



Congressman **Jim Sensenbrenner**

News From Congress

NUMBER 170 - MARCH 2006

Progress in the Fight to Save Taxpayer Money

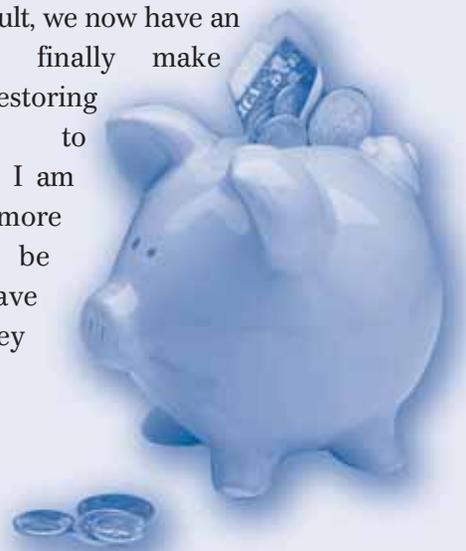
One of my most important responsibilities in Congress is to ensure that your taxpayer dollars are spent wisely. To fulfill that responsibility, I find myself voting against most appropriations bills in Congress. For the most part, my constituents understand my reasons for doing so -- such as when I voted against last year's bloated transportation bill that wasted taxpayer money on projects like the infamous "Bridge to Nowhere" in Alaska. But at other times, when it's less obvious, my critics delight in taking shots at me while posing for holy pictures in the media. This is precisely what I encountered when I stood up with ten of my colleagues and voted 'No' on the \$52 billion Hurricane Katrina emergency relief bill last September.

I was publicly lambasted for my vote, and referred to as "heartless," "mean-spirited," and in some cases, just plain "wrong." Since then, through reports from the Government Accountability Office and the House Select Committee on Hurricane Katrina, we have learned the sad truth about how millions, and perhaps billions, of your hard-earned tax dollars were misspent. Although the federal government has a critical role to play in situations like this, we must remember that compassion does not equate to dollars.

Partially as a result of the transportation and Katrina funding bills, combined with our escalating deficit and many spending priorities, it has suddenly become fashionable to be against wasteful spending. I welcome this realization, because it means that perhaps Congress will now seriously address the problem of earmarks and other pet-projects for individual members of Congress that skirt the normal budget process.

I believe the best way to shed light on this practice is by attributing earmarks to the members of Congress who sponsor them. That's why I cosponsored legislation, H. Res. 662, to modify the Rules of the House of Representatives to show the public exactly what Congress spends on individual projects in each district, attribute each earmark to its sponsoring Member of Congress, and require a demonstration that the funding has gone through a normal vetting process. Moreover, for those wasteful projects that still slip through, I support reinstating the line-item veto to give Presidents the power to eliminate wasteful projects one-by-one.

The big spenders have overplayed their hand and the public is saying enough is enough. As a result, we now have an opportunity to finally make progress in restoring fiscal sanity to Washington, and I am hopeful that more progress can be made to save taxpayer money this year.



Reminder...

**Office Hours &
Town Hall Meetings** *Page 2*

Office Hours

Tuesday, March 21

1:00pm Butler Village Hall
1:45pm Lannon Village Hall
2:30pm Sussex Village Hall
3:30pm Jackson Village Hall
4:15pm Addison Town Hall
5:00pm Kewaskum Public Library

Wednesday, March 22

9:00am Bayside Village Hall
9:45am Fox Point Village Hall
10:30am River Hills Village Hall
11:15am Saukville Village Hall
1:30pm Belgium Village Hall
2:15pm Fredonia Village Hall
3:00pm Newburg Village Hall

Thursday, March 23

8:30am Helenville Fire Hall
9:15am Sullivan Village Hall
10:00am Palmyra Village Hall
11:00am Dousman Village Hall
11:45am Genesee Town Hall
12:30pm Wales Village Hall
2:00pm Nashotah Village Hall
2:45pm Merton Town Hall
3:30pm Merton Village Hall
4:15pm Pewaukee Village Hall

I host scores of Town Hall Meetings and Office Hours to provide you with the opportunity to express your views on the issues before Congress or to help you with problems you may be experiencing in dealing with a federal agency. This newsletter includes my schedule of meetings for the next several weeks, and I invite you to attend one or more of them. Whether you need help or not, I hope you'll stop by to say hello and introduce yourself. Please contact my district office if you require special accommodations to attend.

Town Hall Meetings

Saturday, April 22

9:00am Elm Grove Village Hall
1:00pm Slinger Village Hall

Saturday, April 29

9:00am Cedarburg Police Dept.
1:00pm Glendale North Shore Library

Sunday, April 30

7:00pm Mequon Police Dept.

Monday, May 1

7:00pm West Allis Library

Saturday, May 13

9:00am Wauwatosa Library

Sunday, May 21

7:00pm Germantown Village Hall

Tuesday, May 30

7:00pm Delafield City Hall

Wednesday, May 31

7:00pm Brown Deer Public Library

Thursday, June 1

7:00pm Pewaukee City Hall

Sunday, June 11

7:00pm Hartland Village Hall

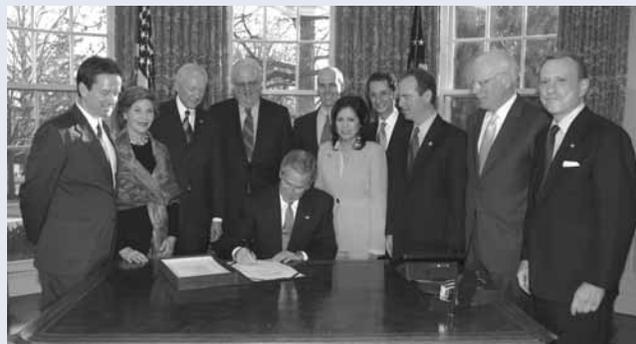
Sunday, June 25

7:00pm Thiensville Village Hall

The Violence Against Women Act

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), which I authored, and which was signed into law by the President in January, remains standing today as the centerpiece in the movement to end violence against women. I am extremely proud that this law will continue to combat domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. Provisions within H.R. 3402 include:

