

DEVIN NUNES

UNITED STATES CONGRESSMAN, CALIFORNIA
21ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT ★ ★ ★ ★



Achieving Energy Independence

Last month, we examined current energy policies and how these policies are contributing to long-term energy security and independence. This month, in our series conclusion, we examine how Congress can increase our domestic energy supplies while building a bridge to the next generation of energy production.

While gas prices fell over the winter, they are back on the rise just in time for the summer driving season. All we need is a hiccup in the supply chain of crude oil, and the prices at the pump can quickly exceed historic levels.

Although national energy policy has included investments in renewables and alternatives, these energy sources have suffered from the volatility of the oil market. When oil prices are high, they are competitive and are a viable investment for energy developers. When the oil market declines, however, these technologies quickly become expensive and investments can become stranded. It will come as no surprise that inexpensive energy sources dominate the market, as crude oil has done for more than a century.

As reported in our May issue of the Washington Report, the U.S. imports 65% of our petroleum needs, and the Energy Information Administration (EIA) projects that by 2025 we will import 71% of our petroleum. Our na-



tional dependence on foreign oil is exacerbated by the fact that two-thirds of the world's proven oil reserves are located in the volatile Middle East. Instability throughout the Middle East as well as the threat of lost production from Nigeria and Venezuela create serious global energy price volatility. These challenges are compounded by the virtual halt to new energy exploration here at home. As a result, year after year we pay higher prices for energy – whether at the pumps or in our home energy bills.

Unfortunately, the solution to our energy challenge has been thwarted by a vocal minority of special interests. To date, the only solution that has been acceptable to fringe environmental activists is social engineering. This involves punitive tax policies and other "incentives" that encourage lifestyle changes by the American public. Such an approach has never succeeded. What we need is a comprehensive market-based strategy that will reduce our dependence on foreign sources of oil while bridging the gap to the next generation of energy.

Congress can and should provide short-term relief to high energy prices while funding a long-term solution for energy freedom. We could accomplish this by opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to exploration and investing the federal share of the lease and royalty revenue into an energy trust

fund. This trust fund would be used to pay for numerous renewable, alternative, and advanced energy programs. At an estimated \$40 billion over 30 years, this trust fund would be the largest investment in renewable, alternative, and advanced energy in our nation's history – all at no cost to the taxpayer.

In the 109th Congress, Rep. Nunes and a bi-partisan group of lawmakers introduced the American Made Energy Freedom Act. Within the first two years of enactment of this legislation, numerous renewable and alternative energy programs would receive billions of dollars in much needed investment. This would include an infusion of investment into the next generation of ethanol (cellulosic), a deployment of Coal-to-Liquid (CTL) technology, an expansion of the use of solar and fuel cell technology, and significant growth in the biofuel energy production industry. A number of these investments would come in the form of market-based tax credits.

Moreover, the bill funds numerous renewable energy provisions that were originally authorized in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and have yet to receive significant funding. These federal investments are needed to ensure breakthroughs in biotechnology, new feedstocks, harvesting, storage, transportation, and processing to produce a sustainable transportation fuel at a price competitive with fuel from the mature petroleum industry. Furthermore, enhancing federal consumer tax credits is necessary to ensure that every home owner or small business has the opportunity to participate in our energy freedom by installing alternative energy systems that are environmentally sensitive.

see ENERGY on page 3

IN THIS ISSUE

Feature:

Achieving Energy Independence

Voice from the Valley:

Kaweah Delta Hospital Expansion, by Lindsay Mann

Rumor Mill:

Global Warming

In My Words:

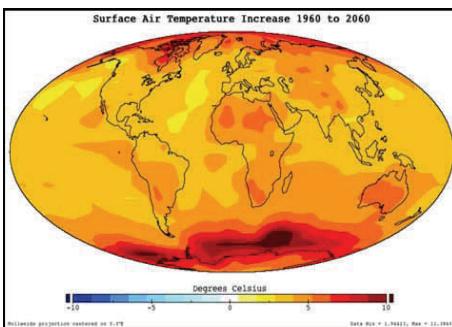
No Child Left Behind

Special Insert:

A healthier U.S. starts here:
Medicare benefit checklist

Rumor Mill: Global Warming

Myth: Existing science proves that global warming is real, and the only way to stop it is to reduce CO₂ emissions.



