



*This E-Newsletter is a weekly summary of the events taking place in the United States Congress that affect the State of Michigan and primarily Michigan's 13th Congressional District.*

*A printable version of this E-Newsletter will also be available on my website [www.house.gov/kilpatrick](http://www.house.gov/kilpatrick)*

## Legislative Action From the Week Of 5/5/06

H.R. 5253 Prohibiting Fuel Price Gouging

H.R. 5254 Creating the Refinery Permit Process Schedule Act

H.R. 4975 Establishing the Lobbying Accountability & Transparency Act

H. R. 4954 Ensuring Security and Accountability For Every Port (SAFE Port)

## Hill Highlights

Legislative Action From the Week Ending 5/5/2006

### H.R. 5253 Prohibiting Fuel Price Gouging

This bill prohibits price gouging in the wholesale or retail sale of crude oil, gasoline, diesel, home heating oil, or biofuels. The measure sets fines for individuals or businesses found to have engaged in price gouging in the sale of fuels. The bill also allows the Justice Department to bring criminal charges against individuals or businesses for price gouging in the sale of fuels. It also allows states to file lawsuits on behalf of state residents against retailers or wholesalers for price gouging. I voted in support of this measure, which passed the House by a vote of 389 to 34.

### H.R. 5254 Creating the Refinery Permit Process Schedule Act

This bill requires the President to identify at least three new sites on closed military bases that are suitable for new oil refineries within 90 days of enactment. It also replaces a federal-state process with the creation of a new federal coordinator to speed the application process for the construction of new refineries. This measure also authorizes the Environmental Protection Agency to provide financial assistance, at a state's request, to hire employees to assist a state with applications to build or expand refineries. It allows any federal agency to provide technical, legal, or other non-financial aid to help states apply for new or expanded refineries. I voted against this measure. Its passage failed by a vote of 237 to 188.

### H.R. 4975 Establishing the Lobbying Accountability & Transparency Act

This bill bans privately funded travel by House members prior to June 15 unless two-thirds of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct (the "Ethics Committee") votes to certify that the travel complies with House Rules and standards of conduct. It also requires the Ethics Committee to report its recommendations for changes to the House rule on privately funded travel by June 15. The measure denies retirement benefits to House members who have been convicted of felonies related to their official position. It also requires mandatory ethics training for all House employees and permits withholding the pay of any House employee who does not complete such ethics training. The bill directs the Ethics Committee to establish a similar program for House members and to encourage members to take part in that program. It also requires lobbyists to file quarterly instead of semiannual reports. I did not sup-

## REAL SECURITY

The Democratic Plan to Protect America and Restore Our Leadership in the World

House & Senate Democrats unveiled the comprehensive Democratic plan to protect America: Real Security. The Democratic plan for Real Security will protect Americans and restore our country's position of international leadership.

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### In the District

Congresswoman Kilpatrick Congratulates State MATHCOUNTS Champion

### News You Can Use

Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund Provides Assistance for College

National Inventors Hall of Fame Foundation Offers Collegiate Inventors Competition

### Helpful Resources

[Directory of Homeownership Assistance in the Detroit Area](#)

Printable booklet of homeownership resources.

[Medicare's New Prescription Drug Plans](#)

Printable handout with important facts to help you understand the program.

[Energy Saving](#)

Brief compilation of tips and tricks to help your

energy program. The program requires energy audits on a quarterly instead of semiannual reports. I did not support this bill, which passed the House by a vote of 217 to 213.

### H. R. 4954 Ensuring Security and Accountability For Every Port (SAFE Port)

This bill authorizes approximately \$5 billion over six years for port and cargo security programs and measures, including \$400 million annually for risk-based grant programs. It also requires the evaluation of next-generation cargo scanning technology to determine the feasibility of deploying it at foreign ports. This measure requires ports to submit security plans upon transfer of ownership. It also requires that port workers, merchant mariners, and truck drivers have security cards, sets deadlines for developing regulations for a transportation security card for port employees, and establishes interim background and immigration verification procedures. This bill requires Homeland Security to complete an automated vessel tracking system by 2007. It also authorizes funding to accelerate the Coast Guard's Deepwater program for replacing deteriorating ships and equipment, provides formal authorization for the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, and authorizes a Policy, Planning and International Affairs Directorate within the Department of Homeland Security. I voted in favor of this measure, which passed the House by a vote of 421 to 2.

To read more about these measures, or any other legislation, please visit the Library of Congress' legislative information site at <http://thomas.loc.gov/>.

### In the District

#### Congresswoman Kilpatrick Congratulates State MATHCOUNTS Champion

Congresswoman Kilpatrick visited Parcels Middle School in Grosse Pointe to honor eighth grader Matthew Vengalil for winning the MATHCOUNTS state championship. She presented him with a congratulatory proclamation during a school-wide assembly. Congresswoman Kilpatrick also recognized the efforts of the other MATHCOUNTS team members and Coach Al Silverston. Vengalil will travel to Washington, DC later this month to compete in the



National MATHCOUNTS competition. Congresswoman Kilpatrick encouraged him and all the stu-

woman Kilpatrick encouraged him and all the students to take pride in their accomplishments and continue their quest for knowledge. "You should be proud of your achievements. Support one another, and continue to do your best," said Congresswoman Kilpatrick. "Listen to your teachers and learn as much as you can. Knowledge is power."

## News You Can Use

### Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund Provides Assistance for College

Thurgood Marshall successfully argued the 1954 landmark case *Brown v. Board of Education*, which ordered the desegregation of public schools. He later became the first African-American appointed to serve as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. Established in 1987 to carry on Justice Marshall's legacy of equal access to higher education, the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund offers a variety of scholarship opportunities. All TMSF Scholarships are awarded through the 47 member schools. Students interested in a TMSF scholarship should contact a scholarship coordinator at any member college or university and apply through the school. For a list of member schools and more information, visit the website at [www.thurgoodmarshallfund.org](http://www.thurgoodmarshallfund.org) or call (212) 573-8888.

### National Inventors Hall of Fame Foundation Offers Collegiate Inventors Competition

The Collegiate Inventors Competition rewards and encourages students to share their inventive ideas with the world. It promotes exploration in invention, science, engineering, technology, and other creative endeavors. Up to 15 finalists will win an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C. to participate in the final round of judging and in the awards dinner. One Undergraduate winner or team will receive \$10,000 and one Graduate winner or team will receive a \$15,000 cash prize. One Grand Prize winner or team will receive \$25,000. For eligibility requirements, an application, and more information, please visit the National Inventors Hall of Fame Foundation's website at [www.invent.org](http://www.invent.org) or call (330) 849-6887.

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