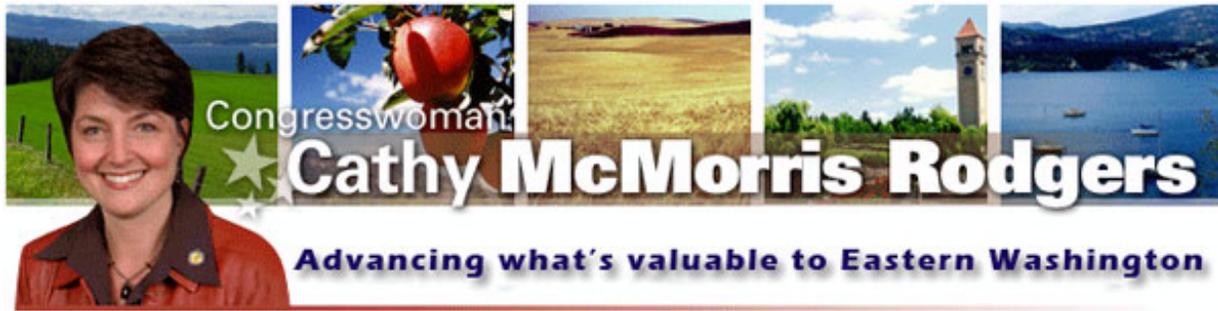


August 6, 2008

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Dear Friends,

Late last week, Democrats in charge of Congress sent us home without letting us vote for a comprehensive energy policy. I am frustrated by Congress' lack of action. Our failure to enact a comprehensive energy policy is having real consequences for Eastern Washington families, small businesses, seniors and everyone else in between. It's time we start meeting America's energy needs with American resources. America needs an "all of the above" approach to become energy independent and to bring gas prices down.

In this newsletter, I'll explain what I believe the solutions to our energy problems are. To get started, click [here](#) to watch a video statement I recorded. I also look forward to hearing from you. In this newsletter, you'll be able to tell me how the high price of fuel is affecting you. And this month, I will travel throughout Eastern Washington talking to you, hearing your concerns about our energy situation.

### The Need for American Energy



I am a cosponsor of the American Energy Act because I am committed to an "all of the above" approach to increase our nation's energy independence and bring relief to the high gas prices affecting everyone.

This legislation will encourage conservation, promote renewable and alternative energy like wind and solar and increase the supply of American-made energy.

### August 2008 Update

#### In this issue:

Meeting America's Energy Needs with American Resources

Increasing Our Nation's Competitiveness and Education

Stopping Medicare Cuts

Fairchild AFB Update

Honoring Military Spouses

#### News Brief: Stopping Medicare Cuts

I wanted to let you know I disagreed with the President and voted once again to prevent cuts to Medicare physician and pharmacy reimbursements. The House overturned the veto by a vote of 383 to 41.

These cuts would have



Click [here](#) for a news release about the American Energy Act.

Click [here](#) for more details about the legislation.

On July 23, 2008, I stood on the Capitol steps as we unveiled the American Energy Act.

## Spreading the Word About American Energy

I wanted to make you aware of a guest column I submitted to the Seattle Times outlining how we can solve our energy challenges by exploring American sources of energy, developing new sources of energy, and conserving the energy we already have. [Click here](#) to read the article on the Seattle Times website.

I also had the chance to explain my position on KUOW's Weekday program. I tried to convince the Seattle National Public Radio station and its listeners that drilling offshore makes sense. See what you think by listening to my interview [here](#). For the whole show, click [here](#).

## Encouraging Domestic Energy Exploration

An important day is on the horizon. October 1, 2008 will hopefully be known as American Energy Freedom Day. In mid-July, President Bush lifted the executive ban on offshore drilling. On September 30th, a Congressional ban on offshore drilling will automatically expire unless Congress votes to renew it. Right now, the Democrats in control of Congress are the only thing standing in the way of opening new sources of American energy.

