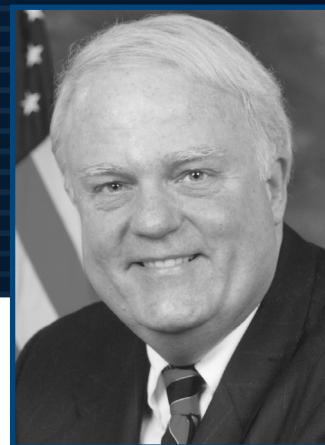


Congressman **Jim Sensenbrenner**

News From Congress

Number 179 – June 2008



Ethanol Mandate Must End

One of the most basic tenets of economics is the concept of ‘supply and demand,’ and it is a lesson that we’re all living today as we pay record prices at the grocery store and gas station. To a great extent, the reason for some of these inflated prices is corn, a critical component of food staples, and, as the raw ingredient in ethanol, required to be blended into gasoline. The worldwide demand for this grain, along with unheard-of prices for oil, are all contributing factors to the pain consumers are feeling in their pocketbooks.

Despite this trend, due to a federal mandate, the ethanol industry has been subsidized for the past 27 years. This ‘great American giveaway’ provides great incentives for farmers to increase the size of their crops for fuel. As a result, since February 2006, the price of sending corn to refineries rather than the dinner table has contributed to a 240% increase in the price of corn, wheat and soybeans. In turn, the price of food staples, such as bread, milk, and eggs, is taking a larger bite out of our paychecks. In fact, reports indicate the price of bread has gone up 22%, and eggs cost 50% more today than they did two years ago. Yet, the ethanol industry claims to still need the subsidies to survive!

Reminder...

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To help get gas and food prices under control, I strongly believe Congress should permanently end the ethanol mandate, and thus the subsidies. To achieve this goal, I cosponsored the Remove Incentives to Produce Ethanol Act of 2008 (RIPE Act), which will: repeal the renewable fuel standard, repeal tax credits for ethanol farmers, and repeal tariffs on importing ethanol.

Proponents of ethanol tout its capacity to benefit the environment, reduce demand for gasoline and - ironically - lower prices at the pump. However,

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HOW CAN I HELP?

Don't hesitate to contact my District Office for help with matters such as Social Security, Medicare, IRS, Immigration and Military.



Congressman Sensenbrenner meets with two Concordia University students expressing their appreciation for his congressional assistance in their project to help the community, as well as our deployed troops and their families.

2008 Annual Questionnaire

The 110th Congress is involved with many issues vital to you, your family, and the nation. Please take a few minutes to complete this year's questionnaire. All questions have a YES or NO answer unless otherwise indicated. Please mark your answer by placing an "X" in the space provided. In some cases, a YES or NO answer may seem oversimplified, but I am often left with that same choice when voting on complex legislation on the House floor. Please let me know what matters to you. Fill out the response card, and mail it to my Washington office. Thank you for your time.

- (1) What should happen to U.S. troop levels in Iraq?
(a) Withdraw all troops as rapidly as possible beginning immediately.
(b) Set a date for withdrawing troops.
(c) Maintain current levels with future levels determined as events warrant.
(d) Other
- (2) Should illegal immigrants living in Wisconsin receive in-state tuition if they go to the University of Wisconsin?
(a) Yes (b) No
- (3) In December, Congress increased the renewable fuel mandate five-fold, most of which goes towards ethanol. In light of recent significant increases in the price of food staples, should Congress repeal this mandate?
(a) Yes (b) No
- (4) Do you agree that any international treaty to reduce greenhouse gas emissions must include all major emitters, including China and India?
(a) Yes (b) No
- (5) Would you be willing to pay more in taxes to combat global warming?
(a) Yes (b) No
- (6) What is the best way to address high gas prices?
(a) Stop filling the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.
(b) Open up U.S. refineries.
(c) Drill in the Outer Continental Shelf and/or ANWR.
(d) All of the above
(e) Other
- (7) The State Department recently removed China from its list of the world's top ten human rights violators. In light of China's crackdown on peaceful protests in Tibet in March, should the State Department place China back on the list of the world's worst offenders?
(a) Yes (b) No
- (8) Which ONE of these five issues is the most important facing the country?
(a) Iraq
(b) Illegal Immigration
(c) Government Spending/Taxes
(d) Economy
(e) Climate Change
(f) Other
- (9) Do you believe the government should promote more choices in health care coverage by providing tax incentives to employees and businesses?
(a) Yes (b) No
- (10) Who do you think should make the majority of decisions regarding spending taxpayer money on education?
(a) U.S. Department of Education
(b) Wisconsin State Government
(c) U.S. Congress
(d) Local school boards, administrators, and parents
- (11) Should employees be forced to join a union in order to maintain their employment?
(a) Yes (b) No
- (12) Which Wisconsin county do you live in?
(a) Jefferson County
(b) Milwaukee County
(c) Ozaukee County
(d) Washington County
(e) Waukesha County



