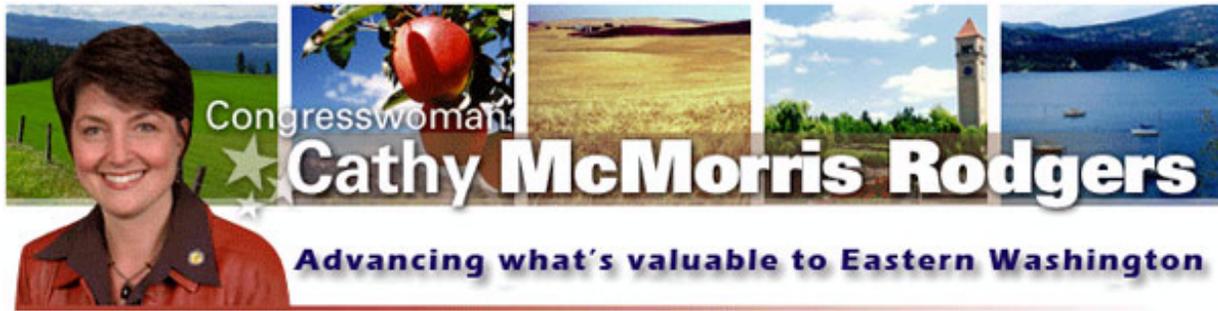


June 30, 2008

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Dear Friends,

The biggest concern people across Eastern Washington have right now is the high cost of gasoline. I know my husband Brian and I cringe every time we fill up our car. Many of the things I've been working on during the past month address the high cost of energy. I'd also like to update you on some of the other things that I've been working on

If you're traveling somewhere for the 4th of July, check out the right side of the page to see some ways you can save money on fuel. Whatever you do to celebrate our nation's independence, I hope you are able to spend it family and friends.

Americans for American Energy

The skyrocketing gas prices affect everyone. Even if you don't drive, you feel the impact of high energy costs through the increased price of groceries. There are many reasons for the increased cost of energy, and there are many solutions. I believe we can decrease energy costs through increased energy production, conservation and innovation.

That's why I am one of the original cosponsors of the Americans for American Energy Act. We need to move away from foreign oil, produce more of our energy here at home and look for ways to conserve the energy we waste every day. It's time we start meeting America's energy needs with American resources, and this plan does that.

Among other things, the Americans for American Energy Act:

- Defines hydropower as a renewable resource
- Increases the supply of affordable natural gas from America's ocean resources by giving coastal states more freedom in whether to develop energy off shore
- Lifts the ban against off shore energy exploration
- Promotes safe and environmentally responsible exploration

July Update

In this issue:

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Supporting Eastern Washington Doctors and Pharmacists

GAO Report on Air Force Tanker Decision

Supporting our Troops

Gas Saving Ideas

We're all looking for ways to save money at the pump. Here are some ideas, courtesy of [Kiplinger](#):

Find the cheapest gas:

Check out this [website](#) that shows you where to get the best price at the pump.

Plan ahead to pump:

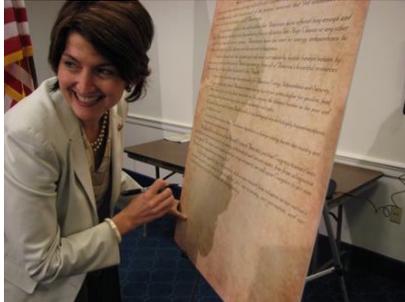
Buy gas before or after rush hour because stations may raise prices during rush hour. Also, refueling when your tank is three-quarters empty will leave you some time to shop for a better price.

Improve your car's gas mileage:

Driving slower, reducing idling and using the cruise control can save gas. Consider a GPS system

and development of ANVVR

- Develops America's vast oil shale resources
- Helps expedite the production of domestic coal-to-liquid fuel
- Promotes renewable energy sources such as solar and wind energy
- Promotes greater energy efficiency by increasing and extending personal and business efficiency tax credits and deductions
- Adopts common sense regulatory relief and policy reforms to streamline and modernize policies that hinder energy exploration, production and transmission



Washington, D.C.--June 26, 2008

Just in time for the 4th of July, I signed the Declaration of American Energy Independence, which calls for using more of the energy we have right here in our country to meet our energy needs.

Western Roundtable

The high cost of energy was the focus of the Western Business Roundtable's 2008 Business Summit of the West. I had the pleasure of speaking to the attendees. I explained how our own laws have locked up sources of energy available right here in our country.

In Congress, I am working to offer real solutions like encouraging more investment in innovative energy technologies, supporting clean and safe access to petroleum resources off our nation's shores and on public lands, and promoting investment in renewable sources of energy. We simply can't afford to put our resources off limits. We must unleash American ingenuity.

Click [here](#) to read a copy of my speech.

Hydropower Hearing a Success

Part of meeting America's energy needs with American energy resources is found in the Pacific Northwest. Hydroelectric dams across the nation and especially in Washington State provide us with clean, affordable and renewable energy. In fact, dams provide nearly two-thirds of Washington State's electricity. At a time of growing energy demand, it makes no sense to throw this clean

which will give you the quickest, shortest route.

