

LESS GOVERNMENT MORE JOBS

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- Congressman Chuck Fleischmann's Jobs Plan for America -

- INTRODUCTION -

Since February 2009, when President Obama passed his stimulus plan and one month after he took office, the United States economy has shed 2,431,000 net jobs. As of June 2011, 45,183,931 Americans receive food stamps – which is a 40% increase since President Obama assumed office. The Obama Administration predicted that if we passed the \$821 billion stimulus, unemployment would not rise above 8%; as of August 2011, we are at our 31st straight month of unemployment being at 8% or higher. What is clear is that this President's policies for job creation have failed. It has been a model of big government, more spending, more taxes and more borrowing.

In his speech to a joint session of Congress, President Obama made it clear that he still believes government is the answer to our problems. I believe that Main Street and the American people are the solution to our economy's problems, and I am going to continue to work hard each day to get government out of the way and let the small businessmen and women of this country get our economic engine working again.

That is why today I am introducing my own jobs plan for America that will truly get our country back to work. It is not centered on spending money we do not have and taxing small businesses. It is centered on less government and more freedom for private enterprises. It is centered on the ideals that this country was founded upon. The government should not stand in the way of American ingenuity and productivity. It should only do what is constitutionally required, and then stand aside while individuals work towards the American dream.

The businessmen and women of this country should be more concerned with the toil of their hands, than the toil of government paperwork brought on them by overregulation. They should be able to keep more of the money they have earned while not having to worry about the costs of frivolous lawsuits. We should have an energy policy in this country that allows for exploration, and hard working Americans have a right to know what the playing field is and have it kept that way. Together we can get America working again, but only if we let Americans do the work freely.

Thank you.



Chuck Fleischmann
Member of Congress (TN-03)

- OVERVIEW -

My jobs plan covers seven issues I view as important to getting America back to work. I understand there are many ways to get the government out of the way so the American entrepreneur can grow his or her business, but these are the seven I view as being able to have some of the greatest impact.

1. 0% Capital Gains Tax
2. Rein in Regulatory Agencies
3. Stability in the Marketplace
4. Exploration-Based Energy Policy
5. Tort Reform
6. Tax Reform
7. Free Trade



- 0% CAPITAL GAINS TAX -

Many businessmen and women have found that the capital gains tax often limits their access to capital markets which, in turn, hinders their business' growth and their ability to hire new employees. Additionally, this tax is a deterrent to individuals' efforts to redeploy their money from capital investments to their daily living needs, particularly in relation to the total amount generated in taxes. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has projected that in 2012 capital gains tax receipts will be just 6% of all individual income tax receipts for the year. This is money that can, and should, be put back into our economy.

For these reasons, I am calling for a two year, temporary reduction of the capital gains tax to 0% across the board for businesses and individuals.

In this time of economic need, it only makes sense to return as much capital as possible to those whose money it already is in the first place. A tax that makes such a small dent in the federal budget, yet makes a big dent in the ability for American business people and entrepreneurs to do business is completely counterproductive at this time.

I believe that you will see individuals and businesses putting money back into the economy, back into their businesses and hiring more workers. This is exactly what our economy needs at this moment. More capital in the hands of those who are capable is the solution, not higher taxes.



- REDUCE REGULATIONS -

"If the federal government's regulatory operation were a business, it would be one of the 50 biggest in the country in terms of revenues, and the third largest in terms of employees, with more people working for it than McDonald's, Ford, Disney and Boeing combined."

- John Merline, *Investor's Business Daily*

American small businesses currently face an estimated \$1.75 trillion in regulatory costs, which increases prices for consumers and slows business growth. Regulations are not only affecting a few companies like small oil drillers, but trickling into every area of our economy including industries such as transportation. One of the most expensive regulations put forth by the Obama Administration is in regards to health hazards from smog and is estimated to cost between \$19 billion and \$90 billion.

The Obama Administration, in its first two years, put forth seventy-five new major rules. According to the Heritage Foundation, this cost American companies an estimated \$40 billion. In addition to these rules, the Administration has escalated their previous number and is planning to lay over 4,000 new regulations on the backs of American businesses.

