

Congressman Tom Petri

News from Congress



MARCH 2007

A VERY BUSY YEAR

The situation in Iraq is the most urgent question facing our country. I support our brave men and women in the armed forces and have spoken on the floor of the House, expressing my concerns about asking them to serve as policemen in the middle of another country's civil war.

Establishing a true democracy in Iraq is proving difficult because none of the three major groups in that country trust the others to govern fairly. Accordingly, I think we should give serious consideration to supporting a loose federation with separate provinces for the Sunnis, the Shias and the Kurds.

If, at a later date, those groups want to negotiate a unitary state, that is their right. But for right now, it appears unworkable.

Congress must not attempt to micromanage the military in Iraq, but we do have a role to play in setting general policy. To win the war against terrorism, we have to be willing to question what we are doing and look for better ways forward. We also need to pay attention to the conflict in Afghanistan and Pakistan where al Qaeda and the Taliban are resurgent.

Closer to home, I have several personal initiatives I would like to discuss.

Transportation: In the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, where I am a senior member, we will be taking up crucial aviation legislation to reauthorize Federal Aviation Administration programs and modernize our air traffic control system. As ranking Republican on the Aviation Subcommittee, this will be one of my top priorities as it is the biggest bill to be considered by the Committee this Congress.

Agriculture: I have reviewed the President's 2007 Farm Bill proposals and

believe that they are a good starting point for discussion. I will be paying very close attention to the big upcoming debate to ensure that our state's interests are protected.

Education: In the coming months I will be fighting for my Student Aid Reward (STAR) Act, H.R. 1010, which I have introduced along with the chairmen of both the House and Senate education committees and a key Republican senator. My proposal would encourage schools to participate in the most cost-effective student loan program. If approved, taxpayers could save over \$13 billion at no cost to students, 75 percent of which would be used for student Pell grants.

My Income-Dependent Education Assistance (IDEA) Act would provide a new, cost-effective option for students borrowing for post-secondary education.

My Troops to Teachers Improvement Act, H.R. 711, would allow more schools to benefit from a program I helped to create in 1994 to help retiring military personnel transition to public school teaching positions.

Retirement Security: My Retirement Security Act would supplement the Social Security system over the long term by establishing investment accounts funded at \$1,000 for each newborn American.

Seniors: I have worked closely with the rest of Wisconsin's congressional delegation to defend our state's Senior Care program, which provides prescription drug insurance for elderly residents who chose to remain in Wisconsin's drug benefit program rather than participate in the federal Medicare Part D drug benefit program.

Campaign Reform: My Citizen Involvement In Campaigns Act would

provide a \$200 tax credit, or a \$600 deduction, for small political donations to encourage smaller political contributions by individuals, which would dilute the influence of big contributors.

My Push Poll Disclosure Act, H.R. 1298, would guard against "smear" polls designed to spread rumors through leading questions while pretending to be conducting a survey. Example: "Would it change your vote if you learned that Candidate Smith accepts bribes?"

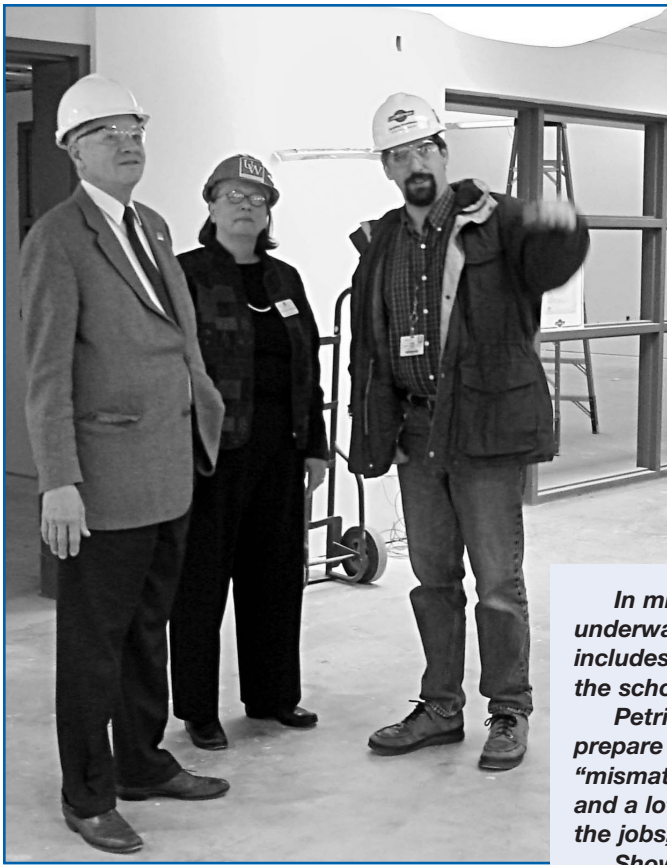
Also, to safeguard against tampering of "fool-proof" electronic voting machines, I am a leading advocate of H.R. 811, the Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act, which would require a voter-verified paper ballot for every vote cast. The paper ballot would become the ballot of record in the event of any recount or audit.

