

Right Now

Abandonment of “Omnibus” a Victory for American Taxpayers

I'm pleased to report that Congress has pulled the plug on a \$1.1 trillion “omnibus” spending bill, which would have combined separate appropriations measures into a single package to fund federal agencies during the current fiscal year (FY 2011). The 2,000-page bill was the latest example of the Democrat majority's disregard for fiscal responsibility, having previously [failed to pass a budget](#)

or enact a single one of the twelve annual spending measures. It included nearly 7,000 earmarks totaling over \$8 billion alongside \$1 billion in funding for Obamacare and a host of hidden special-interest provisions, representing the worst kind of big-spending, big-government porkfest that has been all too typical of Congress in recent years. I strongly opposed this measure that would have worsened our

[debt crisis](#)

by forcing billions of additional debt onto the backs of future generations. As we move into a new Congress next year, I look forward to working with the new majority in the House of Representatives to

[reduce spending to 2008 levels](#)

as a first step toward getting our nation back on the path toward a balanced budget.

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Preventing Tax Hikes on Northern California Families and Small Businesses

The House recently passed legislation to prevent the largest tax increase in American history from going into effect on January 1, 2011. While the legislation was not perfect, I supported it to prevent the crippling effect of a \$3.8 trillion dollar tax hike on all Northern California families, small businesses, and family farms, which would effectively double their income taxes. Failing to prevent these tax increases would have ensured that every American sends more of their hard-earned money to Washington starting in January, which would have had a catastrophic impact on our economy at the worst time imaginable. I'm pleased that we prevented the massive tax hike and when the new Congress convenes it is essential that we work quickly to fix the flaws in this bill, including finding a way to pay for extending the unemployment benefits

and eliminating special interest giveaways. My top priorities remain cutting spending, repealing ObamaCare, and getting our fiscal house in order. I spoke on the House floor to express these thoughts. You can watch the video [here](#) .

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Court Ruling Confirms ObamaCare Mandate Unconstitutional

In an important development in the legal battle over ObamaCare, a Virginia judge recently ruled that the new health care law's requirement that nearly every American purchase government-sanctioned health insurance is unconstitutional. The judge had [previously indicated](#) that ObamaCare was on shaky constitutional ground. I believe this ruling is correct and an important first step in the legal fight to overturn ObamaCare. Since the beginning of the debate on health care, Republicans warned that the Constitution does not give Congress the power to require all Americans to buy government-approved health insurance, yet Speaker Pelosi and President Obama disregarded this breach of our nation's founding principles. The unconstitutional 'individual mandate' is just one of many serious problems with this law. As the legal battles continue, it remains imperative for Congress to work to repeal all of ObamaCare and replace it with [true health care reform](#) .

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Congress Again Blocks President's Plan to Bring Suspected Terrorists to the United States

I'm pleased to report that Congress passed a defense bill this week that prohibits through September 2011 the Obama Administration from transferring terrorist suspects held at Guantanamo Bay Cuba to the United States. Immediately upon taking office, President Obama

[pledged to close the detention facility in Cuba](#)

within one year and subsequently expressed support for

[trying terrorist suspects](#)

in U.S. civilian courts. Congress

[initially blocked](#)

the President's plan in May 2009 and did so again after the Administration in November

[failed to convict](#)

Ahmed Ghailani in a U.S. civilian court for his role in murdering 224 people during the 1998 attacks on U.S. embassies in East Africa. I will continue to fight against the Administration's efforts to bring terrorist suspects to the United States and afford them with U.S. constitutional protections.

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FCC Imposes Government Regulations on the Internet

This week the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) passed a controversial set of rules, commonly known as "net neutrality," that will change how the Internet is governed. The federal government will now regulate the Internet, continuing the Obama Administration's alarming trend of increasing the federal government's role in controlling private businesses. Specifically, the new rules will regulate how Internet Service Providers (ISPs) manage the flow of information across their networks and prohibit them from adjusting the Internet connection speed based on the content trying to be accessed. The Internet has flourished without any government intervention and technical experts have pointed out that in most of the country there is sufficient bandwidth for Internet users to access the content of their choosing without delay. In rural areas like Northern California where greater high-speed service is needed, these regulations will only increase service costs because ISPs will be unable to manage their networks efficiently and the cost of installing Internet infrastructure will increase. Additionally, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia ruled in April that the FCC does not even have the authority to regulate the Internet in this manner. I joined 172 Republicans in May [to urge](#) the FCC to respect the court's ruling, but unfortunately the agency has decided to unilaterally defy it and ignore the views of Congress. For these reasons, I will support legislation in the 112th Congress to overturn the net neutrality regulations and put an end to government regulation of the Internet.