Of the thousands of regulations put forth by the Obama Administration, many are considered to be extremely costly and put considerable strain on the economy. In fact, thirty-seven of the Administration's rulemaking proceedings between October 2010 and March 2011 were listed as having a "significant"



impact on the economy that could exceed \$100 million per year.

According to the Small Business Administration, small businesses, in comparison to larger ones, are facing grave danger as they will be required to spend 36% more per employee in order to comply with onerous federal regulations. Since the beginning of the Obama Administration, federal regulations have already cost the American people \$38 billion per year.

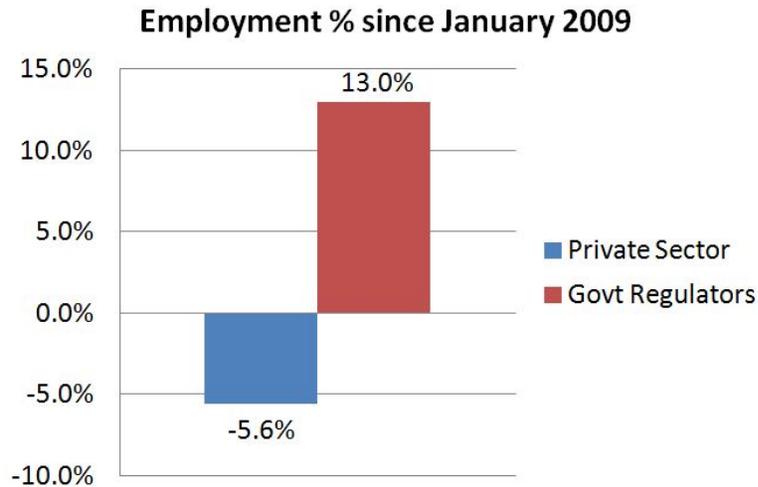
In two counties within the 3rd District alone, I know of farmers, a small business and a big business who might have to close their doors or reduce their operating size. Some have already spent tens of thousands of dollars to comply.

We need a responsible approach to regulatory policy that will keep Americans safe and allow small businesses to flourish, instead of suffer. Action needs to be taken in order to reduce rulemaking and costs associated with it. While it is responsible to make sure our air, water, and overall health is taken care of, we must not weigh down businesses with burdensome and political regulatory costs.

If we responsibly reduce regulatory burdens for businesses, jobs will increase, costs will be lower and our economy will be able to begin to revive itself. In our current fiscal crisis, we must do everything we can in order to take steps to decrease our national debt and put Americans back to work. A logical first step is to reduce regulatory burdens and produce an



environment where we give businesses the opportunity to do what they are supposed to: create jobs.



Source: Merline, John. "Regulation Business, Jobs Booming Under Obama." *Investor's Business Daily*. 15 Aug. 2011.



- STABILITY IN THE MARKETPLACE -

"What we're hearing is that small business wants Washington to get out of the way, and they want more certainty. Uncertainty is a significant impediment, and small businesses are reluctant to get into the game until they know what the rules are."

- Bill Miller, United States Chamber of Commerce

Our economy is on the brink of severe financial setbacks due to political failures in Washington and unsound economic decisions from big financial institutions. To bring us back from the edge in these uncertain times, the most important factor in creating growth in our economy is establishing stability in the marketplace. Below is a list of proposals that will encourage strong economic stability.

A Serious Plan to Reduce the Deficit: When the U.S. government is in debt, the economy suffers, either from more taxation which drags down growth or through a sluggish recovery period. The federal government should establish a credible program to gradually reduce the deficit to show the world we are serious about our debt and restore confidence in the market.

A Fair but Competitive Tax Structure: While an overhaul of our tax system cannot revamp our economy, it can certainly influence it. Closing the numerous loop-holes in our tax structure is an important first step. Closing all loop-holes and lowering the overall tax rates will allow business the ability to



plan ahead and free individuals from burdensome time spent on tax compliance. April 15th should not require people to spend countless hours just to pay their taxes. We must make the tax structure fair, competitive, and simple to compete in the global economy.