Fact: As this issue is evaluated, it is important to remember the scientific limitations which impact our understanding. The fact of the matter is that there are aspects of climate science that are proven, and there are other aspects that have less certainty. Scientists have documented that the Earth's temperature is rising. However, scientists admit that they cannot be sure whether the Earth's temperature is rising due to human influence or a cyclical warming and cooling process.

The biggest scientific challenge is to understand the natural variations of climate change and what effect, if any, humans have. Indeed, scientists have documented a human-induced increase in greenhouse gas emissions (CO₂) since the Industrial Revolution. They have also documented that these greenhouse emissions hang around in the Earth's atmosphere for years, therefore increasing the concentrations.

However, it is difficult to determine the af-

fects of greenhouse gases. Indeed, scientists cannot prove that greenhouse gases are contributing to climate change.

Nevertheless, Rep. Nunes has supported several initiatives that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In fact, he has proposed legislation that will increase the solar tax credit, thereby making it easier for Americans to purchase solar energy systems for their homes. Additionally, he has proposed legislation that would increase funding for plug-in hybrids which would decrease greenhouse gas emissions. Indeed, cellulosic ethanol is another environmentally friendly energy.

Additionally, Congress has provided billions of dollars on research to better understand climate change. Congress should continue the effort by considering all available data to find ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to reduce overall energy consumption.

As Congress debates the solution, it is important that discussions of regulations take into consideration the economic impact on businesses and jobs. Creating burdensome greenhouse gas emission standards will raise the cost of energy – which will be passed onto Americans. Until more concrete data is available, the focus should not be on any one solution.

Rather than create policies that will raise the cost of energy, Congress should invest in alternative energy sources that simultaneously reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce energy costs, and reduce dependence on foreign oil. Technological advances in biofuel and ethanol production, advances in solar and fuel cell technology, and creating nuclear energy plants will help reach these goals.

In My Words: No Child Left Behind (NCLB)



The authorization of NCLB signaled a fundamental and commonsense change in American education. At a time when less than half the states in our country fully measured their students against academic standards, NCLB recognized the importance of providing a quality education.

Specifically, it calls for a highly qualified teacher in the core subjects in every classroom; the use of proven, research based instructional methods; and timely information and options for parents.

Furthermore, NCLB holds under performing schools accountable, by helping them provide their students with free tutoring or transfers to a better-performing public school. In other words, children's education needs are placed first—where they belong.

As your Congressman, I support the reauthorization of NCLB which encourages our children to succeed and our schools to improve against impeding odds. No Child Left Behind targets students who are underperforming at their grade level, allowing schools to provide the extra tools and attention needed to close the achievement gap. It is working; not only has fourth grade reading proficiency increased by eight percentage points, mathematics has increased by five percent in the state of California alone.

There has been extensive debate in Con-



gress and around the country about the upcoming changes to NCLB during the reauthorization process. Among these concerns are the lack of consensus on what makes a teacher effective, the vast size and decentralized organization of K-12 education, and problems with teacher supply and demand.

Improving education in America demands closing the achievement gap between low-performing students and their higher performing peers as well as setting realistic standards for all students, school districts, and teachers to meet. As we approach NCLB's reauthorization, it is imperative that Congress addresses many longstanding issues and continue to work with local school districts to make meaningful improvements.

Devin Nunes
Member of Congress

Voice from the Valley: Kaweah Delta Health Care District Expansion



By: Lindsay Mann, Chief Executive Officer, Kaweah Delta Health Care District

Kaweah Delta Health Care District is the largest healthcare provider for the southern San Joaquin Valley with more than 400 acute care beds and five campuses throughout Tulare County. We are able to provide an award winning cardiac care program, a level II neonatal intensive care unit, the only such unit between Bakersfield and Fresno, a high-level acute rehabilitation hospital, and the only inpatient mental health hospital in the area. Our responsibility is great and we are committed to giving our community high level care right in our own backyard.

