

July 2008

Congresswoman Tauscher's Newsletter

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Dear Friends,

Welcome to the inaugural edition of my new e-newsletter. I am bringing you this new and improved technology so that we can better communicate about the issues that affect you, your family, and our communities.

This newsletter will allow me to share information with you and vice-versa. I'll be reporting back to you on federal legislation and keeping you up-to-date about community events as well as the many resources that are offered through my office. It's also an opportunity to voice your opinion about what I can do in Washington to help improve your quality of life. And, you can now sign-up for alerts about the issues that hit closest to home for you.

We live in one of the most technologically advanced regions of the world. The Tenth Congressional District is home to some of the most innovative companies and research facilities, and I want my representation of you to reflect that. We should be able to communicate with the same speed and ease that you would with colleagues at work, business partners, and friends.

I want to go above and beyond being your Representative in Congress; I want to be a resource for you and your family. Please use this newsletter as such, and continue to use my website as well as my offices in Walnut Creek, Antioch, Fairfield and Washington, DC.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Upcoming Congressional Foreclosure Prevention Workshop in Fairfield

With a slumping economy and rising consumer prices many families in our region are finding it harder to meet their monthly mortgage payments. For some, foreclosure may feel like the only option, but it doesn't have to be. Congressman George Miller and I will be hosting a Congressional foreclosure prevention workshop on Saturday, August 16, from 10 am to 3 pm at 5100 Business Center Drive in Fairfield. There will be presentations, resource tables, and one-on-one counseling for families who may be in danger of losing their home. Last month we hosted a similar event in Concord where independent counselors were able to help 107 families review their finances, talk to their lenders, and hopefully get to a point where their home and family are protected. To sign up for the Fairfield workshop give my Fairfield office a call at 707-428-7792.

Both in Washington and at home I have been working with my colleagues to pass legislation that will help those currently feeling the crunch and prevent others from getting to that point.

View some of our accomplishments and get details on how Congress is working to stabilize the housing market.

If you can't make it to the event click here for my online resources guide. Or, forward this to a friend.

Rep. Tauscher addresses the crowd at a June foreclosure event in Concord. She is joined by (l-r) Reps. Jerry McNerney and George Miller and State Assembly Mark DeSaulnier (Directly behind Rep. Tauscher out of view is Concord Mayor Bill Shinn)

Record Gas Prices

As those of us living in and around the Bay Area can attest, the high price of gas is affecting the way we live our lives. A quick fill-up at the pump is no longer a minor inconvenience, but for some, a \$100 dollar expense that could have easily gone for groceries, back-to-school clothes for the kids, or just stashed away to plan for a family vacation. The New Direction Congress is doing all we can to reverse this trend.

- Passed the Saving Energy through Public Transportation Act of 2008 – to help Americans struggling with high gas prices by reducing the demand for foreign oil and increasing transit alternatives.
- Passed the Energy Markets Emergency Act - directing the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to examine excessive oil speculation and use their emergency powers to take corrective action.
- Passed legislation to suspend the filling of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve through the end of the year to increase the supply of oil in the marketplace and lower the cost at the pump.
- Passed the Gas Price Relief for Consumers Act of 2008 - giving U.S. authorities the ability to prosecute anticompetitive conduct committed by international cartels like OPEC that restricts supply and drives up prices.

To get updates on future Congressional action on energy prices click [here](#) to subscribe to future e-newsletters.

Despite our best efforts, gas prices are threatening to reach \$5.00 per gallon this summer, with much higher than average costs here at home. To help address this need, on July 15, I introduced a comprehensive, commonsense plan to reduce the growing demand for gasoline and put money back in Americans’ pockets. H.R. 6495, the Transportation and Housing Prices for Gas Price Relief Act, would assist transit agencies with rising fuel costs – creating savings that would be passed onto riders.

Additionally, I supported legislation the House passed telling oil companies to “use it or lose it.” Oil companies are currently sitting on 68 million of acres of land approved for exploration 26 years ago – land oil companies have leased but that remains undeveloped. This bill requires oil companies to begin using their leased land within one year or else relinquish the land to other companies that will produce oil.

Take My Poll: "In light of rising gasoline prices have you or your family had to change your daily routine?"

Small Business Contracting Seminars

Are you a small business owner looking to tap into the government marketplace? If so, I want to help.

Earlier this month, I held two Small Business Government Contracting Seminars in Contra Costa and Solano Counties. This month's topic was "Introduction to Federal Contracting";

These regular seminars are part of my ongoing efforts to bring new services directly to small businesses in our community. They are intended to allow local entrepreneurs to learn directly from contracting experts and their fellow small business owners about how best to market their services or products to federal, state, or local government agencies.

Having once been one myself, I understand the challenges that face small business owners and entrepreneurs when trying to transform a great idea into a successful business. I am always eager to find solutions that help small businesses succeed.

For more information about future seminars or my Small Business Advisory Committee please give me a call at (925) 932-8899.

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