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August 4, 2008

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<p align="center"><b>U.S. Congressman John Culberson, 7th District of Texas</b></p> <p align="center"><a href="#">Website</a>   <a href="#">Biography</a>   <a href="#">Constituent Services</a>   <a href="#">In The News</a>   <a href="#">Blog</a>   <a href="#">Contact John</a></p>	
<p><b>I will continue to hold regular streaming video eTownhall meetings on my website, <a href="http://www.culberson.house.gov">www.culberson.house.gov</a>, and by answering this survey, you can be notified of them.</b></p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes, I want to be notified.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> No thank you.</p> <p align="center"><a href="#">Submit &amp; Join</a></p> <p>*By answering this survey, you are subscribing to my newsletter.</p> <p><a href="#">If you are having trouble, click here.</a></p>	<p>Please note: this email newsletter is coming from an unmonitored account. Please <b>do not reply</b> to this email address. <a href="#">Click here</a> to use the contact form on my website.</p> <hr/> <p>Dear Paul,</p> <p>Last Friday, Congress adjourned and left Washington for five weeks. Unfortunately, the Democrat leadership did not schedule energy votes to bring desperately-needed relief to American families.</p> <p>After Speaker Pelosi adjourned the House, I took to the floor with my Republican colleagues to voice my displeasure. Republican Leader John Boehner, Minority Whip Roy Blunt and a number of others stayed on the floor demanding a vote on drilling here and drilling now. Speaker Pelosi literally turned off the lights, the cameras and the microphones, but we stayed down there in the dark demanding action to open up domestic sources of oil and gas. It is my hope that our words in the dark will shine light on their inaction.</p> <p>It is deeply frustrating that we left for recess without taking action to deal with our nation's energy crisis. Developing our own energy supply is critical to becoming energy independent. I have signed <a href="#">7 discharge petitions</a> to bring energy development legislation to the floor; however, the Democrat Leadership has stopped all efforts to drill here and drill now and decided to go on 5 week recess without holding a single substantive vote to reduce the price at the pump.</p> <p>When Congress comes back in September, we will have much work to do. On October 1 - American Energy Freedom Day - the current prohibitions on oil and gas leasing on most of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) and on oil shale leasing on federal lands will expire, unless Congress acts to extend them. I have joined my Republican colleagues and signed onto 2 letters urging the Democrat Leadership to allow these prohibitions to expire as scheduled under current law, and will vigorously oppose any attempt to extend them.</p>
<p><b>What should Congress do to combat high gas prices?</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Expand refineries and drill here and drill now in America; including ANWR, OCS, and the Mountain West.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Raise taxes on oil and gas companies.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Enact a gas tax holiday.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Increase production</p>	

of electricity with renewable fuels, wind, and geothermal.

Other.

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Throughout the summer months, I have held a series of TeleTownhall meetings, discussing our energy policy and other important issues, and greatly appreciate your participation and the opportunity to hear your views. I hope you will sign up for my email alerts so you will continue to be notified about my upcoming eTownhall meetings on the Internet during the fall.

I am also outraged by the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals decision to uphold the convictions of Border Patrol Agents Ramos and Compean. Their 11 and 12 year prison sentences are completely unjust and their continued imprisonment symbolizes everything that is wrong with America's justice system.

I joined Congressmen Ted Poe and Walter Jones on Lou Dobbs last week to express our support for the pardon of these two men, and will continue working with my colleagues and using every legislative tool at our disposal to release Ramos and Compean from prison. 75 Members of Congress sent [a letter to the President](#), asking him to commute their sentences just as he commuted the sentence of Vice President Cheney's former Chief of Staff, Scooter Libby.

I will never stop working to win their freedom and to secure our border with zero tolerance for anyone who enters our country illegally. I supported the Employee Verification Amendment Act, an extension of the current eVerify program which provides an important tool for employers to confirm voluntarily the legal status of the people they employ. I will also continue providing our border sheriffs and law enforcement officers with the resources they need to restore law and order.

I hope you and your loved ones enjoy vacation time this summer and plan accordingly for the summer hurricane season. I will be in the district throughout August, and you can also catch me on both Twitter and Qik, where I send regular updates on my work in Washington and in Houston.

It is my honor to serve you in the United States Congress.

Sincerely,



John Culberson  
Member of Congress

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