More than 15 years ago, Kaweah Delta Health Care District leaders began looking at ways to accommodate the ever-growing popu-

lation in Tulare County. In 1970, Tulare County was home to approximately 188,000 people. Today, the population has reached nearly 380,000, an increase of 100%. Striving to serve our community with the highest level of technology and care, we knew space was going to be an issue. Thus, we began our expansion planning.

Kaweah Delta broke ground on its 220,000 square foot, \$143 million "North Expansion" in January 2006. The six-story, 135-bed capacity expansion is projected to be complete in late 2008 with our first patients being seen in early 2009. The expansion includes 12 beds for the Chest Pain Center and Observation Unit in our emergency room, a 20 bed Cardiac Intensive Care Unit, and a new Mom and Baby Unit that includes 41 private rooms. In addition to the 83 inpatient beds and three cardiac surgery operating rooms, a new vascular lab and four new cath labs will be added to our January 2009 opening with the fifth and sixth floors shelled for future use.

For more than 20 years, Kaweah Delta has relied on its co-generation plant for cooling, heating, and power; saving the hospital \$400,000 - \$800,000 a year on energy costs. Currently, we are replacing three existing reciprocating engine generator sets with a

single turbine generator that will provide electrical power for the existing hospital building, the current north expansion project, and the next patient tower addition (there is no current time frame for the next tower). We anticipate savings of \$1.5 million per year!

In addition to our expansion downtown, we are getting ready to open our new Dialysis Center on our west campus. The center doubles the capacity of our current facility to 24 treatment stations including all new chairs, dialysis equipment, and amenities for our patients. We are slated to open the center for our patients in July 2007.

We are proud to service our community by providing the highest level of care to our patients and excellent customer service to their friends and families. As we continue to grow, our commitment also grows. More than \$18 million has been budgeted for installation of new technology in the north expansion. We are in constant recruitment efforts with business leaders and other health care providers for specialized surgeons and physicians and are also constantly looking ahead to further expansion needs. The future in healthcare is bright for the community of Visalia and its surrounding area.

ENERGY from page 1

These investments are made possible by lease and royalty revenue from ANWR. At the same time, short-term domestic petroleum supplies will be augmented through ANWR production. There are no other proposals that combine the development of long-term energy independence with increased energy production today and no other proposal before Congress contemplates the level of investment funded in the American Made Energy Freedom Act. While many ideas are under consideration, there is often little or no funding available. For those energy proposals that are funded, tax increases are the mechanism to provide funding. In a volatile energy market where consumers are feeling the pinch, tax increases only compound the problem.

Certainly, there are no quick fixes to our energy challenges. However, one thing is clear. Americans cannot continue to rely on

Are you energy aware?

Visit the Department of Energy online for a consumer's guide to energy efficiency:
<http://www.eere.energy.gov/consumer>

- Set your thermostat comfortably low in the winter and comfortably high in the summer. Install a programmable thermostat that is compatible with your heating and cooling system.
- Use compact fluorescent light bulbs.
- Air dry dishes instead of using your dishwasher's drying cycle.



- Turn off your computer and monitor when not in use.
- Plug home electronics, such as TVs and DVD players, into power strips; turn the power strips off when the equipment is not in use (TVs and DVDs in standby mode still use several watts of power).
- Lower the thermostat on your hot water heater to 120° F.
- Take short showers instead of baths.
- Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes.

cheap imports for our energy future. It is important for us to recognize the possibility of global shortages or disruptions as demand for fossil fuel continues to grow. We must also contemplate the real possibility that oil will be used as an economic weapon against us. We are in the midst of a Global War on Terrorism, fighting radicals whose stated objective is to destroy western civilization and install religious theocracies. At the same time, we rely on certified state-sponsors of terrorism for our petroleum needs. In my view, it is irresponsible for the United States to buy oil from fanatical regimes that are determined to destroy our way of life. It is time for energy freedom, it is time for energy security, and it is time for action on an American-Made solution.