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich launched an online effort to encourage domestic energy exploration. I support exploring for new sources of energy--do you? [Click here](#) for the petition.

## Congressional Hydropower Caucus

I believe our hydroelectric dams provide an important role in meeting America's energy needs with a clean, renewable and affordable American resource. In July, I created the bipartisan Congressional Hydropower Caucus in order to educate members of Congress and their staff about the many benefits of renewable, clean and emissions-free hydropower.

We in the Pacific Northwest have benefited from clean, renewable hydropower from dams which provide nearly two-thirds of Washington State's electricity. These dams have kept the Pacific Northwest's 'carbon footprint' at half that of the rest of the nation.

## Commemorating Grand Coulee Dam

made it even harder for Eastern Washington seniors to find doctors who will accept Medicare patients.

Congress needs to find a meaningful, long term solution to funding Medicare--not one that saves money by not accurately paying doctors and pharmacists for the services they provide.

Read [more](#)...

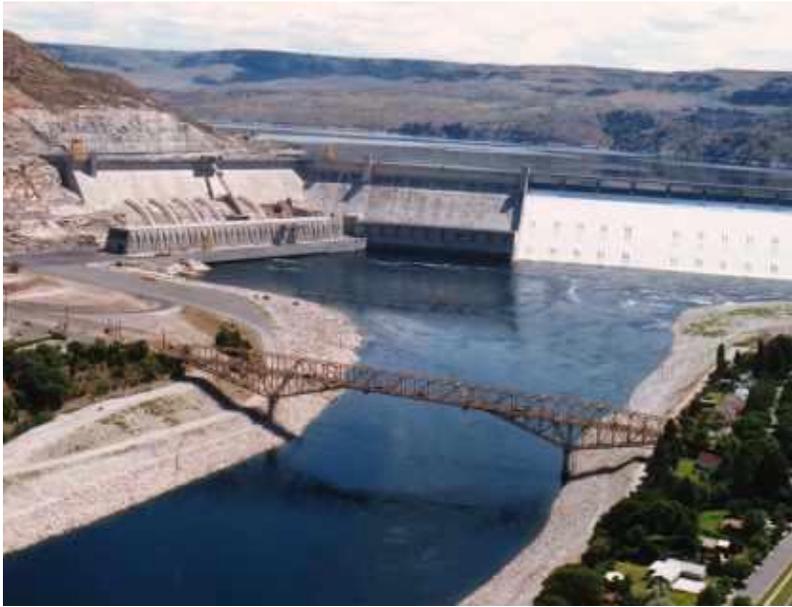
### News Brief: Fairchild Air Force Base Update

**Air Refueling Tanker Contract:** I am pleased the Secretary of the Defense recognizes the importance of securing new air refueling tankers in a timely manner and will oversee an expedited competition for new tankers.

The expedited rebidding will give Boeing a fair opportunity to compete for the chance to continue its tradition of producing quality air refueling tankers in the United States.

I have worked to protect and expand the role of Fairchild AFB since I was elected to Congress. Included in this effort is my work to ensure the next generation of air refueling tankers is based at Fairchild AFB.





The Grand Coulee Dam separates the Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Banks Lakes.  
(Picture Courtesy Bureau of Reclamation)

On July 24th, along with Congressman Doc Hastings, I submitted a House Resolution commemorating the 75th Anniversary of Grand Coulee Dam. The resolution, ultimately signed by Washington State's entire Congressional delegation, also recognizes Grand Coulee Dam's critical role in the national and economic security of the United States and the contributions of hydroelectric power to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Click [here](#) to read the resolution.

