

The Renzi Report

VOL. 3 ISSUE 7

SEPTEMBER 2005

Your Direct Link to the News and Events from Our Nation's Capital and Rural Arizona

Dear Fellow Arizonan:

Arizona's border communities continue to experience the crush of illegal immigration and are feeling desperate by the federal government's limited response. We are ready for a border plan that works. Before there can be a comprehensive immigration policy to address the guest worker issue, America must first secure its borders. This is why I recently released a new strategy called the "Red Zone Defense" to secure our borders and help make Arizona safer.

The plan calls for the use of state-of-the-art technology to track immigrants before they cross. These new tools will allow the Border Patrol see into Mexico and predict where crossings are occurring in order to shift our manpower in a pro-active manner. This will allow authorities to be more effective in apprehension and prevention activities. You can read more about it in this issue of the Renzi Report.

As always, feel free to tell your family members, friends and neighbors about the Renzi Report. You can sign up to receive this email and find additional information about developments in Congress at my website. Just click on the following link: <http://www.house.gov/renzi>.

If you have any questions or comments about this e-newsletter or anything else, please e-mail me at rick.renzi@mail.house.gov and I will get back to you as quickly as possible. I hope you find this Renzi Report informative. Thank you and may God Bless America.



Congressman Rick Renzi

If you no longer want to receive this newsletter, please send an email to rick.renzi1@mail.house.gov and type UNSUBSCRIBE.



Congressman Rick Renzi receives an award from Seniors Coalition National Spokeswoman Flora "Grandma" Green for his leadership, action and commitment to help secure a brighter future for those suffering from visual impairments.

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Arizona Border Security Update

Renzi Releases New Border Strategy called the “Red Zone Defense”

Congressman Rick Renzi this month released a new strategy to secure America’s borders. Called the “Red Zone Defense,” Renzi’s plan is a new comprehensive, aggressive and proactive border strategy which proposes to use state-of-the-art technology to track immigrants before they cross the border.



Congressman Renzi proposes using UAVs like this on, as well as other devices to gather real time intelligence to help secure our borders.

“America’s border communities continue to experience the crush of illegal immigration and are feeling desperate by the federal government’s limited response,” said Congressman Renzi. “It is time for a major strategy shift on America’s border security. Before there can be a comprehensive immigration policy, America must first secure its borders.”

Renzi noted that border areas are seeing some of the most violent drug cartels in the world smuggling human beings as well as drugs and contraband. These cartels will be the same organizations the terrorists will seek out to look for new ways to enter the U.S.

Renzi’s “Red Zone Defense” will implement proven technology already being used with success in several U.S. operations around the world. The increased use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV), drones, ground sensors and tower sensors, aerostat balloons equipped with night-vision technology and other intelligence methods will allow authorities to better identify staging locations of illegal aliens before they cross the border. This capability will provide a constant stream of real time intelligence, which can be down-linked to a multi-agency command center. This will allow federal border officials to shift manpower to interdict those coming across the border.

“We rely on our friends to the south who contribute greatly to our nation, however a new border strategy is required to stop the violence and lawlessness that currently threatens all of Arizona,” Congressman Renzi said. “More importantly, a successful defense will allow us to be more compassionate in the type of immigration program we develop, because we will have again earned the trust of the American people.”

ARIZONA FAST FACTS:

Southeastern Arizona’s Border Patrol units have made more than 400,000 apprehensions over the last year;

For every one person caught, three to four make it across the border;

The Border Patrol has only graduated 245 agents from their training academies this year.

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Arizona Native American Update

Renzi Pushes to Limit Uranium Activities on Tribal Lands in Arizona



Congressman Rick Renzi addresses a meeting of the Eastern Navajo/Dine Against Uranium Mining (ENDAUM) and expresses his support for the Navajo Nation's ban on uranium mining. Left to Right – Congressman Rick Renzi (AZ-1), Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, ENDAUM members Phil Harrison and Michael Capitan.

Congressman Rick Renzi pledged to support the Eastern Navajo/Dine Against Uranium Mining (ENDAUM) efforts to limit uranium mining activities on tribal lands in rural Arizona and to protect vital water aquifers used by the Navajo Nation.

“Earlier this year, I pushed the Energy Bill Conferees to the remove a \$30 million dollar subsidy to uranium mining companies,” said Congressman Renzi. “Eliminating this funding has limited the industry’s capability to fund a project that would jeopardize an aquifer that is the only source of drinking water for 15,000 Navajos. Rather than providing subsidies to the uranium industry, the federal government must focus on fulfilling its responsibility to assist individuals who have lingering health problems from past uranium exposure.”

Renzi went on to say that he had a number of conversations with officials from the Department of Justice who oversee the distribution of assistance funds available through the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA). During these meetings he expressed his concerns over possible barriers that are causing problems in dispersing assistance to those who qualify for it.

“I support the Navajo Nation’s Resolution banning uranium mining on Navajo land and the Dine people’s sovereign right to enforce this ban,” Renzi said. “I will continue to work to eliminate any mining that could potentially contaminate sources of Navajo water. We must work to stop the threat of uranium exposure before it hurts our future generations.”