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Recent Past

Obama Administration Reverses Stance, Cancels Plans for Offshore Energy Production

Recently the Department of the Interior reversed its prior stance on offshore drilling and [announced](#) that it will NOT open areas in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico and along the Atlantic seaboard for offshore oil and gas production until 2017 at the earliest. These areas are the exact regions that President Obama included as part of a [“comprehensive strategy”](#) for increasing offshore energy development that he released just 9 months ago. Far from pursuing a comprehensive strategy, this announcement represents a failure to respond to our need for more domestic energy production.

This year’s oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico was a widespread tragedy that greatly impacted the Gulf Coast region and took the lives of eleven fellow Americans. There is no question that BP and the other parties responsible for this accident must be held fully accountable for restoring the affected areas and compensating those individuals and business owners who were negatively impacted. That said, we cannot afford to allow this episode to drive “knee-jerk” policies that restrict our ability to responsibly develop our domestic oil and gas resources. This decision is an unjustified reversal on offshore energy policy and another missed opportunity to put Americans to work and help get our economy back on the right track. As oil prices currently remain nearly twice what they were when President Obama took office, I will continue to do all I can to encourage his Administration to take action and allow for the responsible development of our abundant offshore oil and gas resources.

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Administration Promises Cap and Tax Legislation at Latest Round of Climate Change Talks

During last year's [United Nations climate change negotiations](#) in Copenhagen, nations from around the world rejected signing a binding international treaty due to broad disagreement over which countries should bear the costs and make economic sacrifices in order to address climate change. Despite the failure of last year's negotiations, representatives of those countries, including the United States, gathered once again in Cancun, Mexico to continue this misguided discussion focused on expanding the unsuccessful policies of the Kyoto Protocol.

I strongly oppose any effort – either through so-called “cap and trade” legislation or by damaging government [regulation](#) – that seeks to place arbitrary limits on greenhouse gas emissions that will achieve nothing except to increase energy prices for American families and send jobs overseas. As such, I was very concerned to see [media reports](#) [m](#) that indicated that U.S. negotiators in Cancun were making commitments on behalf of the U.S. Congress for legislation to reduce emissions. For these reasons, I joined several Members of Congress in sending a [letter to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton](#) to reiterate our opposition to cap and tax policies and to request that U.S. negotiators not mislead the global community and raise false expectations that the United States will submit itself to a damaging and oppressive policy that will weaken our economy and compromise U.S. sovereignty. Meanwhile, I will continue to push for balanced energy policies that allow us to develop our abundant domestic energy supplies while creating jobs and continuing to grow our economy.

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Northern California News and Events

Congress Agrees Federal Government Must Do More to Shut Down Mexican Drug Cartels Operat

I wanted to share some positive news in our effort to protect our federal lands from marijuana cultivation. As you may know, Mexican cartels have set up shop on public lands in the North State and are threatening public safety and the usage of our own lands. The House of Representatives has passed [H. Res. 1540](#) , a resolution I sponsored to affirm the sense of Congress that marijuana cultivation on federal lands is an unacceptable threat to the safety of law enforcement and the public and that the federal government must take an increased role in putting an end to this growing problem. Previously, I have arranged meetings between the Department of Homeland Security, the Office of National Drug Control Policy, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management to aid in developing a comprehensive federal solution to Mexican drug cartels operating on North State public lands. In a floor speech, I urged Congress to adopt the resolution and called on federal agencies to make marijuana eradication on federal lands a priority. You can view [video](#) of my speech and read the full text of my remarks [here](#)

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U.S. – Korea Trade Agreement Good News for North State Economy

I wanted to inform you of some important news regarding our nation's efforts to create jobs here at home and boost our economy by expanding trade with other nations. Recently the U.S. and South Korea finalized a trade accord that, once passed by Congress and signed into law by the President, will increase U.S. exports in all sectors of the economy and add an [estimated](#) \$12 billion to U.S. GDP. With unemployment on the rise and the economic recovery in the U.S. stalled, free trade agreements like this one will provide a much needed boost for workers and small businesses in [California](#) and across our nation. This is especially good news for Northern California, one of the richest agricultural regions in the world, which will benefit directly from [increased agriculture exports](#) to South Korea as a result of lower tariffs and the elimination of barriers to U.S. exports. Increased access to the South Korea market is also essential to maintaining America's

competitiveness in the global market. I am pleased that the agreement has been finalized, and it is my hope that Congress will approve it, along with the other two stalled trade pacts with Colombia and Panama, as soon as possible.

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A Sendoff for North State Troops

This month I joined several hundred North State residents at a farewell ceremony for the California National Guard 649th Engineering Company. Currently the 649th, composed of men and women from all over the North State including Redding, Chico, and Red Bluff, is training at Fort McCoy in Wisconsin, and will soon be deploying to Afghanistan. Once in Afghanistan, the 649th will be responsible for construction and repair projects of new and existing structures and roads. I am proud to represent an area of our great country so well represented in our armed forces, and with residents so supportive of those who defend our freedom. As I expressed to the members of the 649th and their families, words cannot possibly thank them enough for their sacrifice and service to our country, but they will never be far from our hearts and minds. May God bless them on their mission and bring them home safely.

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