

WEEKLY REPORT

May 7, 2008

Member Op/Eds

Congressman Paul Ryan wrote an op/ed for the Wall Street Journal about how Congress can act to combat inflation. *“Crude oil prices have doubled over the past year to nearly \$120 a barrel, while average retail gasoline prices hit an all-time high of \$3.60 per gallon this week. The prices of basic food items are also soaring: Figures from the Department of Agriculture show that the monthly grocery bill for the average American family is \$70 higher today than one year ago... Congress is already threatening the economic climate by dangling the prospect of huge tax increases (\$683 billion in the House-passed budget) and sharply higher spending. There is no sign that Congress will change its tune on fiscal affairs – but passing the Price Stability Act is a chance at a bipartisan commitment to sound money. By refocusing the Federal Reserve's legal mandate, Congress can strengthen the economy and do so without incurring any cost to the budget or increasing the deficit,”* wrote Ryan.

Congressman Ryan also wrote an op/ed on energy prices for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on fixing American energy policy. *“The flaws and failures of Congress have done much to contribute to our current energy crisis. There are concrete steps that Congress can take that will move us toward a coherent approach to a sustainable energy policy and put immediate downward pressure on energy prices. The American people have rejected gas price pandering and finger-pointing; you deserve responsible leadership and must demand it,”* said Ryan.

Congressman Scott Garrett wrote an op/ed for the Community Newspaper about the massive tax burden faced by New Jerseyans. *“I believe it is time for a new vision—one that leaves more money in your pocket by promoting long-term economic growth and job creation. Earlier this year, I introduced the Economic Growth Act, an economic stimulus package which promotes job preservation and creation, long term economic growth, and a lower tax burden for our hard working taxpayers. This bill actually puts a much needed emphasis on America's small businesses and middle class earners to jumpstart our nation's economy.... Washington must step away from its addictive tax and spend mentality and support an economic package that actually works to stimulate our economy over the long-term. The best way we can accomplish this important goal is to promote American workers and businesses by giving them tools they need to compete,”* wrote Garrett.

Special Order and Morning “One Minute” Participation

Congressman John Shimkus hosted the first RSC Energy School on Wednesday night during the Special Order Hour. RSC members discussed America's energy challenges and soaring gas prices and the failure by Democrats to take up real energy legislation has left our nation's natural energy resources untapped. In addition to Congressman Shimkus, participating Members included: Rep. Lynn Westmoreland; Rep. David Davis; Rep. Kevin Brady; Rep. Bill Sali; and Rep. Mike Conaway.

From April 29 through May 1, 5 RSC Members delivered one-minute speeches. Rep. Ted Poe spoke twice about immigration. Rep. Virginia Foxx and Rep. Jeff Flake took to the floor to speak about the Pelosi Premium and energy. Rep. Cliff Stearns spoke about progress in Iraq, and Rep. Joe Wilson spoke about Afghanistan.

Communicator of the Week
Congressman John Shadegg
on a Conservative healthcare plan to
help patients and doctors

“We are not proposing to put the government further in control of healthcare, we are proposing to give YOU control over YOUR own healthcare – patient choice. We believe that will radically change the healthcare system by bringing down costs and bringing up quality.”

Headlines to Watch

Backlash grows against the housing bailout

Many Americans want no part of a government-funded bailout for troubled mortgage borrowers.
CNN Money

Is Housing Slump at a Bottom?

Wall Street Journal

War Funding Would Break Dem Promises

The Politico

Food Prices Make Politicians Rethink Ethanol

Chicago Sun-Times

A Slap at Children

Choosing Subsidies Over Starving Children

Washington Post Op/Ed (Bob Dole & George McGovern)

Oil Futures Hit New High on Supply Worries, Weak Dollar

Wall Street Journal

Regulators Target Oil Industry

Wall Street Journal

States Get in on Calls for Gas Tax Holiday

New York Times

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