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To: Koch, Anna;
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Thank you for reading The Conaway Chronicle, a weekly review of my activities in Congress. This newsletter is to let you know what's going on in Washington and what important issues are being debated in Congress.

Farm Bill Deal Finally Reached

Last week, Farm Bill conferees finished negotiations and unveiled a bipartisan Farm Bill that should be brought to the House Floor sometime this week for a vote. I am pleased that my colleagues were able to work together to come to a compromise on a Farm Bill that is in the best interest of our country. America's agriculture community has been waiting too long for productive legislation that is cost-effective for the American taxpayer and will protect our farmers, ranchers, and consumers. I am eager to see the Farm Bill on the House floor this week for a vote and on to the President's desk. In the event that President Bush vetoes this legislation, I will vote to override the veto; it is past time to ensure that sound federal agriculture policy is enacted for the American farmer.

Congressional Art Competition Winner Announced

Last weekend, I had the opportunity to announce the winners of the Congressional Art Competition at Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Texas. Shirley Vessels, a Goldthwaite High School freshman, was awarded first place with her graphite piece, "My Brother – The Navy Man". Second place was awarded to Jonathan Moore, a sophomore at Robert E. Lee High School in Midland for his charcoal piece entitled "Final Shot". Every year I continue to be more and more impressed by the immense level of artistic talent these young artists present in the Congressional Art Competition.

Ms. Vessels artwork will be sent to Washington, D.C. to be hung in the Cannon Tunnel, a walkway inside the U.S. Capitol Building. This walkway is used by Members of Congress, congressional staff, and the general public as they enter the Capitol. The annual exhibit represents the combined efforts of Members of Congress, students, and teachers who encourage their students to enter the competition. The winning art entry from each District is displayed in the Capitol for one year.

Ms. Vessels will receive complimentary framing for her entry, three complimentary airline tickets from Southwest Airlines to attend the opening of the exhibit in Washington, DC, as well as two nights lodging.

Housing Bills hit the House Floor

The House voted on two pieces of legislation (H.R. 5818 & H.R. 3221) last week pertaining to the current subprime housing crisis that is currently affecting parts of the country. While this problem is not evident in most parts of District 11, it is still a cause for national concern. The Housing Stabilization Act specifically focuses on states that are currently having housing problems by offering grants and loans to states with high foreclosure rates. H.R. 3221 is a broad based reform that the American taxpayer to pay for the risk associated with foreclosed property and faulty mortgages. I voted against both bills and I trust that the President will veto both as well.

This is a hard time for those who live in areas affected by foreclosures and subprime problems and is a very

difficult problem if you are a homeowner struggling to make house payments. However, this bill is not the solution to the problem. The market has to right itself, and readjust itself. I don't believe that this legislation gets our country where it needs to be in terms of solving the housing crisis.

Click here to listen to my podcast on this issue.

Click here to see the bills I co-sponsored last week in Washington.

The Conaway Chronicle will be issued every week when Congress is in session. I hope that you will find it informative and will continue to stay informed with my recent legislative activities in Washington. In the meantime, if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions for future issues of the Conaway Chronicle, please visit the website at **www.house.gov/conaway** or don't hesitate to call me at (202) 225-3605. Check out my blog at **www.conawayblog.com**!

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