Repeal ObamaCare & Dodd-Frank Act: These two policies are creating the most uncertainty for our economy as businesses are struggling to understand the new health care laws, let alone attempt to meet the newly minted requirements. Every individual will be hit by these regulations starting in 2014, creating more confusion and regulatory chaos that could take years to untangle. On top of all this are the new financial regulations that did not solve the problems that started the current recession.



- EXPLORATION-BASED ENERGY POLICY -

In order to create jobs and boost the economy, America must have a robust energy policy. This includes a comprehensive approach that incorporates nuclear, coal, natural gas, oil, geothermal and renewable energy resources. To increase domestic energy production, along with related jobs, opportunities have to be made available to all of these energy sectors.

The energy industry is rapidly advancing on a global level, and the United States must not be left behind. As we look to move our economy and country forward, U.S. energy policy must advocate opening up more oil and gas reserves, reduce onerous regulations that block energy production and keep pace with advancing technologies such as nuclear energy.

Under the Obama Administration, American oil and gas production has been delayed and has forced Americans to rely on foreign sources of oil for energy generation. Slow-paced permitting and politically charged regulations put forth by the Obama Administration has nearly halted oil and gas production especially in the Gulf Coast. This halt in production has deprived the American economy hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue.

According to a recent study, an increase in natural gas and oil production could raise an estimated \$800 billion in cumulative U.S. government revenue by 2030. It is also generally accepted



that the United States does not have adequate reserves to provide sufficient oil and gas here at home. This is an appalling misconception. In fact, an increase oil and natural gas production in American reserves could produce 10.3 million barrels of oil equivalent daily by 2030. Additionally, if we speed up permitting and open up additional areas on the Outer Continental Shelf for drilling, the U.S. economy would rake in an additional 1 million jobs in the next seven years. United States energy policy should create an environment where small businesses can thrive and oil and gas producers are able to provide American-made energy that is abundant and readily available.

Just as American energy policy must approach development responsibly, it must also not place burdensome and duplicative regulations on the backs of small, compliant companies. Specifically, energy initiatives such as hydraulic fracturing have been overly regulated by the Obama Administration.

Government agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have taken one step too far in halting natural gas production on federal lands. Hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, in which pumping large volumes of water and chemicals under pressure into underground shale formations to fracture the rock and release natural gas, has been used for decades and sufficiently regulated on a state level. Although technology and industry regulation in this industry is increasing, fracking has been significantly scaled back due to arduous federal regulation. Hydraulic fracturing is only one industry that has been scaled back by burdensome regulatory policies. In order to keep jobs and not place additional costs on



companies, we should approach industry practices like hydraulic fracturing in a responsible manner that will help, and not hurt, American businesses.

As we move toward clean and cost-effective forms of energy, nuclear power is among the most appealing. By moving forward in the nuclear industry, the U.S. would be able to go additional lengths to protect our environment and create quality, high paying jobs. Nuclear power is still one of the safest and cleanest energy resources available despite even terrible tragedies like the natural disaster in Japan. Additionally, nuclear generation is currently on the forefront of world energy production. Countries like France and China are expanding nuclear energy capabilities at a rapid speed. Seventy-five percent of France's energy production is now based on nuclear energy.

Increasing our competitive edge in advancing industries will put the United States in a strategic position to be on the forefront of these expanding global technologies. If we choose not to push forward in this area, the United States is at risk of being left behind as the world continues to utilize nuclear electricity on a greater scale.

In these tough economic times, we desperately need a new energy policy that will create jobs, remove burdensome regulations and increasing our competitive edge in rapidly advancing industries. By moving forward with a robust energy policy, it will put the United States in a strategic position to be on the forefront of expanding global technologies. If we choose not to move forward with a comprehensive policy, we would be



at risk of being left behind as world markets press toward new jobs, trade and innovation as potential results of increased engagement in the energy industry.



- TORT REFORM -

As an attorney who owned and operated my own firm for over twenty-four years, I have seen first-hand the damage done by an over litigated system, and I know we must enact tort reform.

