse Award” by the Congressional Management Foundation for being one of the best web sites in Congress. The site has prioritized regularly requested items so that they are more easily accessible for you, and I will continue to provide updated resources and access to services around-the-clock. Please feel free to stop by the site at any time and review the resources and services it has to offer.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

I always welcome comments from the citizens of the Seventh Congressional District. Please make note of my mailing address and phone numbers, or send an email through my online office.

### MAILING ADDRESS

1026 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-1007

### ONLINE OFFICE

<http://linder.house.gov/contactjohn>

### GEORGIA OFFICE

(770) 232-3005  
(770) 232-2909 (fax)

### WASHINGTON, D.C. OFFICE

(202) 225-4272  
(202) 225-4696 (fax)

## OUTREACH PROGRAM

If you would like to meet with a member of my staff regarding difficulties you are experiencing with the Federal government, please contact my District Office at (770) 232-3005. My staff is also available to assist you at constituent outreach locations throughout the Seventh Congressional District at the locations and times below:

### Barrow County

Piedmont Regional Library  
189 Bell View Street  
Winder, GA 30680

August 14 (10 am-12 pm)  
September 11 (10 am-12 pm)  
October 9 (10 am-12 pm)

### Gwinnett County

Grayson Library  
700 Grayson Parkway  
Grayson, GA 30017

August 6 (4 pm-6 pm)  
September 3 (4 pm-6 pm)  
October 1 (4 pm-6 pm)

### Gwinnett/Forsyth

Suwanee Library  
361 Main Street  
Suwanee, GA 30024

August 14 (5:30 pm-7:30pm)  
September 11 (5:30 pm-7:30pm)  
October 9 (5:30 pm-7:30pm)

### Newton County

Newton County Library  
7116 Floyd Street, N.E.  
Covington, GA 30014

August 20 (1 pm-3 pm)  
September 17 (1 pm-3 pm)  
October 15 (1 pm-3 pm)

### Walton County

Monroe-Walton Library  
217 West Spring Street  
Monroe, GA 30655

August 20 (10 am-12 pm)  
September 17 (10 am-12 pm)  
October 15 (10 am-12 pm)