

Right Now

Tax Hikes Set to Kill Even More Jobs

I want to share my strong concerns about the massive, job-killing tax increases that will take effect on January 1, 2011 unless Congress acts. As it stands today, on New Year's Day, every taxpaying American will see their taxes skyrocket. Unfortunately, according to news reports, the likelihood of an agreement among current Democrat leadership in Congress to halt these tax hikes before the current session of Congress adjourns is getting smaller. This is unacceptable. By failing to act to halt the largest tax increase in history, President Obama and Congressional Democrats have created tremendous uncertainty for small businesses and American families, resulting in fewer jobs and lower confidence in our economy. I'm committed to protecting North State residents from this crippling blow to our economy, and if this Congress fails to act, it will be one of our highest priorities of the new conservative majority to stop any tax hike in January. We cannot continue the cycle of tax and spend government that the American people rejected. Washington must stop these tax hikes, put the brakes on out-of-control spending, and begin a sustained economic recovery. [Click here](#) for more information.

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New Republican Majority Ready to Change Ways of Washington

Since Speaker Pelosi first took the gavel in 2006, House Democrat leadership failed to listen to the voice of the people. They forced through the House a big government agenda despite the strong concerns of the American people who wanted action on jobs, spending, and taxes. Recently, those same citizens who were ignored by House Democrats delivered a strong message that elected leaders who abandon constitutional principles in favor of big government will be held accountable.

As incoming Republican House Majority Leader Eric Cantor has stated, we must approach all Congressional action by asking ourselves a simple, but important question: "Are my efforts addressing job creation and the economy; are they reducing spending; and are they shrinking the size of the federal government while increasing and protecting liberty? If not, why am I doing it?" I look forward to working with the new majority to advance policies that will get our country back on track by: (1) halting the pending massive [tax increases](#) on families and small businesses to encourage job creation; (2)

[repealing the government takeover of health care](#)

to bring costs down and give you more choices; and (3) putting a stop to

[irresponsible spending in Washington](#)

to help ensure that our children and grandchildren will live in a stronger, more prosperous nation. We must roll up our sleeves and get to work on advancing the limited government principles that have made our nation great.

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My Support for ObamaCare Lawsuit

In the ongoing efforts to repeal and replace ObamaCare, I wanted to let you know that I recently joined more than 60 other members of the House of Representatives in filing an [amicus brief](#) in the case of

Florida v. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

, the most prominent of several lawsuits challenging the constitutionality of President Obama's health care overhaul. Amicus or "friend of the court" briefs offer an opportunity for third parties to present their perspective on a case before the court issues a ruling. Earlier this year, I introduced

[H.R. 5424](#)

, the main legislation in the House to repeal ObamaCare and replace it with solutions that will bring down costs, increase competition, and keep Washington out of your doctor's office. The bill offers a definitive course of action to those who believe that government health care will hurt our nation. However, we must pursue any and all options to eliminate this devastating law before it irreparably harms the American economy and way of life.

I believe that one of the most significant problems with ObamaCare is that imposing a mandate requiring all Americans to purchase government approved health insurance is unconstitutional. This brief argues this very point and states that this mandate is so central to the structure of the health care law that the entire law must be struck down because of the mandate's unconstitutional nature. Additionally, 33 members of the U.S. Senate, led by Republican Leader Mitch McConnell, filed a similar brief. I believe *Florida v. HHS* represents a rare opportunity to

begin restoring our nation's founding principles of federalism and a national government with limited powers, and I hope the courts will carefully consider these arguments.

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Recent Past

Earmark Ban a Strong First Step Back to Fiscal Responsibility

Across our nation, Americans view earmarks as a signature example of Washington's out-of-control spending and waste. They are tired of the borrowing and spending and they have demanded a change. Sadly, there have been many instances where the flawed earmarking process has led to waste and abuse. All over the North State, I have heard from many, many citizens that Congress needs to take immediate steps toward reducing spending and ensuring that our children and grandchildren don't inherit a mountain of debt.

I have joined House Republicans in continuing a ban on earmarks during the 112th Congress, and I'm pleased that the Senate Republicans have affirmed this stance. While this is only a first step in the right direction of returning to fiscal responsibility and ending business as usual in Washington, it is an important one. We have a lot of work to do to tackle our debt crisis and skyrocketing spending, and I look forward to working toward responsible solutions that will grow our economy, create jobs and get our nation back to a balanced budget.