Keep your car tuned up:
Cleaning filters, properly inflating tires and eliminating excess weight can reduce the burden on your engine.

Photo Album



Congratulations to East Valley High School graduate Lori for her entry into the Congressional Art Competition. Her picture, below, will hang in the tunnel of the Cannon House Office Building for a year.



June 18, 2008

I had the pleasure of meeting with Ritzville High School students Madison Phillips and Jillian Pflugrath who came to Washington, D.C. as part of Big Bend Electric Cooperative's youth tour.



energy source away.

As lead Republican on the Water and Power Subcommittee, I held a hearing in June about the importance of hydropower in meeting our region's and nation's energy needs.

You can view my opening statement [here](#), and read an op-ed printed in the Capital Press [here](#).

I feel this hearing was the first step toward a better understanding in Congress about the value of hydropower and I look forward to forming a bi-partisan Congressional Caucus to protect and promote hydropower.



Washington State Sen. Bob Morton (R-Kettle Falls), myself, Rep. Doc Hastings (R-WA) and Executive Director of the Public Power Council Scott Corwin before the hearing. I was pleased to have so many hydropower experts from around the Northwest and the nation, like Sen. Morton and Mr. Corwin, testify at the hearing.

Supporting Eastern Washington Doctors and Pharmacists

In addition to hearing about how the high cost of fuel is affecting us in Eastern Washington, I've also heard from a number of health care providers throughout Eastern Washington who tell me it is harder to see Medicare patients because the government doesn't pay its bills. The government doesn't reimburse them for what it costs them to see a Medicare beneficiary. It is important we do more to fully reimburse doctors and pharmacists for the care and attention they give to our Medicare subscribers.

That's why I voted for the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (H.R. 6331). Among other things, the bill would:

- Prevent a 10.6% cut to Medicare physician reimbursements that were to take effect on June 30th, 2008;
- Provide a 1.1% increase in physician reimbursement rates for 2009;
- Provide incentives for doctors to use electronic prescription systems;
- Require Medicare to reimburse pharmacists for drugs prescribed within 14 days if pharmacists submit their claims electronically and within 30 days if submitted otherwise;
- Reexamines a competitive bidding process that would have prevented many small businesses from providing medical equipment to Medicare beneficiaries;



June 11th, 2008
Congratulations to Katelyn Antuna from Oroville who visited Washington, D.C. as one of the finalists for the Save Our Wild Salmon Youth Art Contest. She won first prize for her age group. Her picture is below.



Send me your pictures

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.

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Areas of Interest

What issues are important to you?

- Improving access to quality, affordable health care
- Safeguarding our

- Delay implementation of the new Average Manufacturing Price system, which may cause some pharmacists to be reimbursed 36% below cost to distribute generic Medicaid prescriptions;
- Allow Medicare to cover additional preventative services, and waive the deductible with respect to the initial physical exam that Medicare subscribers receive when they first enroll

I am also a co-founder of the Community Pharmacy Caucus which is working hard to preserve access to community pharmacies. The loss of these pharmacies would leave many people, including a large number of seniors in rural areas of Eastern Washington, without a way to receive necessary medications.

Air Force Tanker Decision

As many of you know, the General Accounting Office (GAO) upheld Boeing's protest of the Air Force's decision to award a contract to build the next generation of air refueling tankers to Northrop Grumman and European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company.

What's next? The Air Force has 60 days to respond to the GAO's report, which recommends reopening the contract to bidding. As we move forward, we must ensure the procurement process is fair and transparent, we are building the best tankers possible for America, we are giving taxpayers the best value, and we are replacing the aging KC-135 tankers at Fairchild Air Force Base as soon as possible.

Supporting our Troops on the Battlefield and at Home

During the past month, I was pleased to support several measures that benefit our active duty troops and veterans, including:

H.R. 2642 provides \$162 billion for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, funding the war into next year. The bill also increases college aid for military service members who enrolled after September 11, 2001. In addition to those education benefits, veterans returning from Iraq or Afghanistan can transfer those benefits to their spouses or children.

H.R. 5684, the Veterans Education Improvement Act, updates the Montgomery GI Bill to widen educational opportunities for current and former members of our Armed Forces. Highlights of the bill include:

- Substantially increasing the amount of basic education assistance for veterans equal to the average cost of the tuition at a four-year public college or university;
- Providing veterans with a monthly cost of living stipend;
- Extending the time limitation for use of education benefits from 10 years to 15 years, more fully accommodating the transition from military to civilian life

- Safeguarding our nation and community
- Reducing taxes and regulatory burdens
- Encouraging innovative energy solutions
- Managing our resources economy
- Supporting our agriculture community
- Caring for seniors
- Developing a 21st Century Workforce
- Women's Issues
- Advocating for new and existing transportation infrastructure
- Supporting our military and veterans
- Improving our education system

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