Environment: I'm a leading proponent of the Keep America Competitive Global Warming Policy Act, which is a market-based approach toward limiting greenhouse gases.

The migration of invasive species into the Great Lakes threatens to severely damage the aquatic environment and have a negative effect on the industries that depend on the Great Lakes. That is why I am an original cosponsor of the Great Lakes Asian Carp Barrier Act that will give the Army Corps of Engineers additional authority and funding to complete construction of the permanent barrier on the Chicago Ship and Sanitary Canal.

I am also a cosponsor of several other bills aimed at protecting the Great Lakes from Asian carp and other invasive species.

As you can see, this has already become a very busy year.



Petri Bill Becomes Law

I had an important victory November 13th when Congress approved my **Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act**, which strengthens protections for farmers, scientists and medical researchers, some right here in the 6th District, who have been the targets of violent and threatening activity by animal rights extremists. The President signed the bill into law on November 27th.

In mid-February Rep. Petri toured a large construction project currently underway at the University of Wisconsin-Sheboygan campus. The project includes the addition of the Acuity Technology Center and the renovation of the school's Learning Resources Building.

Petri said he counted on efforts such as those at UW-Sheboygan to prepare students for successful employment and to alleviate what he called a "mismatch" in the job market. "There are a lot of businesses seeking workers and a lot of workers seeking jobs, but too often the workers' skills don't match the jobs," he said. "We are trying to change that."

Shown with Petri are Dr. Mary Beth Emmerichs, Interim Campus Dean, UW-Sheboygan, and Rich Haen, Maintenance Supervisor.

Citizen Hours With Representative Tom Petri - April 2007

Citizen Hours provide an opportunity for Rep. Petri to meet one-on-one with individuals who need help with Social Security or veterans benefits, who want to ask for help getting into the U.S. Military Academies, who want privately to discuss problems with farm programs, with the Internal Revenue Service and the like, or who simply want to express opinions about issues of national concern. Please come to share your concerns.

Tuesday, April 10th

9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Watertown

Municipal Building
106 Jones Street
City Council Chambers

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Green Lake

City Hall, 534 Mill Street
City Council Chambers

4:00 – 5:15 p.m.

Oshkosh

Oshkosh Seniors Center
200 North Campbell Road

Wednesday, April 11th

9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Mayville

City Hall
15 South School Street
City Council Chambers

Thursday, April 12th

9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Darboy

Town of Buchanan Town Hall
N178 County Road N

11:00 – 12:00 Noon

Chilton

City Hall
42 School Street
City Council Chambers

1:30 – 2:45 p.m.

Two Rivers

City Hall
1717 East Park Street
City Council Chambers

4:00 – 5:15 p.m.

Sheboygan

Mead Public Library
710 North 8th Street
Rocca Meeting Room

Friday, April 13th

9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Adams

Municipal Building
101 North Main Street
Council Chambers

11:00 – 12:00 Noon

Wautoma

Wautoma Public Library
410 West Main Street
Meeting Room

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Montello

Marquette County Courthouse
77 West Park Street
Public Safety Training Room

4:00 – 5:15 p.m.

Fond du Lac

City-County Government Center
160 South Macy Street
Legislative Chambers

What Are Your Views?

Your views, opinions and feelings are of vital concern to me. Please take a few minutes to answer the important questions listed below.

1. On balance, do you think the country is on the right track or the wrong track?

- A Right Track
- B Wrong Track

2. Which most closely reflects your views on funding for Iraq:

- A Fund President's requests
- B Put restrictions or conditions on funding for new troops
- C Cut off all funds

3. The annual federal deficit has been reduced significantly in the last several years, but budget deficits persist. Which of the following choices best describes your preferred solution to this problem?

