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Six Month Legislative Accomplishments

During her first six months in Congress, Congresswoman McMorris helped pass the following key legislation to protect what is important to Eastern Washington.

Job creation and economic growth

Class Action Lawsuit Reform (S.5)

Will curb litigation costs for small businesses

Bankruptcy Reform (S. 256)

Lowers the amount of abusive and frivolous bankruptcy filings

H.R. 8 – Repeal the Estate Tax* Co-sponsor

Makes the repeal of the death tax permanent beyond the year 2010

H.R. 27 – Job Training Improvement Act

H.R. 366 – Vocational Education Training

H.R. 6 – Energy Bill

Includes measure to increase domestic production of oil and expands development of renewable energy projects

H.R. 3 – Transportation Equity Act

Secures funding for key transportation projects in the 5th district:

U.S. 395 North Spokane Corridor

U.S. 12 Burbank to Walla Walla Lane Widening

I-90, Spokane to Idaho Lane Widening

Fleshman Way/State Route 129 Interchange Improvements Project

Spokane Advanced Traffic Management System Expansion

Access to quality, affordable healthcare

H.R. 1138: The Ferry County Rural Hospital Accessibility Act * Sponsor

Allows federal land to be used as a site for a new assisted living facility

H.R. 1654: Rural Health Training Incentive Act * Sponsor

Established demonstration programs to address the shortages of health care professionals in rural areas

Ensuring national security

H.R. 1544 – Homeland Security, First Responders Fund Distribution Formula

H.R. 1817 – Homeland Security Authorization Act

H.R. 1815 – FY 2006 National Defense Authorization Act

Secures funding for local national defense projects:

Fairchild Air Force Base – Mission Support Complex

Washington State University – Soldiers System Center

Itronix – Warfighter’s Pocket XP

DAS Electronics – Bullet Sensor Livefire Trainer

ISR – Advanced Fluids for Evaporative Cooling

Trident Systems – Night Vision Integrated Display System

H.R. 1268 – Emergency Supplemental Way Appropriations Act

Gives the troops the tools they need to win the war on terror

Additional Funds Secured for Veteran Health Programs

Congresswoman McMorris, along with fellow Congressional members, voted unanimously Thursday night to provide \$975 million in additional funds for veteran health care programs. This was in response to the Veterans Affairs Department’s announcements last week that unexpected health care costs had left them with a \$1 billion shortfall.

“Veterans have provided a great service to our country and we have an obligation to see that they are getting proper care,” said McMorris. “There are an increased number of veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan and we need to make sure they have access to quality health care.”

McMorris Co-Sponsors Biodiesel Legislation

H.R. 2498: a bill to extend the tax incentives for the use of biodiesel through 2010. Creating incentives for biodiesel production in Eastern Washington is important to promote the use of alternative fuel and decrease dependency on foreign oil.

5th District News

Spokane Receives Recognition as *Preserve America* Community



Spokane was one of 24 cities to be recently designated as a *Preserve America* Community. Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton honored the cities and recognized them for their dedication to protecting and celebrating their heritage. Designation as a *Preserve America* Community provides national recognition for what communities have already achieved, while also serving as a way to enhance the contribution of tourism and other economic development strategies to their economies.

Visit www.PreserveAmerica.gov

Endangered Species Act Field Hearing Held in Clarkston, WA

The House Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power held a field hearing on June 6th in Clarkston, Washington. The hearing focused on the important role the Columbia and Snake River systems play in our regional economy.

“Our river systems are the lifeblood of our region’s economy and culture. It is imperative that our public policies reflect the need to balance our cultural heritage, economy, and our environment,” said McMorris. “Barge transportation on our rivers is necessary in order to move agriculture goods to the ports and to relieve congestion on our railroads and highways. The river is also the center of recreation and sporting activities in the area and helps boost the local economy.”



McMorris Celebrates the 4th of July

Congresswoman Cathy McMorris will be celebrating our nation’s independence in the 5th district next week, urging support for our troops and highlighting the accomplishments made by Congress.

“The 4th of July is a wonderful opportunity to remember the values that our nation was founded on,” said McMorris. “We should never take for granted the liberty we have in this country and support the effort of those who work to spread freedom to others.”