

The Renzi Report

VOL. 4 ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2006

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

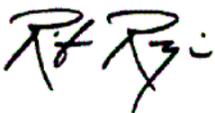
Dear Fellow Arizonan:

Rural Arizona is facing a perfect storm in our forests because of several factors including the extended drought, record bark beetle infestation, and forest managers hamstrung by red tape and frivolous legal maneuvers. Federal wildfire fighting efforts are essential to the safety of our forests and our communities. The deadly combination has left much of our federal lands prone to an unprecedented fire season. Already we have seen an early blaze north of Payson, one that unfortunately, may be the first of many. The wildfire threat is so extreme this year, I am working with federal agencies to take early and decisive action. This is essential to ensure that the federal government is prepared to respond when Arizona needs help.

I am also fighting the decision to outsource control of America's ports to a state-owned company in the United Arab Emirates. This decision must be studied closely to ensure that our national security is not compromised by this action. You can count on me to continue the fight to improve border, port and national security.

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. Thank you and may God Bless America.



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 meets with Dine College President Ferlin Clark, Miss Dine College Quintanya Claw, and Michele Spencer – Dine College Student Congress Advisor. President Clark was in town to push for higher funding levels for Indian education and Dine College.

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Rural Arizona Forest Fire Update

Renzi Pushes for Program to Use Forest Waste for Alternative Energy

Congressman Rick Renzi (AZ-1) called for the increased use of biomass energy made from forest waste to replace or supplement traditional sources of energy last month. Renzi said this would not only help provide affordable energy, it would also keep manufacturing jobs in America.

“Energy prices are going through the roof and America’s small businesses are feeling the pinch,” said Congressman Renzi. “We have the American ingenuity to allow companies to utilize forest waste to power their businesses. Congress must get behind new technologies like biomass, and look at incentives to encourage the development of these alternative energy projects.”

Congressman Renzi noted that the pulp and paper industry has already utilized this alternative technology to power their businesses and that the industry currently generates more than 60 percent of its energy needs from the pulp and paper process. Renzi said the byproducts of that process, heat and power, can be substituted for natural gas, coal and electricity.

Additionally, the Congressman recently introduced legislation (HR 3590) to expand the successful Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP) currently in place in New Mexico to Arizona. The bill would help reduce the fire threat by encouraging forest restoration tools like the utilization of small diameter trees to use for biomass and bio-diesel.

“The Collaborative Forest Restoration Program will help provide forest products to develop this new technology,” Renzi said.

“This and other developing technologies will be especially helpful in the future considering the large amounts of woody debris that will likely come off of national forests as a result of this bill and others. One estimate shows there is currently enough biomass available nation-wide to produce billions of gallons of bio-fuels per year. The end result will not only be safer forests, but affordable and alternative energy grown here in America.”

Renzi Gets Commitment from Forest Service for New Tanker Deployments

Congressman Rick Renzi (AZ-1) received a commitment from Department of Agriculture Undersecretary Mark Rey to deploy two airtankers from Montana and Arkansas to the Williams Gateway airbase in Arizona. Renzi also pushed for stepped up deployment for Hot Shot crews in March rather than April, in order to better prepare for expected fires in northern Arizona.

“As our fire season races to an early start, I am pleased to see the federal government and the Forest Service respond with two more airtankers to be based in Arizona effective today,” said Congressman Renzi. “These fires aren’t waiting for April, and neither is the Federal Government.”

Agriculture Undersecretary Mark Rey also said that federal funds secured by Renzi last year for forest thinning projects in the Tonto National Forest were instrumental in helping save Bray Creek Ranch from destruction. The fire was significantly slowed by an area thinned using the funds.

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Rural Arizona Legislative Update

Renzi Secures Camp Navajo as Veterans Cemetery for Northern AZ

Congressman Renzi (AZ-1) recently announced that he was able to secure 80 acres at Camp Navajo for the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services to establish a state run cemetery for veterans in northern Arizona. The current veterans' cemetery in Prescott has reached capacity and is unable to expand. Congressman Renzi inserted the legislative language transferring the land into a bill (HR 1815) that passed late last year and was signed into law by President George W. Bush recently.

"As the son of an Army General, I hold the men and women who serve our country in the highest regard," said Congressman Renzi. "This new cemetery will allow our brave men and women who serve our nation to be buried with the honor and distinction that they deserve. Their sacrifice and commitment has earned them the respect of a grateful nation. We can never fully repay our veterans for their courage and sacrifices, but we can honor and remember them for their noble deeds and actions."