The CBO published a study that showed enacting litigation reform would reduce our nation's deficit by \$54 billion over 10 years. That same CBO study showed that tort reform would also "reduce total national premiums for medical liability insurance by about 10 percent."

A study in the New England Journal of Medicine showed that with the laws we currently have in place around the country, approximately 54 cents of every dollar awarded in medical malpractice lawsuits go toward lawyers and administrative costs. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists says that one out of every ten obstetricians has stopped delivering babies because they are not able to pay their malpractice premiums (\$1,000 per baby they deliver).

We have seen systems put in place in individual states that have shown how successful tort reform can be in reigning in medical costs. The effects of the lawsuit reform laws passed in the state of Texas provide a clear example of why we need to enact such reforms on the federal level. In 2008, a study completed by The Perryman Group sheds light on the positive impact that lawsuit reform enacted in the mid-90's and early 2000's has had on the state's economy and health care system.



According to the study, "Reforms related to limiting non-economic damages in medical malpractice litigation...lead to increases of \$55.3 billion in spending per year and more than 223,000 jobs."

The study also revealed, "Other positive benefits include an increase in the number of doctors...and the inclusion of almost 430,000 Texans in health plans who would otherwise be uninsured."

In the state of Tennessee we have reformed our malpractice laws to require that a "Certificate of Need" be supplied before a lawsuit can be filed against a doctor. This limits the number of frivolous lawsuits that can be filed. We have also put a cap on contingency fees at one-third. This dissuades lawyers from taking on cases and filing frivolous lawsuits as well.

We can, and should, enact many of these reforms at the federal level. Common sense lawsuit reforms, like those working at the state level, can protect an injured patient's rights while dramatically lowering health care costs and making insurance more affordable for all Americans.



- TAX REFORM -

In 2011, nearly 28 cents of every dollar made by Americans will go to local, state, and federal governments for taxes. To put this into perspective, that is more than we will spend on food, clothing, and shelter – combined. Add to this an additional 11 cents to pay off the ever-increasing deficit, and Americans must commit almost 40% of their hard-earned money to their governments. In a struggling economy, this burden on Americans is simply too much and must change if we want to see long-term growth. Below are a few simple proposals that will help fix our broken system.

Close Tax Loop Holes: There are numerous carve outs for almost every interest group, each one added to the tax code over the years. A truly fair system would end each and every special tax advantage. Congress tends to raise the overall tax rates if money runs short, but if these special carve outs were closed there would be no need to raise any other taxes.

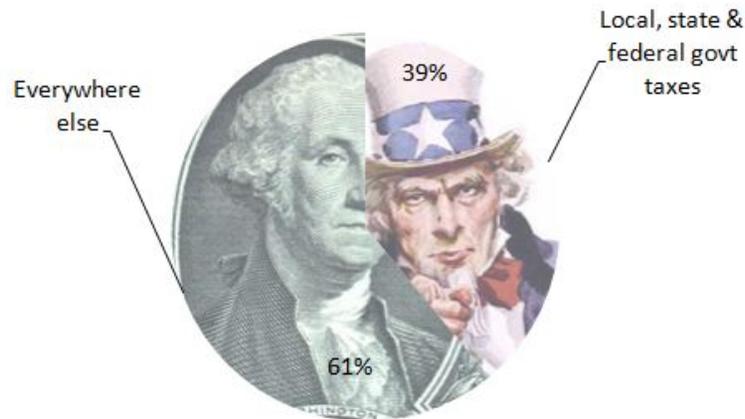
Lower Top Marginal Tax Rates: As mentioned above, if loop holes are closed there is no reason to raise the top marginal tax rate to compensate for the loss of revenue. The reverse is even true. Closing the loop holes would allow overall tax rates to be lowered, allowing individuals and families to keep more of their own money. With individuals having more money to save and spend, more capital can flow into the economy.

Simplify Tax Code: Each year, over 6 billion hours of work and \$160 billion are spent to understand and comply with the tax



code. Taxes are a burden in themselves and the process of compliance should not be an additional burden. Simplification is essential. Creating fewer brackets with lower individual rates would allow more people to keep more money they earn.