- Developing prevention strategies to stop the violence before it starts;
- Protecting people from being evicted from their homes due to their status as a victim of domestic violence or stalking;
- Reauthorizing the STOP program, which provides state formula grants to help fund collaborative efforts between police, prosecutors and victim services providers;
- Broadening programs and services for children, teens, and victims with disabilities;
- Enhancing training for health care professionals;
- Increasing legal assistance for victims;
- Enabling police officers to aggressively arrest abusers.



Along with First Lady Laura Bush and other legislators, Congressman Sensenbrenner looks on as President Bush signs into law H.R. 3402, the Violence Against Women Act, during a ceremony in the Oval Office on January 5.

Safe and Secure Borders

Few issues in America raise the ire of people as much as the issue of immigration, particularly illegal immigration. Illegal immigration is a problem in America. Previous attempts to address this problem in a comprehensive manner have been blocked by my colleagues across the aisle, and encountered resistance by some members of my own party who don't get the picture. But I believe the people of Wisconsin, and the vast majority of Americans, are more than ready for an overhaul of our nation's policy toward illegal immigration.

This past December, I introduced H.R. 4437, the Border Security, Antiterrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act, to reestablish respect for our laws by holding those who violate them accountable. My legislation focuses on human traffickers, employers who hire illegal aliens, and alien gang members who terrorize communities throughout the country. Specifically, it:

- ✓ **Builds a fence** – it protects our nation's borders by establishing physical barriers and incorporating state-of-the-art surveillance technology to ensure comprehensive coverage;
- ✓ **Increases penalties for alien smuggling** – to teach smugglers a lesson, it greatly increases criminal penalties for harboring and smuggling illegal aliens by establishing mandatory minimum sentences;
- ✓ **Requires employers to verify the status of their employees** -- makes mandatory an employment eligibility verification system by confirming or denying the authenticity of Social Security numbers offered by new hires;
- ✓ **Cracks down on alien gang members** – renders alien street gang members inadmissible and deportable, and authorizes the Attorney General to designate groups as criminal street gangs if they meet certain criteria.

These are but a few highlights of my bill, which passed the House of Representatives shortly after its introduction by a vote of 239-182. It currently awaits consideration in the Senate.

One of the most horrific, untold stories about illegal

immigration is just how expensive it is for law-abiding citizens. We have to pay more for police protection; we have to pay to patrol our highways; we have to pay to build more classrooms because they're overcrowded; even our hospital costs, which are already exorbitant to begin with, go up as we continue to provide care to illegal immigrants with no health insurance. The burden on the taxpayer because of illegal immigration is wrong. It's destructive, it undermines the economy, and it puts undue pressure on people to pay even more in taxes to fund the programs that pay for those who are here in America.

This does not mean that Americans are not compassionate. America is and should continue to be the land of opportunity. But to be that, we must ensure that our nation's laws are treated as such, and not as suggestions, to be followed or ignored depending on one's choices. This is why I oppose amnesty because it can actually precipitate even more illegal immigration as individuals are encouraged to come, believing that if they can just elude the Border Patrol and stay underground for a few years, they will eventually get amnesty themselves. There is a right way and a wrong way to enter our country, and if you enter the wrong way, there should be consequences.

In a post 9/11 world, protecting American borders has assumed an even greater urgency. If we learned anything from that horrible day, it is that terrorists can't attack America if they are kept out of America. Thus, in a very real sense, border security is homeland security, and my bill provides border security.



FLAGS FLOWN OVER THE US CAPITOL

A new United States flag with a personally signed certificate marking the day it flew over the U.S. Capitol is available at cost (including postage) from my office. If you would like to place an order, please make your check or money order payable to "SENSENBRENNER OFFICE SUPPLY ACCOUNT" and send it along with this order form to the address below. Please allow 4 to 8 weeks for processing and delivery of your order. **Limit 3 per household.**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

Send order to:

SENSENBRENNER OFFICE SUPPLY ACCOUNT
120 Bishops Way, #154
Brookfield, WI 53005-6294

Number	Size	Price	Total
	3' x 5' nylon	\$17.02	\$
	4' x 6' nylon	\$21.52	\$
	5' x 8' nylon	\$26.02	\$
	Grand Total		\$

Please place your order by **Memorial Day** to purchase flags at these prices. If the flag office of the U.S. Capitol makes any changes to these prices, I will be required to return your check as they have to be made out in the exact amount. Please consult my homepage at www.house.gov/sensenbrenner for the latest prices.

CONTACT INFORMATION

To write about issues or request publications, contact me at:

2449 Rayburn Building, Washington, DC 20515-4905
TEL: (202) 225-5101

To get help with federal agencies, contact me at:

120 Bishops Way, #154, Brookfield, WI 53005-6294
TEL: (262) 784-1111

Outside Metro Calling Area: **(800) 242-1119**

E-Mail: sensenbrenner@mail.house.gov; Website: www.house.gov/sensenbrenner

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515-4905

PUBLIC DOCUMENT

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

This mailing was prepared, published and mailed at taxpayer expense.

It is provided as a service to 5th Congressional District constituents.



PreSorted Standard
CAR-RT SORT



Congressman **Jim Sensenbrenner**

News From
Congress