



JOHN LINDER

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE FOR GEORGIA

Summer 2009

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Dear Friend,

The United States of America does not contain a mere 50 states, but more than 300 million people united under a common liberty, and every citizen representing a piece of the whole. This was illustrated in late June when the most recent major legislation to pass the House, HR 2454, “The American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009,” came to the floor for debate.

The phone lines that come in to the Capitol were filled with callers. The volume was so large that many would have to call 5 and 6 times just to get through to their Member. America was watching and was angry. It became very difficult and at one point even questionable as to whether or not Speaker Pelosi would push the bill out to the floor. America saw the bill for what it was: a tax on energy for all Americans to pay.

The bill passed; its 219 supporters voted to increase your taxes, mortgage your children’s future, send our manufacturing jobs overseas, throw family farmers off their land, start an international trade war, and drive our country deeper into this recession. What is important to understand is the bill’s passage was not a success for Speaker Pelosi or the Obama Administration, rather it set a new tone in Washington. Americans stood up and showed Congress that politicians are not in control, the people are. There is great hope for my grandchildren’s generation, and every generation after, as long as they are willing to take control of their elected officials through the process our Founding Fathers set forth. I truly believe, as discussion of this bill begins in the Senate, Americans will realize their victory in the energy debate and defeat the Pelosi energy bill.

In an effort to maintain that surge of participation we saw in June, I want to invite you to join me a Telephone Town Hall meeting on July 21, 2009, from 7PM to 7:30PM. This technology will allow me the opportunity to talk with you and hear your thoughts about the issues of the day, and take your innovative ideas, and also criticisms, directly across the street from my office to the United States Capitol. To participate, simply call 800-857-6263 and give the password, “Town Hall,” and you will be placed into the forum. I hope you will take the time to join me.

Sincerely,

SUMMER TRAVEL

For those individuals planning to travel abroad this summer, I would like to encourage you to visit the U.S. Department of State's website, www.travel.state.gov, as it can serve as a useful tool in preparing for international travel. This site contains country specific information, travel alerts, travel warnings, visa requirements, safety and security information, as well as information on local laws and conditions. You can also register your travel plans online at <https://travelregistration.state.gov>, which is a free service provided by the U.S. Department of State that provides the agency with the necessary information to assist you in case of an emergency.

HEALTH CARE

July kicks off Health Care Month in the House of Representatives, and we should all be prepared for House Democrats to railroad a massive new government-run health care plan through the House before Congress breaks for its annual August recess. Make no mistake, the government's public option health care plan will not be a choice for Americans, it will be a single-payer system that controls every aspect of your health care. In fact, former Democratic National Committee Chairman Howard Dean recently said in an interview that the "public option is like single-payer" health care.

We all know that our health care system needs reform, but subjecting ourselves to the whims of government bureaucrats is not the kind of reform that I want. Republicans have a different plan for reforming health care; one that empowers Americans to provide for themselves and their families through common sense tax credits for middle class families, the self-employed, and small businesses to purchase their own insurance. Republicans would also allow small businesses to pool their resources and purchase insurance as groups so that they can provide high quality, low cost insurance options. To learn more about these common sense, conservative principles, I encourage you to visit the House Ways and Means Committee website at <http://republicans.waysandmeans.house.gov>.

VETERAN HEALTH CARE ENROLLMENT

The Veterans Administration (VA) is reopening health care enrollment to thousands of veterans. As of June 15, 2009, the VA began enrolling Veterans who were excluded from VA health care enrollment when income limits were set in 2003. This included Veterans with no service-connected disabilities or other special eligibility for care. There is now no income limit for Veterans with compensable service-connected disabilities or for Veterans being seen for their service-connected disabilities.

If you are a veteran who was rejected due to income in 2009, your application will be reconsidered under the new income threshold formula. If you applied before 2009 and were rejected due to income, you will need to reapply.

If you would like more information, you may access the VA website at www.va.gov/healtheligibility or you may call the VA at 1-877-222-8387.