Where U.S. Dollars are Spent When taking the deficit into account



Source: Padgitt, Kail M. "Tax Freedom Day Arrives on April 12." *Tax Foundation*. Mar. 2011.



- FREE TRADE -

Opening U.S. markets to international products, goods and services can only have a positive effect on our economy. In 2010, U.S. exports accounted for \$1.3 trillion, or about 8% of our Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Trade liberalization, however, by reducing foreign barriers to U.S. exports and by removing U.S. barriers to foreign goods and services, helps to strengthen those industries that are the most competitive and productive and to reinforce the shifting of labor and capital from less productive endeavors to more productive economic activities.

The United States must have a comprehensive trade policy. Free trade bolsters our economy and gives us an increased ability to reduce our national debt. By removing trade barriers, tariffs will lower and the prices of goods will fall. The United States also opens itself to lower taxes, additional markets to sell U.S. goods, and, therefore, tens of thousands of new jobs.

Pass Pending Free Trade Agreements: The first step in approaching U.S. trade liberalization should be passing the three pending free trade agreements with Colombia, Panama and South Korea.

In regard to trade, the policies of the Obama Administration have been close to non-existent. Since Ronald Reagan, every U.S. President has seen the importance of free trade and has taken aggressive action to pass free trade agreements into law. The Obama Administration, however, has not followed suit. The



Administration has done nothing short of stalling these economy-boosting free trade agreements that have been pending since negotiations started. By using politically charged pieces of legislation to stall these agreements, the Administration has single handedly put the United States at risk of falling behind economically and in trade relationships with other countries.

If the United States passes the U.S.–South Korea agreement, an estimated \$11 billion in U.S. GDP could be added to our economy. Additionally, it is estimated that at least 70,000 domestic jobs would be created. Considering our current economic situation, these are no small numbers. In less than a decade the U.S. has been displaced by the likes of China, Japan and the European Union as South Korea's largest trading partner. In order to stop our further displacement with such a significant trading partner, it is vital that we open up our borders to trade with this country. It will significantly boost our competitiveness in their markets and create more jobs here at home.

Although Colombia has adequately addressed the concerns of the Administration in order to both obtain agreements, the Executive Branch has failed to do their part. A trade agreement between Colombia and the United States would improve both of our economies, and, by doing so, would help to reduce drug trafficking between our two countries.

Panama has also addressed every issue that has been held as outstanding by the Administration. Clearly, it is time to move forward with these agreements. By delaying these pieces of



legislation, the Obama Administration has held America's economy hostage and failed to enact policies that strengthen U.S. markets.

The United States needs a trade policy that opens our borders and expands the markets U.S. businesses are able to compete in. Failing to act on these trade agreements would lead to additional economic disadvantage for the U.S. and significantly decrease the competitiveness of American goods and services worldwide. It has become increasingly clear that if action is not taken on these trade agreements soon, we could be left behind as the rest of the world strengthens their trade relationships and financial markets. Instead of leading the world in free trade, we are in jeopardy of forfeiting hundreds of thousands of jobs and lowering our GDP if the President continues to stall these agreements. We need a trade policy that lowers trade barriers to boost the economy and create much needed U.S. jobs.



- ACTION ALREADY TAKEN -

0% Capital Gains Tax

- ★ Legislation being drafted.

Reduce Regulations

- ★ Voted for the Transparency in Regulatory Analysis of Impacts on the Nation (TRAIN) Act of 2011 [H.R. 2401, Vote #741]
 - Require analyses of the cumulative and incremental impacts of certain rules and actions of the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes.
- ★ Voted for the Protecting Jobs from Government Interference Act [H.R. 2587, Vote #711]
 - Amends the National Labor Relations Act to deny the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) any power to: (1) order an employer (or seek an order against an employer) to restore or reinstate any work, product, production line, or equipment; (2) rescind any relocation, transfer, subcontracting, outsourcing, or other change regarding the location, entity, or employer who shall be engaged in production or other business operations; or (3) require any employer to make an initial or additional investment at a particular plant, facility, or location.



