

## 9/25/2006 This Week in Congress

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September 25, 2006

Dear Friend,

Welcome to "This Week in Congress." If you enjoy receiving this weekly email newsletter, please feel free to forward it on to others who may find it useful.

### 25x'25 Initiative Gains Support in Congress

The House Agriculture Committee unanimously passed the 25x'25 initiative this week, which sets a national goal of expanding the use of renewable sources of energy. The 25x'25 initiative calls for 25 percent of the total energy consumed in the U.S. to be provided by renewable sources from America's agricultural, forestry and working lands by the year 2025. Increasing use of renewable fuels not only means good things for farmers, Kansas communities and consumers, but is also important for the environment and our national security as we work to decrease our dependence on foreign oil. This resolution is now in the House Energy and Commerce Committee. For more on the 25x'25 initiative, [click here](#).

The House voted this week to have voters present a valid photo identification that proves U.S. citizenship when voting in federal elections. It is important that we maintain the integrity of our elections while not making it more difficult for Kansans to exercise their right to vote. This legislation also requires the federal government to reimburse states for any costs associated with providing IDs to citizens unable to afford to purchase one.

#### University Economists Discuss Policy Options for Next Farm Bill

This week, my House Agriculture Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management held its second hearing in Washington, D.C. to review federal policy in anticipation of reauthorizing the 2002 Farm Bill next year. The Subcommittee heard from five of the top university agricultural economists from across the nation about the role farm economics will play in shaping the next farm bill.

Testifying at the hearing were Dr. Barry L. Flinchbaugh of Kansas State University, Dr. Ronald D. Knutson of Texas A&M University, Dr. Bruce A. Babcock of Iowa State University, Dr. David B. Schweikhardt of Michigan State University and Dr. Carl Zulauf of Ohio State University. The agricultural economists discussed greater potential for de-coupled payments, the influence of trade talks, payment limitations, and the relationship between commodity supports and crop insurance.

Submit your comments on the current and upcoming farm bill by [clicking here](#).

## Supporting the Goal of Eliminating Suffering and Death from Cancer by 2015

In my office this week representing the American Cancer Society were Judith Calhoun of Emporia, Lisa Nelson of Hugoton, Carla Sharp of Colby, Patricia Shrader of Dodge City, Zoe Williamson of Meade, Nancy Woods of Garden City, Kirsten Bruce of Lindsborg, and Roger and Tonia Carlson of Paxico. The group talked to me about the need to fund research and early detection programs for cancer. I was pleased to sign the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network Congressional Cancer Promise, which supports the goal of eliminating suffering and death from cancer by 2015.

## Visiting with Hillsboro High School Students from Washington, D.C.

On Thursday from Washington, D.C., I visited with Jim Robb's senior government class at Hillsboro High School via Video Teleconference (VTC). Gas prices and the use of ethanol were the focus of my conversation with the students. I appreciated the opportunity to visit with the class.

## Speaking to the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers

I spoke to members of the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers Leadership Institute this week in Washington, D.C., about the next farm bill. ASFMRA is an organization whose membership collectively manages more than 25 million acres of farm and ranch land for absentee owners, banks and trusts.

## Celebrating the Life of Warner Moore

On Friday, I attended funeral services for Warner Moore in Wichita. Mr. Moore, former Sedgwick County attorney and former attorney for the Kansas Fish and Game Commission, is the father of fellow Kansas Congressman Dennis Moore. Robba and I extend our deepest sympathies to Warner's wife, Maxine, and the Moore family.

## Visiting Kansas Communities

Russell: On Monday, I stopped at Russell High School to visit with Nancy Lane's Senior Government class. I enjoyed the opportunity to visit with the group of students about current events.

Great Bend: Also on Monday, I visited Barton Community College in Great Bend to meet with Dr. Carl Heilman, President of BCC, as well as representatives with TRIO. The TRIO program at BCC recently received a grant from the U.S. Department of Education to fund high school diploma and career exploration programs.

Junction City: I stopped at Geary Community Hospital this week to tour the facility and meet with David Bradley, CEO; Cyndy Platt, Director of Medical Staff Development and Public Relations; and Darren Rumford, Chief Financial Officer. Geary Community Hospital recently broke ground on its \$34 million expansion project. I viewed the space where the new

wing of the hospital will be located.

Emporia: I joined administration, students and staff at Emporia State University this week for the formal introduction of incoming President Dr. Michael R. Lane. Dr. Lane will begin his presidency on November 1. It was a pleasure to meet Dr. Lane and welcome him to Kansas and ESU. After meeting with the President, I attended Dr. Michael Smith's Introduction to American Government and Politics class to visit with students. Also while in Emporia, I visited the Maynard Early Childhood Center to meet with staff and children. Thank you to Coordinator Mary Rodriguez for welcoming me.

Phillipsburg: I was in Phillipsburg this weekend to speak at the grand opening of the Prairie Horizon Agri-Energy Ethanol Plant. I enjoyed touring the site of the new facility, which will produce 40 million gallons of ethanol per year and employ about 35 people to operate the plant. This is the eighth plant in Kansas now producing ethanol. I commend the community leaders for making this project happen.

#### In the Office

Gina Marx of Valley Center, Sherry Reed of Topeka and Craig Shove of Turner were in the office this week with the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development to share ideas about how to improve No Child Left Behind and student performance in Kansas. Stan Miller and Eddie Troutman of Wichita were in with Cargill to discuss continuing South Korean restrictions on imports of U.S. beef.

In with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas were Fred Palenske and Doug Scott of Topeka to talk about providing Medicare coverage to Kansans. Ron Walker and LaMont Godsey of Junction City were in representing USD 475 to discuss the status of impact aid and the increased demand for educational services associated with the growth of Fort Riley. Chuck Yunker of Topeka, who serves as Department Adjutant for the Kansas American Legion, was in to describe the role of attorneys in the veterans' benefit claims process.

Christopher Black and Judi Hurd of Wichita were in to advocate for issues important to the Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace. They talked about the increasing numbers of foreign engineers competing with jobs in the U.S. and the need for retirees to have reliable health care. In with Via Christie were Carolyn Smith of Wichita and Natalie Bright of Shawnee to express the importance of non-profit tax exemptions for hospitals who handle charitable work.

Very truly yours,

Jerry