Congressman Renzi also noted that a special section of the state-run cemetery will be set aside for Native American veterans at the request of several tribes in rural Arizona.

"I am pleased to see that our Native American veterans will have a special place of honor at the new Camp Navajo cemetery," Congressman Renzi said. "Our Native American veterans continue to inspire our nation as a shining example of the spirit of sacrifice and commitment to freedom shown by all of our veterans."

Renzi Schedules Medicare Town Hall Meetings to Assist Seniors with New Prescription Drug Plan

Congressman Rick Renzi (AZ-1) announced a series of town hall meetings to assist area seniors with the new Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Program. The meetings are being coordinated by Congressman Renzi's office and the Medicare Access Network of Arizona. The town hall meetings are designed to provide one-on-one help for seniors who require assistance with the new Medicare program. The meetings will occur through out Arizona's First District and will begin with a series in Pinal County.

*Seniors are encouraged to have their Medicare ID & the list of drugs they are currently taking (include dosage and frequency).

Thursday, March 2, 2006

10:00am
Sun Life Health Center
865 N. Arizola Road
Casa Grande, AZ 85222

Thursday, March 9, 2006

10:00am
The Florence Senior Center is
330 North Pinal Street
Florence, AZ 85232

Friday, March 17, 2006

10:00am
The Dorothy Powell Senior Center is
405 East 6th Street
Casa Grande, AZ 85222

Thursday, March 23, 2006

10:00am
Coolidge Community Center
670 W. Pima
Coolidge, AZ

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Arizona Native American Update



Congressman Renzi meets with the Chairman of the Navajo Nation Council on Education Leonard Chee and other Navajo Nation education officials. From left to right - Mary Helen Creamer, project manager Dine Education Center, Leonard Chee, and Leland Leonard - executive director Dine Education Center.

Renzi Calls for More Funding for Indian Education

Congressman Rick Renzi (AZ-1) today called for more funding for Native American education during a speech to the National Indian Education Association. Renzi noted that the President's budget calls for a 5.5 percent reduction in funding for the Department of Education and a reduction in funding for the Bureau of Indian Affairs of 2.4 percent. The federally supported Indian education system includes thousands of students, 29 tribal colleges, universities and post- secondary schools.

"Last year, I twice voted against the Labor, HHS, and Education Appropriations bill because it did not adequately fund education in general, and Native American programs specifically," said Congressman Renzi.

"Congress needs to get the message that it must do more to provide quality education for Native American children across the country."

Renzi said he was committed to improving Native American education in rural Arizona and across the nation. Renzi recently introduced the Navajo Nation Higher Education Act which reauthorizes the 1971 Navajo Community College Act. The bill will provide funding to address Dine College's facility needs such as modernization, repair and rehabilitation and modernizes the statute by including the mission statement and Navajo education philosophy of Dine College. Last year Renzi was able to secure a \$2 million grant from the US Department of Education's Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities Program for the oldest college on tribal lands, Dine College. Dine College was the first college established by Native Americans for Native Americans and helped pave the way for 33 similar educational institutions on tribal land.

Renzi Cosponsors Bill to Protect Native American Languages through Immersion Program

Renzi also announced that he was cosponsoring a bill with Rep. Heather Wilson (NM) to authorize grants through the U.S. Department of Education to establish Native American language programs for students under the age of seven and their families as well as Native American language survival schools.

"I have a high regard for Native languages and the pivotal role they have played in our nation's history," Congressman Renzi said. "We need only look to our Navajo Code Talkers during World War II to see the value that Native languages bring not only to their culture, but to the security of all Americans."

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In Case You Missed It...

College students visit most happening place nationally

http://www.eacourier.com/articles/2006/02/22/local_news/news04.txt

Foreign firm's port control draws Arizona criticism

<http://phoenix.bizjournals.com/phoenix/stories/2006/02/20/daily18.html>

Medicare challenged on catheters *Paraplegic, Renzi fight reuse policy*

<http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/news/articles/0219catheter19.html>

Land set aside for vets cemetery

http://www.lakepowellchronicle.com/main.php?story_id=2592&page=23

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F 928-428-5005

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San Carlos, AZ 85550

WHITERIVER OFFICE -

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201 East Walnut
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O 928-521-2810