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Sent: Friday, May 29, 2009 5:37 PM
To: Lashway, Lisa
Subject: Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen's e-Newsletter

eNews - May 29, 2009

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The Week Just Past

"The Administration this week released another status report on its trillion-dollar 'stimulus' spending bill. It's been a full 100 days since the bill became law, and the Administration is pulling out all the stops to put the legislation in the most favorable light possible, even though the bill has been increasingly panned by media and state and local officials as wasteful and inefficient – basically, anything but "timely, targeted, and temporary."

"The trillion-dollar 'stimulus' has fallen short of the Administration's claims, and hard-working families and small businesses are paying dearly. The plan has not created the private sector jobs American families hoped for, brought the transparency to government the President promised, nor moved money into communities as quickly as the Administration pledged. In fact, only six percent of the funding had been released, as of a week ago.

"On just about every score, the law has not lived up to expectations, all the while leaving our children and grandchildren to foot the bill.

"It didn't have to be this way. I voted for a better solution: a stimulus bill that would have created twice as many private sector jobs as the Administration's spending bill at half the price. Unfortunately, Speaker Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Reid took a 'go-it-alone' and 'majority rules' approach, and enacted an inefficient and wasteful 'stimulus' spending plan that has failed to produce the results the Administration promised. The American people deserve better from Washington."

Briefs Morris, Somerset and Sussex Freeholders

The 'stimulus' package and local transportation issues were among the topics of discussion as Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen held separate briefings for the Boards of Chosen Freeholders in Morris, Somerset and Sussex counties this week.

In addition to these two important topics, Frelinghuysen updated the officials on the nation's economic condition, this year's budget process, and the many local projects and programs he is supporting on behalf of citizens of his Congressional District. He also discussed with them the

probability that Congress may soon vote on a nationalized health care plan with limited debate and little opportunity to protect the private health care plans that now cover more than 187 million Americans!

Frelinghuysen regularly briefs state, county and municipal officials on developments on the federal level that may affect their mutual constituents.

North Korea Challenges the Administration

As the week comes to a close, American and South Korean military forces are on high alert as the North Korean regime continues to test missiles in the wake of its underground detonation of a nuclear bomb on Monday. Analysts believe that Pyongyang's scientists and armed forces are working hard to marry a nuclear warhead with its missile technology.

With these events, the unpredictable North Koreans are acting in a highly aggressive and provocative manner, which underscores the threat that North Korea poses to the western Pacific region and to the international community, and directly challenging the Obama Administration to "put up or shut up."

What should not be lost in all of this is that our President is proposing a defense budget that barely keeps up with inflation and, specifically, contains a significant cut in our ballistic missile program.

"Clearly, the Department of Defense needs reform in the way it manages programs and develops weapons systems," said Frelinghuysen. "However, the world remains a very dangerous place and proposing a 'treading water' budget and cutting important programs for cutting's sake is not reform. It is potentially disastrous."

"North Korea's actions should only strengthen our resolve for an effective national security budget which includes a multi-layered missile defense system, capable of protecting our homeland and our allies," he said.

Good Idea of the Week

Rep. Frelinghuysen has co-sponsored H.R. 1207, legislation that tightens Congressional oversight of the Federal Reserve System.

There is growing concern that the Federal Reserve largely operates on its own, despite increased requirements by Congress and the Administration to provide better transparency. H.R. 1207 would enable Congress' 'watchdog', the Comptroller General of the Government Accountability Office (GAO), to audit the Federal Reserve system before the end of 2010.

Bad Idea of the Week

American Taxpayers will soon own more than 72 percent of General Motors, a similar share at Chrysler and have large stakes in 650 banks and other financial institutions across the country. It is little wonder that California and other states want to have all U.S. taxpayers assume financial responsibility for their fiscal mistakes and budgetary mismanagement.

'Hurricane Hunter' to promote math and science education

As part of his ongoing efforts to promote math and science education among New Jersey's students, Rep. Frelinghuysen is bringing a pilot with the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Hurricane Hunter division to visit with students at three middle schools in our area on Monday.

Commander Randy TeBeest, a commissioned officer of the NOAA Corps and a career NOAA Corps Aviator, will meet with students at the Ridgedale Middle School in Florham Park, Millburn Middle School in Millburn and Somerville Middle School in Somerville.

“Commander Tebeest is a distinguished pilot who has had the unique opportunity to fly directly into some of the worst hurricanes our planet has ever seen,” said Frelinghuysen. “I am confident that his presentation will be an exciting way to educate us on the science behind hurricanes, while demonstrating to the students the value of math and science education.”

TeBeest has over 16 years in aviation and has recorded 155 “eyewall penetrations” of hurricanes aboard NOAA research aircraft. He has flown into numerous hurricanes and tropical storms, including Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

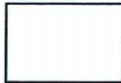
He is a native of New Jersey, a graduate of John F. Kennedy High School in Willingboro, and the College of New Jersey (formerly Trenton State College).

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