Renzi Fights to Protect Children from Predators

Congressman Renzi earlier this month supported a bill to ensure that sex offenders register, and update government agencies on where they work and live. The bill will help make children in rural Arizona safer by requiring sex offenders living on tribal land to register, where previously these individuals were not required to do so.

Renzi said that this bill will help protect the most vulnerable members of our society, our children. The measure was passed by the House and will make several important changes to our nation’s Sex Offender Program. These changes include requiring felony sex offenders to register for life, and misdemeanor sex offenders to register for at least 20 years. Renzi said that as a society we witness far too many cases of sexual predators targeting our children, who are often victimized in their own homes. This bill will help shield and protect our children.

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Renzi Pushes for Improvements to Endangered Species Act to Give Native Americans Input on Law

Congressman Rick Renzi this month pushed for improvements to the Endangered Species Act to improve and update the Act to reflect strengths and weaknesses in the original measure. Congressman Renzi added two amendments to the measure which would require local experts and officials to be involved in the development of recovery plans.

“In the West, the Endangered Species Act has limited our ability to maintain the health of our forests and has placed unnecessary hardships on cattlemen, and other traditional Western ways of life,” said Congressman Renzi. “We all share the same goal, but the law needs to be improved. To date only ten species have recovered in more than 30 years. The Endangered Species Act has created a system of red tape and vague regulations that threatens the well being of our lands and handcuffs our communities.”

Renzi’s first amendment specifically calls for the inclusion of local entities in the recovery process after a species is considered endangered. Renzi noted the importance of utilizing local experts in order to establish pragmatic solutions that will lead to the recovery of listed species, while maintaining the overall health of the affected land and communities. Renzi’s second amendment pushes to include Native American Tribes in the ESA process. Renzi said that Native Americans are the truest stewards of our lands and should be recognized as such. He said that the federal government ought to follow the example of the Native Americans, rather than

handcuffing them with outdated regulations and controversial litigation.

“We must establish pragmatic solutions that provide protection to those species that truly are endangered,” Renzi said. “But, we must permit government agencies to maintain the health of our natural resources. And we must allow our land to be utilized in reasonable and conservation-minded ways that will benefit the community overall.”

Renzi Meets with Member of Navajo Area Health Board



Congressman Rick Renzi meets with Navajo Area Health Board member Helan Bonnaha of Kayenta, to discuss Indian Health Service (IHS) issues.

FAST FACTS:

As of September 21, 43 states have received \$239.1 million in emergency federal funds to cover the costs of services for Hurricane Katrina evacuees. These services include: 180 Million Pounds of Ice, 63 Million Liters of Water, 27 Million Meals-Ready-To-Eat (MREs), 217,728 Plastic Sheeting Rolls, 264,600 Tarps, 366 Generators, 46,592 Immunizations, 130,645 Housing Inspections, and treatment to 47,458 Patients.

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Rural Arizona Legislative Update

Renzi Pleased to See Safford Land Exchange Completed

Congressman Rick Renzi said the successful completion of the Safford land exchange between the Bureau of Land Management and Phelps Dodge would open the door for new economic opportunities in Eastern Arizona. The project represents the culmination of more than twelve years of work, scientific analyses, negotiations, discussions, document preparation and public comment periods.

“This project will provide a major boost to the economy of Safford and Graham County and is wonderful news for Eastern Arizona,” said Congressman Renzi. “This mine will be the first new U.S. copper mine in more than thirty years and represents a significant accomplishment for community and local leaders. Not only will this land exchange help provide jobs for Graham County and the surrounding area, it will transfer almost 4,000 acres of environmentally sensitive land into the public domain.”

The proposed copper mine will be approximately eight miles north of Safford in Southeastern Arizona. The mine will develop the San Juan and Dos Pobres copper ore bodies and construction is planned to start in the first half of 2006 with operations commencing in 2008. Congressman Renzi noted the project is expected to provide 745 jobs for Graham County, and \$4.6 million in revenue for the local governments. The annual economic impact for the region will be between \$42 million and \$52 million.

Renzi Fights to Increase Funding for Community & Technical Colleges

Congressman Rick Renzi voted to increase education funding recently for community and technical colleges that provide essential workforce training and education. The amendment proposed to HR 250, the Manufacturing Technology Competitiveness Act of 2005, would have increased funding for the National Science Foundation’s Advances Technological Education program but failed by a vote of 210 – 212. Congressman Renzi was one of only eleven other Republicans to vote for this increase in funding.

“Our community and technical colleges provide vital services to our region by providing important workforce training and education,” said Congressman Renzi. “This funding would have been an important boost to a National Science Foundation program to increase technological education. Advanced research and development on new technology will continue to become more important, especially in rural Arizona.”



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In Case You Missed It...

Renzi wants military technology to track immigrants at border

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/0922renzi-border.html>

Navajos fight against uranium mining

<http://deseretnews.com/dn/view/0,1249,605155073,00.html>

America is better prepared after September 11th - but much more needs to be done

http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=15218186&BRD=1817&PAG=461&dept_id=222077&rf=6

Federal funds still set aside for Eighth Ave. Bridge

http://www.eacourier.com/articles/2005/09/14/local_news/news02.txt

Lori Piestewa: Valiant Hero Of The 507th

<http://www.kfoxtv.com/weather/2174016/detail.html>

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