- ★ Voted for the Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act [H.R. 872, Vote #206]
 - Stops federal regulations on farmers and small business owners that are impeding job creation.
- ★ Co-sponsored and voted for the Small Business Paperwork Mandate Elimination Act of 2011 [H.R. 4, Vote #162]
 - ObamaCare required business owners to submit a separate 1099 reporting form for every single business-to-business transaction totaling more than \$600. That meant small business owners would have to have provided 1099 forms for basic business expenses – substantially increasing the cost of doing business. The Small Business Paperwork Mandate Elimination Act repealed that onerous reporting requirement.
- ★ Sponsored H.R. 2257
 - Would rollback an unfunded mandate. New standards put forth by the Federal Highway Administration would require states to update and replace road signs by 2015 and 2018.
 - Would waive the new timeline, and allow local governments to meet the new standards when they replace signs at the end of their natural life cycle.
 - Would save Tennessee an estimated \$50 million.
 - The Obama Administration agreed to waive the new timeline.



- ★ Voted for the Clean Water Cooperative Federalism Act [H.R. 2018, Vote #573]
 - Restricts the federal government's ability to second-guess or delay a state's permitting and water quality certification decisions under the Clean Water Act once the EPA has already approved a state's program, preventing approval process delays that cost jobs and leave businesses hampered by uncertainty.

- ★ Co-sponsored and voted for the Energy Tax Prevention Act of 2011 [H.R. 910, Vote #249]
 - Prohibits the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from regulating greenhouse gases (GHG) to address climate change under the Clean Air Act. More specifically, the bill would prohibit the EPA from regulating: water vapor; carbon dioxide; methane; nitrous oxide; sulfur hexafluoride; hydrofluorocarbons; perfluorocarbons; and any other substance subject to regulation, action or consideration under the Clean Air Act to address climate change. Also repeals a number of EPA rules and actions, including the mandatory reporting of greenhouse gases.

- ★ Co-sponsored the EPA Regulatory Relief Act [H.R. 2250]
 - Provides that the following rules shall have no force or effect and shall be treated as though they had never taken effect: (1) the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Major Sources: Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional Boilers and Process



- Heaters; (2) the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Area Sources: Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional Boilers; (3) the Standards of Performance for New Stationary Sources and Emission Guidelines for Existing Sources: Commercial and Industrial Solid Waste Incineration Units; and (4) Identification of Non-Hazardous Secondary Materials That are Solid Waste.
- ★ Co-sponsored the Farm Dust Regulatory Relief Act of 2011 [H.R. 1633]
 - Prohibits the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from proposing, finalizing, implementing, or enforcing any regulation revising the national primary ambient air quality standard or the national secondary ambient air quality standard applicable to particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter greater than 2.5 micrometers under the Clean Air Act (CAA) for one year.

Stability in the Marketplace

A serious plan to reduce the deficit

- ★ Voted for Path to Prosperity Budget [H.Con.Res 34, Vote #277]
 - Will reduce future deficits and slow the growth of the national debt.



- ★ Voted for the Cut, Cap, and Balance Act of 2011 [H.R. 2560, Vote #606]
 - Makes \$111 billion in cuts for FY 2012, places firm caps on future spending, and – contingent upon House and Senate passage of a Balanced Budget Amendment – would grant President Obama's request for a debt limit increase.

A Fair but Competitive Tax Structure

- ★ Voted for the Path to Prosperity Budget [H.Con.Res 34, Vote #277]
 - Keeps taxes low so the economy can grow, eliminates roughly \$800 billion in tax increases imposed by the President's health care law, and prevents the \$1.5 trillion tax increase called for in the President's budget.
 - Calls for a simpler, less burdensome tax code for households and small businesses, lowers tax rates for individuals, businesses, and families, sets top rates for individuals and businesses at 25%, and improves incentives for growth, savings, and investment.

Repeal ObamaCare & Dodd-Frank

- ★ Co-sponsored and voted for H.R. 2 – Repealing the Job-Killing Health Care Law Act



- Repeals the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, effective as of its enactment. Restores provisions of law amended by such Act.
- Repeals the health care provisions of the Health Care and Education and Reconciliation Act of 2010, effective as of the Act's enactment. Restores provisions of law amended by the Act's health care provisions.

