



Congressman

Gene Green

Reports

29th Congressional District of Texas

Summer 2010

Dear Friend-

This newsletter discusses recently passed legislation including Wall Street Reform and the Supplemental Appropriations bill. It also goes over the recent oil spill disaster in the Gulf of Mexico and the future of Johnson Space Center. There are many issues currently affecting our area and hopefully you'll find the information contained in this newsletter helpful.

The newsletter also announces our upcoming town halls in August and other events including our 15th Annual Immunization Day and second job fair in our district. As constituents, you are welcome to attend any of the events and I encourage you to come to the town hall meeting closest to you. However you don't need to wait for a town hall to contact me, please contact any of our local offices if we can be of assistance.

It is an honor to represent the 29th District of Texas and we are here to serve you in any way we can. If you have an area of immediate concern, call one of the district office numbers listed below and I will return your call.

Sincerely,

Gene Green

Member of Congress

Wall Street Reform

In 2008, our nation suffered a financial crisis from which we're still recovering. As a response, the House voted on 2 emergency economic stabilization bills, H.R. 3997 and H.R. 1424, also known as the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) bills. I voted against both as I did not think they did enough to save jobs or help Americans at risk of foreclosure stay in their homes. In 2009, I voted for H.R. 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to invest in short-term and long-term economic growth.

Congress took important steps to rein in Wall Street, end taxpayer bailouts of big banks, and create a consumer financial protection bureau that puts consumers first by passing the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

This legislation will help prevent the risky financial practices that led to the financial meltdown in 2008. It creates a process to shut down large, failing firms whose collapse would

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Upcoming Town Halls and District Events

Residents of the 29th Congressional District of Texas, please join Rep. Green to discuss current issues affecting our area and our nation.

Monday, August 16

6:30-7:30pm
San Jacinto College North Campus
Dr. Charles Grant Fine Arts Center,
Building 16
5800 Uvalde
Houston, TX 77049

Tuesday, August 17

6:30-7:30pm
Chavez High School Cafeteria
8501 Howard Drive
Houston, TX 77017

Wednesday, August 18

6:30-7:30pm
Sam Houston Math, Science &
Technology Center
Cafeteria
9400 Irvington
Houston, TX 77076

Thursday, August 19

6:30-7:30pm
Edison Middle School Cafeteria
6901 Avenue I
Houston, TX 77011

Senior Issues Forum

Wednesday, August 18 10:00-11:00am

Northeast Community Center, James Driver Park, 10918 1/2 Bentley, Houston, TX 77093

Representatives from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Social Security Administration and Harris County Area Agency on Aging will be present for an in-depth discussion on current issues.

15th Annual Immunization Day

Saturday, August 21

9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Francis Elementary – Aldine ISD
14815 Lee Road
Houston, TX 77032

Northshore High School, 9th Grade
Campus – Galena Park ISD
13501 Holly Park Drive
Houston, TX 77015

Park Place Elementary – Houston ISD
8235 Park Place
Houston, TX 77017

Northside/Aldine Job Fair

Tuesday, August 31

9:00am-1:00pm
M O Campbell Educational Center
1865 Aldine Bender Road
Houston, TX 77032

Contact Us

District Offices

256 N. Sam Houston Pkwy E.,
Suite 29
Houston, TX 77060
(281) 999-5879 tel
(281) 999-5716 fax

11811 I-10 East, Suite 430
Houston, TX 77029
(713) 330-0761 tel
(713) 330-0807 fax

909 Decker Drive, Suite 124
Baytown, TX 77520
(281) 420-0502 tel
(281) 420-0585 fax

DC office

2372 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-1688 tel
(202) 225-9903 fax

www.house.gov/green/

Recovery in the Gulf

States along the Gulf Coast are in the midst of dealing with the BP oil spill and my thoughts and prayers go out to the families and communities affected by this terrible accident. However, while we anxiously await a positive outcome from efforts to contain the spill, we are also beginning the process of finding answers to the many questions we have as to what went wrong and how to hold responsible parties accountable. In the meantime, I support the President's efforts to create an escrow account funded by BP so that the persons affected by this accident will have access to the funds they need to rebuild their livelihoods. The Gulf Coast is suffering, and we must do everything we can to help these communities survive this environmental and economic crisis.

