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THE McCaul Minute



March 20, 2009

Dear Friends,

Protecting Your Money

My phones have been lit up for days with calls from taxpayers who are outraged over the bonuses that AIG gave its executives using your money it received in the bailout. I voted against the bailout because it penalized the taxpayer for others' irresponsible business practices. Using the bailout money to reward executives for making these poor and often unethical decisions is a moral outrage. This is a question of right and wrong. I voted to do the right thing – and that is to return this money to the taxpayer.

The measure was necessary to clean up a mess created by the Democrat majority. Senator Chris Dodd (D-CT) was pressured by the Obama administration to insert last-minute language into the stimulus bill that allowed the bailout money to be spent on bonuses. This is unacceptable, and exactly why I voted against the stimulus. It was distributed in the 11th hour with no time to read before the vote. Now we know why.

As a former federal prosecutor in the Public Integrity Section of the Department of Justice, I think members of congress and the executive branch should be held to the highest standard. I call upon the Attorney General to investigate the interaction between Sen. Dodd and Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner and their staffs, which resulted in AIG bonus protection language being inserted into the stimulus bill at the last minute, and the subsequent conflicting accounts from both offices. It should be noted that Sen. Dodd was the #2 recipient of AIG's 2008 campaign donations, totaling \$103,900, second only to President Obama.

Western Hemisphere Subcommittee Hearing on Drugs and Violence: The Merida Initiative and the Challenge in Mexico

While the President says he does not know at what point he would send National Guard troops to the U.S.-Mexico border to confront the Mexican drug cartels, I believe that this confrontation has reached its tipping point. A larger presence of American resources would act as a deterrent to escalating violence and expand our resources to seize drugs, weapons and humans that cross the border illegally.

At a hearing Thursday, I questioned witnesses including two senior officials from the State Department. We addressed U.S.-Mexico collaborative efforts against drug traffickers and organized crime. I believe we must continue to provide resources to help fight the cartels on the Mexican side of the border, and greater funding to the U.S. side.

U.S.-Mexico Chamber of Commerce 13th Annual Congressional Border Issues

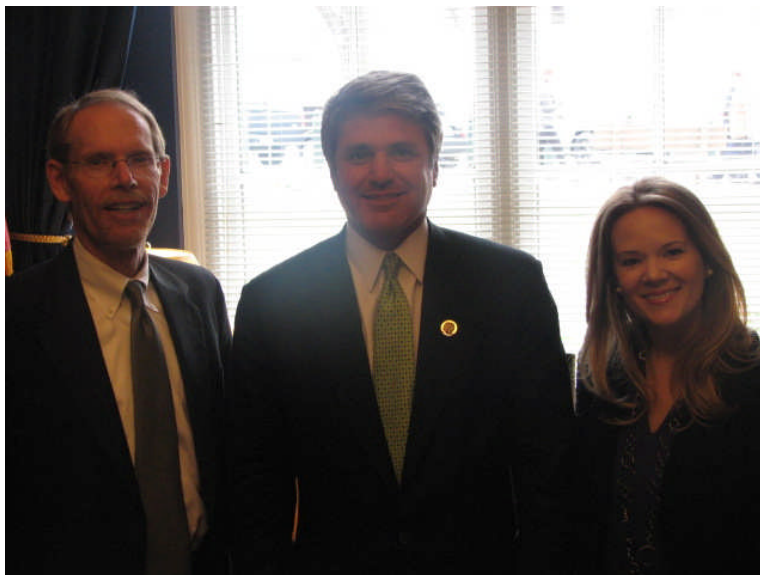
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Conference

On Thursday, I co-chaired a bipartisan Congressional conference to discuss the United States' role in combating Mexican drug cartels. The purpose was to address the unique challenges that face the U.S.-Mexico border region including, but not limited to, the environment, energy, health, immigration, security, infrastructure modernization, and trade. Attendees included key government officials and representatives of private industries from both countries. I believe that this constructive dialogue will help provide policy makers with a more complete and accurate understanding of border issues in order to offer potential solutions.



Congressman McCaul co-chairs the 13th Annual U.S.-Mexico Congressional Border Issues Conference.



Congressman McCaul met with Tom Mason and Amanda McPherson from LCRA



Congressman McCaul met with Houston Firefighters Jeff Canyon, Daniel Chavez, George Fress and Joseph Tellez.



Congressman McCaul rides in a prototype electric car on the Capitol grounds.



Congressman McCaul visits with Capitol Area Food Bank CEO David Davenport.

District 10 Listening Posts

This is a valuable opportunity for constituents to discuss federal issues with my staff that I am able to address at the Congressional level. I encourage all of you to drop by to ask questions, voice concerns, or simply introduce yourself.

Pattison Listening Post

Thursday, March 26, 2009

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 am

Justice Court, Precinct 4, Waller County, TX

Corner of Avenue G and First Street in Pattison, TX

Sealy Listening Post

Thursday, March 26, 2009

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

City Council Chamber

415 Main St, Sealy, TX

Sealy, TX

Passport Day in the USA!

Are you planning a trip this summer? Due to the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative, all international travel will require a valid passport starting June 1, 2009. To help citizens be prepared for this change, Passport Acceptance Facilities will be open across the United States on **Saturday, March 28, 2009** for Passport Day in the USA. Please locate your most convenient [acceptance facility](#) and review the [procedures and rules](#) for applying for a passport.

Free Taxpayer Seminar!

Congressman McCaul will be hosting Taxpayer Seminars on **April 7, 2009**.

Representatives from the IRS will be available to answer your tax questions in **Tomball and Pflugerville**. There will be presentations on the IRS resources available to you and an opportunity for you to get your general tax questions answered. Please contact my Austin district office at (512) 473-2357 for more information and to suggest topics for the Taxpayer Seminars.

IN THE NEWS

3/19 KLBJ: Rep. McCaul discusses the “tipping point” on the US-Mexico border in an excerpt from “*The Jeff Ward Show*”

3/20 The Nation: *Refugees from Mexico Drug War Flee to U.S.*

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

With best regards,



Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress

**** If you would like to register to receive the McCaul Minute click [here](#)**