



February 27, 2009

Dear Friends,

The President released his 2010 budget this week that is a blueprint for irresponsible deficit spending. While most Americans are tightening their belts, the budget calls for bigger and more expensive federal government. It increases base discretionary spending by \$71.7 billion, or 6.7% next year, increases net entitlement spending by \$1 trillion over the next decade and would increase our nation's debt to \$12.7 trillion.

Most troubling, it raises taxes on families and small businesses to try to make up for the additional spending. I look forward to a healthy debate in the Congress over how to best prioritize our spending and move forward toward economic recovery.

2009 Omnibus Bill

I voted against the President's spending plan for the rest of 2009. This \$410 billion omnibus bill will grow government spending at more than double the rate of inflation and almost triple the rate of median growth in household incomes. The bill also contains sweeping national policy changes without public scrutiny and proper debate, and it contains more than 8,000 earmarks at a cost to taxpayers of \$7.7 billion.

GITMO

This week, I was part of the first U.S. House delegation to tour Joint Task Force-Guantanamo since President Obama signed Executive Orders on January 22 requiring the center to be closed within one year. The terrorist detention center in Guantanamo Bay houses the worst of the worst. The detainees are high value targets and serve in the top leadership positions of al Qaeda and the Taliban. Many of them have direct ties to Osama bin Laden and the 9/11 attacks. And as a former federal prosecutor I have grave concerns.

Wednesday, during her testimony before the Homeland Security Committee, I asked *Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano* to give careful consideration and exercise caution on the decision as to where to move these individuals in the event the facility closes. I'm very concerned that these dangerous terrorists may now be brought into the United States.



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Congressman McCaul touring the terrorist detention center in Cuba Monday.

The President's orders center around alleged mistreatment of detainees. However, in accordance with the President's directive, the Pentagon inspected the detention center and found the treatment of detainees to be in accordance with the Geneva Convention.

To see the terrorists who helped orchestrate September 11th and other attacks against Americans, inside their cells, is a chilling experience. What I saw reaffirmed my commitment to stopping the transfer of detainees to the United States. I have co-sponsored H.R. 630, the Enemy Combatant Detention Review Act, to prevent their relocation. I hope that all Members of Congress and the Obama administration will strongly consider the ramifications of bringing them here.

Iraq

I support the President's decision to reduce our troop levels and ultimately end the war in Iraq. It is thanks to the strategy put in place by *General Petraeus*, the success of our troops, and particularly the surge that will allow the Iraqi people to take the reins of a sovereign and stable nation that is not a safe haven for terrorists.

While President Obama did not support the surge as a member of Congress, I am pleased that he is listening to our military commanders. I also commend this President for his support of our veterans, and for shifting our military resources toward Afghanistan and Pakistan and focusing on terrorist strongholds.



Congressman McCaul meets with members of the Civil Air Patrol.



Congressman McCaul and Linda McCaul meet with University of Texas quarterback Colt McCoy.

IN THE NEWS

Washington Post: *Napolitano Cites Mexican Drug Cartels as Major Threat*

http://www.house.gov/list/press/tx10_mccaul/morenews/WP_2009.html

Dallas Morning News: *Napolitano to Study Perry's Request for More Border Guards*

http://www.house.gov/list/press/tx10_mccaul/morenews/Dallas_2009.html

Congressman McCaul Speaks with Tim Farley on the POTUS "Morning Briefing" About Touring GITMO

http://www.house.gov/list/press/tx10_mccaul/morenews/2_26_2009.html

Congressman McCaul Speaks with *Fox News* about Visiting GITMO
http://www.house.gov/list/press/tx10_mccaul/morenews/fox_2009.html

Congressman McCaul Speak with *KTRH* about Border Violence
http://www.house.gov/list/press/tx10_mccaul/morenews/KTRH_2009.html

Houston Chronicle: *Mastermind of 9/11 Gives Texans a Chill*
http://www.house.gov/list/press/tx10_mccaul/morenews/2_28_2009.html

Congressman Michael McCaul Speaks with *KTRH* About Touring the Guantanamo Bay Detention Facility
http://www.house.gov/list/press/tx10_mccaul/morenews/2_25_09.html

I wish you and your family a happy and safe weekend.

With best regards,



Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress

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