I am extremely concerned about what any offshore deepwater drilling moratorium will mean for our area. No matter what the court decision going forward, I intend to continue to press the Administration every chance I get that any continued de facto moratorium on deepwater drilling will have damaging effects on the workers tied to this offshore production both upstream and downstream. I have expressed this in meetings with Interior Sec. Salazar, Admiral Allen of the Coast Guard, and our House leaders. The loss of jobs and domestic production we will see with a deepwater drilling moratorium is the last thing our recovering economy needs.

That is why Rep. Kevin Brady (R-TX) and I led a letter with 22 of our colleagues to Secretary Salazar outlining an interim solution to lift the deepwater drilling ban. We proposed allowing low-risk development and appraisal wells to be produced while the Department of Interior continues its assessment on deepwater exploratory wells. These types of wells offer the reassurance of much smaller, minimal risk because the delineation and sidetrack drilling that accompanies these wells merely serve to define the parameters of the then-known reservoir. This modification would have addressed the Administration's call for safe and secure drilling, protected an estimated 75 percent of the jobs that could be lost under the moratorium and helped prevent future energy supply shortages in years 2011 and 2012.

Additionally, Rep. Charles Boustany (R-LA) and I led a letter to Secretary Salazar cosigned by a bipartisan group of 54 Representatives that was successful in lifting the shallow water drilling moratorium although some permitting issues remain. I continue to work with the Administration to see that these issues are fixed as soon as possible and shallow-water permits are being issued.

In the meantime, the President's bipartisan commission to investigate the disaster and recommend new regulations must carry out their task quickly. These new regulations need to be set in place as soon as possible to enable the entire industry to get back to production. For more information on the spill, to volunteer, or file a claim, please visit www.RestoreTheGulf.gov.

15th Annual Immunization Day

Saturday, August 21

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Please join Rep. Green to discuss preventive health initiatives before Congress. Free immunizations will be given to children within the 29th Congressional District at the following locations:

Francis Elementary – Aldine ISD
14815 Lee Road
Houston, TX 77032

Northshore High School, 9th Grade Campus –
Galena Park ISD
13501 Holly Park Drive
Houston, TX 77015

Park Place Elementary – Houston ISD
8235 Park Place
Houston, TX 77017



Rep. Green discusses the process to become a U.S. citizen with an applicant at the recent 16th annual Citizenship Day Event on June 12. Approximately 250 legal residents received assistance in the process of becoming United States citizens

Texas Education to Receive Emergency Funds

Last year, Governor Perry removed funds from the state budget committed for education and used the \$3.4 billion in federal stimulus dollars that were sent to Texas in its place. This kept the school districts across the state from receiving any additional federal money. To ensure that federal money intended for Texas' schoolchildren reaches the classrooms across the state, the Texas Democratic Congressional Delegation was able to secure language in H.R. 4899, the Supplemental Appropriations Act. This provision would permit emergency funds to go directly from the Department of Education to Texas school districts to prevent teacher layoffs or local property tax increases.

Our Delegation sent a letter to Education Secretary Arne Duncan, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, and House Committee on Appropriations Chairman David Obey. The letter recommended H.R. 4899, the Supplemental Appropriations bill include wording to distribute Texas' share of the emergency education funds through Title I formula. This prevents the state government from being able to interfere with the funding stream that is specifically intended for education. This was supported by our local school districts and major education organizations throughout the state.

The House passed version of H.R. 4899 included \$10 billion to prevent teacher layoffs or property tax increases at a time when our economy is still recovering.

Texans with Pre-Existing Conditions Now Eligible for Health Coverage

As of July 1, 2010, Texans who had been denied health insurance coverage for at least 6 months due to pre-existing conditions now have access to health insurance. Included in the health reform law passed earlier this year was the establishment of a Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan (PCIP) as a transitional program until 2014, when health insurers will be prohibited from discriminating against adults with pre-existing conditions.

The PCIP will be administered by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), as Texas is one of the 21 states that have opted not to administer the program itself. To qualify for coverage, you must be a U.S. citizen or legal resident, have been uninsured for at least the last 6 months, and have had a problem getting insurance due to a pre-existing condition. Children under the age of 19 must have also been quoted a premium of 200% or more of the PCIP premium. For more information, go to <http://www.pcip.gov/> or call 1-866-717-5826.