- ★ Voted for the Consumer Financial Protection & Soundness Improvement Act [H.R. 1315, Vote #621]

- Increases consumer protection and government accountability by eliminating the ability of Dodd-Frank's unelected Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Director to unilaterally carry out regulations that hurt job growth.

Exploration-Based Energy Policy

- ★ Co-sponsored and voted for the Putting the Gulf of Mexico Back to Work Act [H.R. 1229, Vote #309]

- Sets timelines for the Secretary of the Interior to approve drilling permits, and if the Secretary fails to act the leases are put into suspension until a decision is made.

- ★ Co-sponsored and voted for the Restarting American Offshore Leasing Now Act [H.R. 1230, Vote #298]



- Requires the Department of the Interior (DOI) to auction offshore oil and gas leases in the Central and Western Gulf of Mexico, as well as in an area off the coast of Virginia.
- ★ Co-sponsored and voted for the Reversing President Obama's Offshore Moratorium Act [H.R. 1231, Vote #320]
 - Amends the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to require that each five-year offshore oil and gas leasing program offer leasing in the areas with the most prospective oil and gas resources, and would establish a domestic oil and natural gas production goal. The bill would essentially lift the President's ban on new offshore drilling by requiring the Administration to move forward on American energy production in areas estimated to contain the most oil and natural gas resources.
- ★ Voted for the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012 [H.R. 2354, Vote #600]
 - Fully funds a competitively bid Department of Energy program for the development of the nation's first small modular reactors (SMR). The cost share program with industry would support two light water reactor SMRs through the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) licensing approval process and significantly increase the competitiveness of the U.S nuclear industry.



- ★ Co-sponsored the American Energy Independence and Price Reduction Act [H.R. 49]
 - Makes available a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) for oil and gas exploration.
- ★ Co-sponsored the National Strategic and Critical Minerals Policy Act of 2011 [H.R. 2011]
 - Declares that it is the policy of the United States to promote an adequate and stable supply of minerals to maintain the nation's economic well-being, security, and manufacturing, industrial, energy, and technological capabilities.
- ★ Co-sponsored the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska Access Act [H.R. 2150]
 - Expresses the sense of Congress that: (1) the National Petroleum Reserve (NPR) in Alaska remains explicitly designated to provide oil and natural gas resources to the United States, and (2) it is national policy to actively advance oil and gas development within the NPR.

Tort Reform

- ★ Co-sponsored the Help Efficient, Accessible, Low-cost, Timely Healthcare (HEALTH) Act of 2011 [H.R. 5]
 - Sets conditions for lawsuits arising from health care liability claims regarding health care goods or services or any medical product affecting interstate commerce.



- ★ Will support the Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act of 2011 [H.R. 966] when it comes to the floor
 - Amends the sanctions provisions in Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure to require the court to impose an appropriate sanction on any attorney, law firm, or party that has violated, or is responsible for the violation of, the rule with regard to representations to the court. Requires any sanction to compensate parties injured by the conduct in question.
 - Removes a provision that prohibits filing a motion for sanctions if the challenged paper, claim, defense, contention, or denial is withdrawn or appropriately corrected within 21 days after service or within another time the court sets.
 - Authorizes the court to impose additional sanctions, including striking the pleadings, dismissing the suit, nonmonetary directives, or penalty payments if warranted for effective deterrence.

Tax Reform

- ★ Voted for the Path to Prosperity Budget [H.Con.Res 34, Vote 277]
 - Keeps taxes low so the economy can grow, eliminates roughly \$800 billion in tax increases imposed by the President's health care law, and prevents the \$1.5 trillion tax increase called for in the President's budget.
 - Calls for a simpler, less burdensome tax code for households and small businesses, lowers tax rates for



individuals, businesses, and families, sets top rates for individuals and businesses at 25%, and improves incentives for growth, savings, and investment.

Free Trade

- ★ Wrote a letter to President Obama, with other members of Congress, asking him to move forward with three pending free trade agreements with Panama, Colombia and South Korea so Congress can make them law.



- ENDNOTES -

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