

## 1/26/2004 This Week In Congress

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January 26, 2006

Dear Friend,

Welcome to "This Week in Congress." I hope you find this newsletter useful.

President Addresses Congress During State of the Union

On Tuesday, I returned to Washington, D.C. for the beginning of the 2004 congressional session. The President addressed the nation in the annual State of the Union speech, focusing on the War on Terror, the U.S. economy and his domestic agenda.

The President addressed issues important to Kansas, including lowering health care costs, increasing the use of renewable fuels and creating jobs to improve our economy. It is my hope that during this year the President sticks to his word to avoid costly new programs in order to pay down the national debt. During these tough economic times, it is especially important we work together to improve our state and our nation.

## Agriculture Committee Questions Secretary Veneman on BSE

This week, the House Agriculture Committee held a hearing to review the response by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) about the discovery of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) in a Canadian dairy cow in Washington state last month.

The witness at the hearing was USDA Secretary, Ann Veneman. The hearing gave me the opportunity to ask the Secretary what the USDA and our trade representatives are doing to reopen the markets in Japan, South Korea, Mexico and other countries that have banned American beef. It is important that these markets are opened as soon as possible. There is no justification for these markets remaining closed, and it is important that every effort is made to get these markets back for our Kansas livestock producers. I also emphasized to Secretary Veneman the importance of keeping our producers informed on changes in the USDA regulations in the aftermath of BSE.

I am encouraged to see the Agriculture Committee responding quickly to this issue. Because I am in the middle of my "Big First" Listening Tour, this hearing gave me the opportunity to explain to the USDA the concerns Kansas cattle producers are sharing with me at town hall meetings.

## Congress Clears Federal Funding Measure

This week, the Senate followed the House's lead and passed legislation outlining spending for Fiscal Year 2004, which began on October 1, 2003. The bill funds 11 out of 15 federal departments, including the Departments of Commerce, Justice, State, Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, Agriculture, Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development, Transportation and Treasury. After the President signs this bill, funding will be released for Kansas for

2004.

It is important that during tough economic times in Kansas that the federal government fulfills its commitment to the states in order to improve our roads, meet the healthcare needs of our veterans, fund educational priorities and ensure that our law enforcement officials and first-responders have the necessary tools to protect our communities.

#### Continuing the "Big First" Listening Tour

In addition to being in Washington, D.C. this past week, I also held town hall meetings in Richfield, Johnson, Ulysses and Satanta. Today, I will be in Great Bend, Hudson and Larned, and I will be in Salina, Minneapolis and Lincoln on Friday.

For more information about the tour stops and for a complete schedule, please visit my website at:  
<http://www.house.gov/apps/list/>

[press/ks01\\_moran/prTourSchedule04.html](http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/ks01_moran/prTourSchedule04.html)

I look forward to visiting with you when I am in your area.

## Appearing on Kansas Public Television

On February 2, I will be appearing live on Kansas Public Television to discuss the 2004 congressional session and to take calls from viewers. Dr. Richard Heil, with the Docking Institute of Public Affairs at Fort Hays State University, will moderate the program for Smoky Hills Public Television. Also taking part in the program will be John Montgomery, Publisher and Editor of the Hays Daily News.

The program will air live on Monday, February 2, 2004 from 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Smoky Hills Public Television and Wichita Public Television KPTS. The program will also air at 11:00 p.m. that evening on the Topeka Public Television KTWU. Consult your local cable company or local program guide to determine the public television channel in your area.

## In the Office

This week, I met members of the Kansas Cattlemen's Association to discuss the discovery of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) in a Canadian dairy cow last month. Doran Junek of Cuba, Brad Pike of Minneola and Merrill Cauble of Larned met with me to discuss the reopening of the Canadian border, mandatory animal identification and country-of-origin-labeling. I also met with President-Elect of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), Jan Lyons of Manhattan, and with Jon Ferguson, treasurer of NCBA of Kensington. We discussed BSE and the hearing with Secretary Veneman.

Also in the office was Karal Finnell, the new executive director of the Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved and Judy Eyerly, the deputy director, both of Topeka. I also met with members of Kansans for Life and with Curtis Swager of Goodland.

In this week for a tour of the Capitol were John Barbur and his daughter, Megan, of Abilene, as were Neil Cox and his son, Trevor, of Assaria.

Also in for a tour of the Capitol were participants of the March for Life, including Carla and Kylie Wiedmer of Green; Vonda Wiedmer of Madison; Jessie, Bob and Beverly Caley of Green; and Don and Venita Rosenow of Clay Center.

Very truly yours,

Jerry