### What do you think?

Last month, we asked you what you thought would be the best option to reduce gas prices. Here is what you said:

Increase refinery production	17%
Open ANWR to environmentally sensitive production	16%
Increase off shore drilling	16%
Investigate price gouging	14%
Explore oil shale opportunities	14%
Examine coal to liquid	10%
Repeal the ethanol tax	9%
Request OPEC produce more oil	3%

**I know the high cost of energy has had a devastating impact on Eastern Washington families and small businesses. Tell me how you are dealing with the high cost of fuel.**

**Submit & Join**

\*By answering this survey, you are subscribing to my newsletter.



In April of 2007, I had the chance to visit the 36th RQF

### 36th RQF Report:

Preventing the Air Force from relocating the 36th Rescue Flight Squadron currently based at Fairchild AFB is another way I've been working to protect the base's role. The squadron not only plays a vital role in search and rescue operations here in the Inland Northwest, but is very important to training operations for Fairchild Air Force Base's survival school.

In December, the Washington State Congressional delegation asked the Air Force to provide a report outlining the 36th RQF's capabilities in the Northwest. The report came back in May, but left many of my questions unanswered. In a follow-up letter I asked the Air Force more specific questions about the important role the 36th RQF plays in the Northwest. You can read the report and my follow-up letter [here](#).

The *Spokesman Review* is following the story. You can read an article [here](#) and an editorial [here](#).

If you are having trouble, click [here](#).

## Increasing Competitiveness and Education

Late last month, the House and Senate passed the Higher Education Reauthorization and College Opportunity Act of 2008, which included many of the things I've been working on since coming to Congress. I spoke on the House floor urging my colleagues to pass the bill; you can watch my statement [here](#).

I served as a conferee on this bill which I believe will increase our nation's competitiveness and make college more affordable. Among other things, the bill:

- Adopts my provisions to increase our nation's competitiveness by including scholarships for students studying math, science, engineering and computer science as well as encouraging innovative programs for teaching foreign language;
- Contains language that allows adjunct content specialists in schools, letting school districts recruit mid-career professionals with experience in math, science and critical foreign languages so those qualified professionals can take time out of their career, enter the classroom and share their real world experience;
- Helps make college more affordable for Eastern Washington students by funding for the Perkins Loan program, which provides approximately \$8.7 million for Eastern Washington colleges and universities each year;
- Cracks down on fraudulent diploma mills by increasing transparency to give consumers more information allow the Secretary of Education to continue her efforts to shut down fraudulent diploma mills.

## Looking For A Few Good Men and Women

The brave men and women who serve in our military make many sacrifices in order to serve their country. Their spouses and families also make sacrifices and show their own strength, determination and commitment to our military and our nation.

In order to recognize the work and support of these spouses, I am proud to present the Eastern Washington's Outstanding Military Spouse Award. Spouses of active duty, guard, or reserve unit members are eligible for this award. Commanders, First Sergeants, Spouses, and peers can submit the nominations. Nominations will be based on community and installation involvement, overcoming challenges and the impact they have made within the military. For this year's awards, please send in your nomination packets by August 8th to my Spokane office. Please contact Aimee Henneke with any questions at 509-353-2374 or by e-mail at [aimee.henneke@mail.house.gov](mailto:aimee.henneke@mail.house.gov).

Click [here](#) to fill out a nomination form.



## Photo Album



(July 29, 2008)

I had the pleasure of sponsoring Madeline Cavazos, a junior in high school from Dayton, to be a summer page for the House of Representatives.



(July 6, 2008)

I was honored to throw out the first pitch at the American Legion's 4th of July Tournament Championship game in Spokane. You'll have to ask the catcher if you want to know whether the ball made it over the plate or not!



I want to thank Charles Haire of Stevens County for sending in this beautiful photograph taken between Fort Spokane and



Last August, I presented the Military Spouse Award to (from left to right) Brandi Walmsley, Melinda Bray, Susan DeLano, Kristina Kenagy, and David Allen.

Grand Coulee Dam.

## Send me your photos

Submit your pictures you've taken of Eastern Washington, along with a brief description, [by sending me an e-mail](#). Look for them in next month's e-newsletter.

### Office Locations

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