- A Spending Cuts
- B Higher Taxes
- C Both
- D Deficits Not a Problem

4. Many of the tax reductions enacted in 2001 and 2003 are set to expire after 2010, resulting in higher tax bills for most American taxpayers. Should these tax benefits be made permanent, extended temporarily, or be allowed to expire?

- A Make Permanent
- B Extend Temporarily
- C Allow to Expire

5. Congress and the President may seek a bipartisan solution to Social Security reform. Which of the following basic approaches best describes your preferred method of restoring this important

program's fiscal health?

- A Increased payroll taxes on high-income earners
- B Formula adjustments to slow growth of future benefits
- C Personal investment accounts
- D Some combination of above

6. Congress this year will work to craft legislation to curb the emissions of greenhouse gases that many believe contribute to global warming. Which most closely matches your views regarding the control or reduction of greenhouse gases?

- A Federal mandatory limit
- B Federal mandatory limit with market based flexibility
- C Voluntary actions and federal incentives
- D Federal action not needed

7. Over 46 million individuals in the United States lack health insurance. Many believe that the solution to this problem is government sponsored health care. Others contend that health insurance is best kept in the private sector and Congress should implement policies that would help those without health insurance to participate in the private insurance market. Which of the following best describes your preferred solution?

- A Government sponsored health care for all (universal health care)
- B Targeted policies to help individuals buy health insurance (tax

deduction, health savings accounts, and association health plans)

- C Expansion of Medicaid to cover more individuals

8. The Farm Bill will be reauthorized this year. The Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program currently makes payments to dairy farmers when domestic prices fall below a specified level. In 2006 MILC was funded at \$350 million. The Administration has proposed gradually reducing the payments made under the MILC program roughly 40 percent by 2013, as well as limiting the ability of very large producers to participate. Which reflects your view on the MILC program?

- A Support MILC program cuts
- B Maintain current MILC spending

9. With college costs and tuition rising rapidly, which policy would best help keep college accessible and affordable for Wisconsin students?

- A Increase federal grant aid to students
- B Improve federal student loan programs
- C Mandatory federal cost controls on college tuition

10. Do you favor or oppose federal funding for embryonic stem cell research?

- A Favor
- B Oppose



Respondent #1

- 1. A B
- 2. A B C
- 3. A B C D
- 4. A B C
- 5. A B C D
- 6. A B C D
- 7. A B C
- 8. A B
- 9. A B C
- 10. A B

Please indicate your age range 18-34 35-50 50+

Respondent #2

- 1. A B
- 2. A B C
- 3. A B C D
- 4. A B C
- 5. A B C D
- 6. A B C D
- 7. A B C
- 8. A B
- 9. A B C
- 10. A B

Please indicate your age range 18-34 35-50 50+

Questionnaire, Citizen Hour Schedule Inside

Tom Petri

Representative

Official Business

U.S. House of Representatives
Congress of the United States
Washington, D.C. 20515

Postal Customer
Sixth Congressional District
Wisconsin

M.C.
EGRWSS
PRSRT STD



UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE 6TH DISTRICT

► Artistic Discovery

A congressional art competition for high school students: Entries from individual high school artists from school districts throughout the 6th District will be displayed and judged this spring in Fond du Lac, with the winning submission to be exhibited for ten months in the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

► Government Business/Grant Opportunities

Interested in learning how to do business with the federal government or apply for funds available through a variety of federal grant and loan programs? Sixth District conferences on these topics will be held later this year.

► Academy Day

Representatives from all of the U.S. service academies will be available to discuss application procedures and answer questions from interested students, parents and guidance counselors at this annual event to be held in the fall.

6th District Offices

Washington

2462 Rayburn Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-2476

Fond du Lac

490 West Rolling Meadows Dr.
Suite B
Fond du Lac, WI 54937
(920) 922-1180
Toll-free 1-800-242-4883

Oshkosh

2390 State Road 44, Suite B
Oshkosh, WI 54904
(920) 231-6333

For more information on any of these events, please contact me via email or by calling one of my district offices.

Visit Congressman Petri on the web! www.house.gov/petri

Email: Follow the link on the front page of the Web site above.

To receive Rep. Petri's periodic electronic newsletter, go to www.house.gov/petri/subscribe.htm



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Congressman Tom Petri

2462 Rayburn Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Questionnaire Responses