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Miscarriage of Justice Shows Error of Trying Foreign Terrorists in U.S. Civilian Courts

I am outraged that a foreign al-Qaeda terrorist, Ahmed Ghailani, was recently found not guilty in a U.S. civilian court for his role in murdering 224 people during the 1998 attacks on U.S. embassies in East Africa. He was convicted of only one charge of conspiring to damage U.S. property. This miscarriage of justice occurred after the civilian judge refused to allow the jury to hear from what prosecutors called a "giant witness" who reportedly would have testified that he sold Ghailani the explosives used in the bombings. The judge ruled that the witness could not testify because U.S. officials became aware of him while using disputed interrogation procedures.

This tragic verdict demonstrates why I believe President Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder [should not try foreign terrorist suspects in civilian courts](#) and afford them U.S. constitutional protections. In addition to posing a safety threat to the American people, trying terrorists in civilian courts requires stricter rules of evidence compared to military commissions where defendants are provided significant but less expansive legal rights. The Administration's decision to treat terrorism as a crime rather than an act of war will likely result in future miscarriages of justice. I believe the Attorney General should abandon this policy and try any future foreign terrorist defendant before a military commission that is off of U.S. soil. The pursuit of justice for all of the victims of terrorism and their families demands that this mistake never again be repeated.

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Northern California News and Events Veterans Day

I thought you might be interested in my remarks commemorating Veterans Day that I gave at the Marysville Elks Lodge Veterans Annual Dinner. As I said in the speech, "We simply could not have become an independent nation and the world's only superpower without our veterans from years gone by, and we simply cannot maintain our freedom and status as the leader of the free world without our active duty troops today. To all of our veterans here tonight: Thank you again, and may you have an overwhelming sense of pride and satisfaction knowing that your service has helped keep the United States of America strong and free..." Click [here](#) to read my full remarks.

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Disabled Veterans in Northern California Deserve Better from VA

I wanted to make you aware of a recent decision by the Veterans Affairs' Oakland Regional Office to stop processing Notice of Disagreements (NODs) and to only process new claims due to personnel shortages. As you probably know, veterans submit NODs if they believe their initial disability rating was erroneous. Indefinitely postponing review of NODs—which already takes six to twelve months to complete—will cause significant hardship to Northern California veterans who should be receiving additional disability compensation. I believe this is unacceptable and have [contacted](#) the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to voice my concerns and to urge him to promptly review the regional office's decision. I will continue to closely monitor this matter to ensure that the VA provides local veterans with the care and attention they deserve.

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Firefighter Training at College of the Siskiyous



It was my privilege recently to join Randall Lawrence, Superintendent/President of the College of the Siskiyou (COS), for a tour of the campus and a discussion of the unique challenges of providing higher education opportunities in rural Northern California. One of the highlights of my tour was a review of the Fire/Emergency Response Technology Program. This extremely popular program is approved as an Accredited Regional Academy by the California State Board of Fire Services. The accredited status allows COS to operate as an arm of the State Fire Training Office and to test and issue certificates locally. The program prepares students for careers in firefighting and provides in-service training to career and volunteer firefighters and includes certification as a Firefighter I, Firefighter II, and Fire Officer. It was an honor to meet the brave students involved in this program.

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Meeting with Citizen Activists in Red Bluff



I appreciated the opportunity to visit recently with members of the Red Bluff Tea Party

Patriots. These citizen activists share my strong concern over the spiraling national debt. I am fully committed to bringing fiscal discipline back to Washington DC. What happened in November began with people who were concerned about the direction of our country getting together in small groups. They carried a message of limited government, fiscal responsibility and personal freedom that resonated across the nation. As the new conservative majority gets ready to begin work in January, we will carry forth the principles and values of the people who have sent us to Washington.

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Helping Those in Need



I recently took part in the 9th Annual Celebrity Soup Kitchen in Shasta County. Sponsored by the Older Adult Policy Council, the event raised funds for low-income seniors to help them pay rising utility bills and demonstrated the great character of North State citizens. It is inspiring to see the community band together in this difficult economic climate to raise money for those in need. The Golden Umbrella Organization, with their long tradition of service to seniors, and all of the small businesses that contributed to make this event a reality deserve our gratitude.

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