Did you miss one of the articles from our energy series? The four-part series is available in the Washington Report online starting in the March 2007 edition. Just visit Congressman Nunes online at www.nunes.house.gov and select "News Cen-

WASHINGTON REPORT

June 2007

DEVIN NUNES

UNITED STATES CONGRESSMAN, CALIFORNIA
21ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT ★ ★ ★ ★



United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

PUBLIC DOCUMENT—OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PRSRT STD

Devin Nunes
M.C.

Vol. 5 Issue 5



sign up for the Washington Report online
www.nunes.house.gov

CONTACT CONGRESSMAN NUNES

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE
1013 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-2523
Fax: (202) 225-3404

VISALIA, CA OFFICE
113 North Church Street, Suite 208
Visalia, CA 93291
Phone: (559) 733-3861
Fax: (559) 733-3865

CLOVIS, CA OFFICE
264 Clovis Avenue, Suite 206
Clovis, CA 93612
Phone: (559) 323-5235
Fax: (559) 323-5528

Protect your health with Medicare's preventive benefits



"Medicare's preventive benefits can help you stay one step ahead of serious illnesses or certain chronic conditions such as diabetes, heart disease and cancer. The month of May marks the kick off of the national "Healthier US Starts Here" campaign. The information in this document will help you, a family member or friend keep track of preventative benefits available under Medicare. If you would like more copies of this checklist, please contact my office or visit me online."

www.nunes.house.gov

Devin Nunes



Medicare Preventive Benefits Checklist

WHAT'S COVERED?	WHAT IT DOES	HOW OFTEN?
Colorectal Cancer screenings <input type="checkbox"/>	Screens for colon cancer	Ask your doctor
Fecal occult blood test <input type="checkbox"/>	Screens for colon cancer	Once every 12 months if 50+
Flexible sigmoidoscopy <input type="checkbox"/>	Screens for colon cancer	Generally once every 48 months (4 years) or every 120 months (10 years) when used instead of a colonoscopy for those not at high risk if 50+
Colonoscopy <input type="checkbox"/>	Screens for colon cancer	Once every 120 months (10 years). Once every 24 months for high risk
Barium enema <input type="checkbox"/>	Screens for colon cancer	Once every 48 months (4 years) instead of sigmoidoscopy if 50+. Once every 24 months instead of colonoscopy for high risk
Diabetes Screening <input type="checkbox"/>	Blood sugar test	Varies based on results. Covered if you have certain risk factors. Ask your doctor

Don't forget to schedule your "Welcome to Medicare" physical exam, a one-time review of your health. Eligibility: once during the first six months of Medicare Part B coverage.

WHAT'S COVERED?	WHAT IT DOES	HOW OFTEN?
<i>Diabetes self management training</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Education for people who have diabetes</i>	<i>Ask your doctor</i>
<i>Medical nutritional therapy services</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Nutritional counseling to help manage diabetes or kidney disease</i>	<i>Ask your doctor</i>
<i>Bone mass measurement</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Determines risk for broken bones due to osteoporosis</i>	<i>Once every 24 months for people with certain medical conditions</i>
<i>Hepatitis B shots</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Helps prevent liver disease</i>	<i>Ask your doctor</i>
<i>Glaucoma test</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Can help find the eye disease glaucoma</i>	<i>Once every 12 months for those at high risk</i>
<i>Smoking cessation</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Counseling to quit smoking for people with a smoking-related illness or who take medicine affected by tobacco</i>	<i>Up to 8 visits during a 12-month period when ordered by your doctor</i>
<i>Mammogram breast cancer screening</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Screens for breast cancer</i>	<i>Once every 12 months for women over 40</i>
<i>Past test and pelvic exam cancer screenings</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Screens for cervical and vaginal cancer</i>	<i>Once every 24 months. Every 12 months for women at high risk</i>
<i>Prostate cancer screening</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Digital rectal exam and Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) test</i>	<i>Once every 12 months for men over 50</i>
<i>Flu shot</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Prevents influenza or flu virus</i>	<i>Once a flu season</i>
<i>Pneumonia shot</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Prevents pneumococcal pneumonia</i>	<i>Usually only needed once</i>
<i>Cardiovascular screenings for cholesterol, lipid, and triglyceride levels</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Checks cholesterol and other blood fat levels that can increase the risk for heart disease</i>	<i>Once every 5 years</i>