As the Representative of the Fifth Congressional District, Congressman Sensenbrenner was invited to cut the ribbon at the opening event of the 2008 Boy Scout Expo in Waukesha. This is but one of the many different community events and gatherings throughout the District that Congressman Sensenbrenner attends each year in his official capacity.

QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSE CARD

Respondent #1

1. a b c d
2. Yes No
3. Yes No
4. Yes No
5. Yes No
6. a b c d e
7. Yes No
8. a b c d e f
9. Yes No
10. a b c d
11. Yes No
12. a b c d e

Respondent #2

1. a b c d
2. Yes No
3. Yes No
4. Yes No
5. Yes No
6. a b c d e
7. Yes No
8. a b c d e f
9. Yes No
10. a b c d
11. Yes No
12. a b c d e

Ethanol Mandate Must End

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there are a multitude of studies that show that ethanol actually doubles the amount of carbon emissions into the atmosphere. Moreover, land-use changes, deforestation, and the extraordinary amount of water to produce one gallon of ethanol, are all having negative impacts on the environment.

Nevertheless, Congress last year decided to pass misguided legislation mandating a five-fold increase in the use of renewable fuels like ethanol, which just sucks up more of the corn destined for the dinner table. Specifically, the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, requires the use of 9 billion gallons of renewable fuels in 2008, increasing each year to 36 billion gallons in 2022. I voted against this law.

Ultimately, it is worth noting that our ethanol mandate is not just an American problem. It affects people all around the world who are already feeling the ripple of higher food prices. Warning signs ranging from food riots in Somalia and Haiti, to protests in Mexico, to forceful calls for relief from the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, all point to the destabilizing effects of the high price of food. If Congress does not address this issue expediently, mark my words, the price tag for foreign appropriations and domestic spending bills will jump dramatically as well. And if that happens, who do you think will foot the bill?

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: <http://sensenbrenner.house.gov/contactform> Website: <http://sensenbrenner.house.gov>

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4905

CUT ALONG THE DOTTED LINE, STAMP, AND MAIL

I host scores of Town Hall Meetings and Office Hours to provide you the chance 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.

Office Hours

Monday, June 30th

10:00am Bayside Village Hall
10:45am Fox Point Village Hall
11:30am River Hills Village Hall
12:30pm Saukville Village Hall
2:15pm Belgium Village Hall
3:00pm Fredonia Village Hall
3:45pm Newburg Village Hall

Tuesday, July 1st

9:00am Kewaskum Village Hall
10:00am Addison Town Hall
10:45am Jackson Village Hall
12:45pm Sussex Village Hall
1:45pm Lannon Village Hall
2:30pm Butler Village Hall

Monday, July 7th

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 Public Library

Town Hall Meetings

Sunday, June 29th

7:00pm – Richfield Village Hall

Sunday, July 6th

7:00pm – Germantown Village Hall

Sunday, July 13th

7:00pm – Brown Deer Village Hall

Sunday, July 20th

7:00pm – Delafield Town Hall

Sunday, July 27th

7:00pm – Port Washington Police Department

Sunday, August 3rd

7:00pm – Oconomowoc City Hall

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

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