PRO-LIFE STATEMENT

I firmly believe that life – our most sacred of gifts – must be preserved and protected for all humans – born and unborn. I fear that throughout the 111th Congress the Obama Administration and the Democrat-controlled Congress will attempt to enact legislation that places an even greater number of our unborn children at risk. Be assured that throughout the 111th Congress, I will reaffirm my commitment to the sanctity and value of human life by continuing to fight in favor of legislative efforts to protect our unborn children and against efforts to the use taxpayer funds for abortions and the organizations that support abortion as a family planning method. I have always believed in the importance of protecting the unborn, but a nation that puts people in jail for breaking a logger head turtle's egg and thus destroying the potential life of the unborn turtle, or for stealing an eagle's egg and thus destroying the potential life of the unborn eagle, and yet pays people for taking the life of an unborn baby has clearly lost its way.

WATER CAUCUS INFORMATION

As you may be aware, recent rains have made it possible for Georgia to lift the watering restrictions placed on businesses and residents. That is great news, but it is important that we maintain conservative watering habits. That is why I introduced H.Con.Res. 118, naming July 2009 as *Smart Irrigation Month*. The idea behind *Smart Irrigation Month* is to promote efficient watering practices, technologically advanced irrigation products and the benefits of more efficient irrigation in our nation's communities, landscapes and agriculture. This resolution supports the irrigation industry's efforts to educate the public on the importance of using water wisely, responsibly and efficiently, and I am hopeful that my colleagues in the House will support this effort.

2009 ACADEMY NOMINATION PROCESS

As Ronald Reagan once stated "freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction, we didn't pass it along in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected and handed on for them to do the same." I feel there is no greater responsibility and privilege as a Congressman than nominating young men and women to further the cause of freedom.

I hope that all eligible high school seniors residing in the Seventh Congressional District who are interested in serving their country, consider submitting an application for a nomination to one of the following service academies: the Military Academy at West Point, New York, the Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York, the Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland or the Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, Colorado.

At the academies, America's young men and women study to become professional officers. These future leaders will undoubtedly be shaped by the work, dedication and commitment they put forth through this amazing educational and life changing opportunity.

All completed nomination applications must be filed with my District Office no later than 5:00 PM on Friday, October 16, 2009. Qualified applicants will then be notified of the time of their interview before the Seventh District Service Academy Advisory Panel on November 7, 2009. A summary of all application requirements and more information about the service academies and the nomination process is available at my online office at <http://linder.house.gov/academy> or contact Annie Valenty at 770-232-3005, extension 11 for more information.

GI BILL UPDATE

Starting May 1, 2009, the Department of Veterans Affairs will begin accepting applications for the Post-9/11 GI Bill. The application form, which is available at www.vba.va.gov, requires that individuals currently eligible for another education benefit make an irrevocable election from their existing program to the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Typically, individuals who are eligible for more than one benefit may use a combined total of 48 months of entitlement. Therefore, for those individuals eligible for the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) program, please be advised that if you have entitlement remaining under the MGIB, the number of months of Post-9/11 GI Bill entitlement you will be eligible for will be equal to the number of months remaining under MGIB. However, if you exhaust all of your MGIB entitlement, then you may be entitled to a maximum of 12 additional months of benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

CONTACT INFORMATION

I always encourage comments from the citizens of the Seventh Congressional District. Please make note of my mailing address and phone numbers or send an email through my online office.

Mailing Address

1026 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-1007

Office Online

<http://linder.house.gov/contactjohn>

Georgia Office

(770) 232-3005
(770) 232-2909 (fax)

Washington D.C. Office

(202) 225-4272
(202) 225-4696 (fax)

OUTREACH PROGRAM

If you would like to meet with a member of my staff regarding difficulties you are experiencing with the Federal government, please contact my District Office at (770) 232-3005. My staff is also available to assist you at constituent outreach locations throughout the Seventh Congressional District at the locations and times below:

Barrow County

Piedmont Regional Library
189 Bell View Street
Winder, GA 30680
10:00am-12:00pm
August 13
September 10
October 8

Newton County

Newton County Library
7116 Floyd Street, N.E.
Covington, GA 30014
1:00pm-3:00pm
August 19
September 16
October 14

Gwinnett County

Grayson Library
700 Grayson Parkway
Grayson, GA 30017
4:00pm-6:00pm
August 5
September 2
October 7

Gwinnett/Forsyth Counties

Suwanee Library
361 Main Street
Suwanee, GA 30024
5:00pm-7:00pm
August 13
September 10
October 8

Walton County

Monroe-Walton Library
217 West Spring Street
Monroe, GA 30655
10:00am-12:00pm
August 19
September 16
October 14