The new website www.HealthCare.gov is the most comprehensive resource about health care available. The website provides updated health reform information and a consumer-friendly tool that serves to help individuals and small businesses navigate the process of shopping for health insurance. The insurance options finder has a database of over 2 billion scenarios and hosts over 500 pages of new content, such as a timeline of health reform implementation and state-by-state information. If you do not have access to the web, contact our district offices to receive more information.

Constellation Program, Johnson Space Center at Risk

In February, the President proposed cancelling NASA's Constellation Program and reducing the Exploration Systems Mission Directorate by \$5.7 billion over five years. The proposal will jeopardize our country's leadership in space and could put our national security at risk. I, along with my colleagues from the Houston area, have been working together to urge the Administration against this proposed cut. Most recently, I along with Rep. John Culberson (R-TX-07), Rep. Frank Wolf (R-VA-10), and Rep. C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger (D-MD-02) and 58 of our colleagues from 18 states sent a letter to President Obama outlining compromise principles that would preserve NASA's human spaceflight program.

We need to preserve the highly trained and skilled workforce that is connected with the manned spaceflight program through the immediate development of a heavy lift vehicle; many of these jobs are in our area. To date, NASA has invested approximately \$10 billion into the Constellation program and we believe the immediate commencement of its heavy lift vehicle development and continued development of the Orion crew exploration vehicle will ensure the safe deployment of humans beyond low earth orbit in approximately 6 years. This will preserve our workforce and defense industrial base while also furthering the President's commitment to launching humans to an asteroid by 2025 and to Mars by the mid-2030s.

There are thousands of American space workers that encompass the complete experience of this generation's only human spaceflight program. With the loss of this program, America will lose an encouragement to high technology education and the pipeline of America's best and brightest minds to our national security programs. National Space Policy cannot be changed by a proposed budget, but through Congressional action.

Buffalo Bayou Another Step Closer to National Distinction

Earlier this year, I introduced the Buffalo Bayou National Heritage Act that would designate Buffalo Bayou in Harris County as a National Heritage Area. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison introduced the companion legislation in the Senate.

Buffalo Bayou stretches from west Houston to Galveston Bay and when passed, H.R. 5144/S. 3261 will designate the 25-mile stretch of the Bayou and the Houston Ship Channel as the first National Heritage Area in Texas. That designation will allow up to \$1 million annually for 10 years to the area and provide the benefits of federal recognition without restriction on land or commerce. Support for the designation has come from the Economic Alliance – Houston Port Region, the Port of Houston Authority, East End Management District, Harris County Historical Commission, Harris County Precinct 2, Texas Parks and Wildlife, East Harris County Manufacturers Association, Buffalo Bayou Preservation Association and the cities of Houston, Baytown, Pasadena, La Porte, Galena Park, and Deer Park.

The Buffalo Bayou National Heritage Study Act, passed in 2002, directed the Department of the Interior to undertake a study evaluating the area against 8 criteria. The National Park Service (NPS) released the 135-page report assessing the area and found that the proposed area is eligible for National Heritage Area distinction. The study also found that heritage area status would enhance and promote the national significance of this historic waterway.

Buffalo Bayou has a long history of significance for the area and the state. It was initially a point of Texas settlement and then the location for the Battle of San Jacinto, where Texas won its independence from Mexico in 1836. Since, Buffalo Bayou has sustained the growth of East Harris County and the development of the economic powerhouses of energy and petrochemical industries. The NPS report describes the Bayou as a vital artery for the area supporting oil refining, petrochemical production, and commercial trade.

To read the report, visit your local public library or one of our district offices. You may also find the link on our website at www.house.gov/green.

Northside/Aldine Job Fair

Tuesday, August 31

9:00am-1:00pm

M O Campbell Educational Center
1865 Aldine Bender Road
Houston, TX 77032

Area employers will be present to take applications for open positions. Applicants should dress professionally and bring updated copies of their résumé.

Flood Insurance Reform Passed

The House of Representatives voted to help American families affordably protect their homes from flooding. The Flood Insurance Reform Priorities Act will extend the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) for five years and reform the program by expanding coverage and providing homeowners with more control over their insurance.

Our area heavily relies on flood insurance and more than five million homes and businesses nationally currently rely on the NFIP, which is the primary source of reliable and affordable flood insurance coverage. This bill secures the long-term viability of the program by encouraging participation, increasing financial accountability, and eliminating unnecessary premium subsidies for the next five years.

