

## High Plains Journal

### **Lucas to Co-Chair Rural America Solutions Group *Group Will Address Issues Facing Rural America* May 22, 2009**

In late April, Ranking Member Frank Lucas announced he will serve as a co-chair of a new group charged with the task of addressing issues facing rural America. House Republican Leader John Boehner, R-OH, created the Rural America Solutions Group. Lucas along with two other Committee Ranking Republicans, Rep. Doc Hastings, R-WA, and Rep. Sam Graves, R-MO, will serve as co-chairs. President Obama promised to hold a summit on rural issues within his first 100 days in office, but has not done so. The Rural America Solutions Group will focus on solutions that create jobs and economic opportunities as well as address the unique challenges rural communities face.

"Those who live and work in rural America are struggling to make a living in a difficult economy. It's important that rural communities have a strong voice in Washington who know their struggles and are able to provide viable solutions. I am pleased to be a part of an effort that understands the needs of our farmers, ranchers, and rural constituents," said Ranking Member Frank Lucas.

"Families, small businesses, and farmers in rural areas are struggling and this group will work to provide positive solutions to help farming and agricultural communities across the nation hit hard by this recession," said House Republican Leader John Boehner. "My district contains the two largest agricultural counties in Ohio, and since my election in 1990, I've remained committed to fighting on behalf of families, farmers and small business owners in rural areas. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the coming weeks to develop solutions that will ease the strain on rural America."

Many people in rural communities across our country are struggling economically because of excessive government actions, including those that prohibit or discourage the responsible use of our natural resources. Republicans share rural Americans' concerns and will be strong advocates on their behalf," noted Natural Resources Committee Ranking Republican Doc Hastings, R-WA.

"I'm honored to be a part of the new Rural America Solutions Group that will encourage and develop effective solutions to specific problems currently facing rural communities. Through the smart and efficient use of our public lands, water, minerals, timber and energy resources, we can both protect our environment and create new jobs."

"As a farmer and a small businessman, I know the importance of rural America to our country. No matter where you live, we all want the same things- good-paying jobs, a solid education and access to quality healthcare," said Small Business Committee Ranking Republican Sam Graves, R-MO. "However the solutions to those problems in rural America are unique. I am excited to begin our work on finding solutions."

The list of Members of the GOP Rural Solutions Group is included below:

Rep. Frank Lucas, R-OK, Co-Chair; Rep. Doc Hastings, R-WA, Co-Chair; Rep. Sam Graves, R-MO, Co-Chair; Rep. Rob Bishop, R-UT; Rep. Henry Brown, R-SC; Rep. Jason Chaffetz, R-UT; Rep. Mike Conaway, R-TX; Rep. Steve King, R-IA; Rep. Tom Latham, R-IA; Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer, R-MO; Rep. Cynthia Lummis, R-WY; Rep. Tom McClintock, R-CA; Rep. Adam Putnam, R-FL; Rep. George Radonovich, R-CA; Rep. Phil Roe, R-TN; Rep. Adrian Smith, R-NE.