This reform bill updates the NFIP, established over 40 years ago, to meet the needs of the 21st century. It raises maximum coverage limits for the first time since 1994, providing a stronger safety net for families threatened by flooding. The bill also provides families with greater flexibility and options, by allowing them to pay for flood insurance in installments, creating the office of the Flood Insurance Advocate to protect and assist policyholders, and delaying the mandatory requirement to purchase insurance for five years in areas only recently declared as a flood zone.

The Flood Insurance Reform Act has been endorsed by numerous organizations, including the National Association of Realtors, the National Association of Homebuilders, the American Insurance Association, the Property Casualty Insurers Association, and the Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of America.



Rep. Green met with students from South Houston Intermediate School in Pasadena. The students made their annual trip to Washington in June to meet with the Congressman and tour the Capitol.

Wall Street Reform continued

put the entire economy at risk. After exhausting all of the company's assets, additional costs would be covered by a "dissolution fund," to which all large financial firms would contribute.

The bill will also create the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), a consumer watchdog that will protect Americans from unfair and abusive financial practices. The independent bureau will provide clear and accurate information to families and small businesses to ensure that bank loans, mortgages, and credit cards are fair and affordable. It will set safety standards to prevent practices such as hidden credit card fees, deceptive "fine print," and other financial abuses that have been free from oversight.

The bill has been endorsed by the AARP, Consumer Federation of America, Consumers Union, National Fair Housing Alliance, and other organizations. In my opinion this bill, which includes over 70 Republican and bipartisan amendments, will protect families from fraud and provide the people of our area with greater financial security.



Rep. Green met with Fonville Middle School students from Houston. The students were in Washington to see American government firsthand, meet with the Congressman, and tour the Capitol.

Congressional Action from the 111th Congress Signed into Law

As we move into the homestretch of this Congress, I'd like to draw your attention to some of our landmark legislative accomplishments.

Student Aid & Fiscal Responsibility Act – Invests in college aid increasing Pell Grants, making college loans more affordable, and strengthening community colleges.

Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment Act (HIRE Act) – Provides tax incentives and tax credits for businesses, and cracks down on offshore accounts for the wealthy.

Cash for Clunkers – Provided consumers with up to \$4,500 to trade in an old vehicle for one with higher fuel efficiency.

Worker, Homeownership & Business Assistance Act – Expands 1st-time homebuyer tax credit and enhances small business tax relief.

Helping Families Save Their Homes Act – Provides incentives to lenders, servicers, and homeowners to modify loans to stem foreclosure.

Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act – Triples volunteerism opportunities for national service, increases college financial awards.

Innovation Agenda – Invests in science, technology, innovation, math education, research, advanced manufacturing technologies, and workforce training.

Health Reform – Lowers costs for middle class and small business, prevents insurance company denial of care and coverage for pre-existing conditions, strengthens Medicare and lowers prescription costs, and closes the Part D "Donut Hole."

FDA Regulation of Tobacco – Grants the Food and Drug Administration authority to regulate advertising, marketing, and manufacturing of tobacco products.

Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act – Guarantees access to lifesaving medical services, primary care, and medication for low-income patients with AIDS and HIV.

Statutory Pay-As-You-Go – Restored 1990s law that turned record deficits into surpluses requiring Congress to offset new policies that reduce revenues or expand entitlements.

Wall Street Reform – Ends taxpayer-funded bailouts, protects and empowers consumers to make good decisions on homes, credit cards, and their financial future.

Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights – Provides new protections such as banning unfair rate hikes, abusive fees and penalties, and strengthens enforcement.

Fraud Enforcement Recovery Act – Provides tools to prosecute mortgage scams and corporate fraud that contributed to financial crisis.

Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act – Restores the rights of women and other workers to challenge unfair pay.

Veterans Health Care Budget Reform & Transparency Act – Ensures reliable and timely veterans health care funding by authorizing Congress to approve VA medical care a year in advance.

Military Construction-VA Appropriations – Strengthens quality health care for veterans by investing 11% more for medical care, benefits claims processors, and facility improvements.

For more information on any of the legislation contained in this newsletter, please go to www.thomas.gov.

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Official Business



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rep. Green", located on the right side of the page.

M.C.
Presorted Standard
W/S Carrier Route