



# CONGRESSMAN JIM SENSENBRENNER NEWS FROM CONGRESS

NUMBER 160 -- JANUARY 2003

## Defending our Homeland And Our Rights

Since September 11, 2001, Americans have had to reevaluate how we view the world, and more importantly, how the world views us. In the aftermath of the attacks, there has been a new sense of vigilance in this country as many people now realize that we must do more to secure Americans from those who would do us harm.

It is this same sense of vigilance, and a realization that perhaps we need to pay more attention to what goes on within our borders, that prodded Congress to create a new federal agency, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Signed into law by the President on November 25, 2002, the DHS will consolidate 22 federal agencies, including the Coast Guard, Customs Service, Secret Service and Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). Led by a new Cabinet official, the main goal of the DHS will be to protect our nation's borders, airports and seaports from terrorists' attacks. The Secretary of the DHS will be tasked with the mission of consolidating the functions of all the different agencies under the DHS umbrella, and creating a clear and coherent plan on how to best get the job done so that we don't experience another 9/11.

*Continued on Page 2...*

## Working Toward A Prosperous Economy

Toward the end of the Clinton Administration, the US began a period of economic downturn. When President Bush took office, he made it a priority to address this situation, and one of the first major pieces of legislation that he signed into law was a tax-relief bill to help our nation.

However, shortly thereafter in 2001, we experienced the tragedy of September 11. Although it has been over a year since that day, we are still feeling the economic effects of that fateful Tuesday. The tourism industry has been particularly hard hit with airline, hotel and restaurant reservations generally going down. In addition, American manufacturers have experienced a particularly challenging year, so our nation as a whole is still struggling to get back on its feet.

In response to the accelerated economic decline after September 2001, the House passed legislation to further help Americans. In fact, the House passed two strong economic stimulus packages to help our nation, but these efforts were thwarted by the Senate which ended up killing

*Continued on Page 3...*

## Disarming Iraq

Just about everyday for the last few months we have been hearing or reading about Iraq and Saddam Hussein. Whether you open up a newspaper, or turn on the television or radio, it's difficult to avoid the issues in the Middle East, and the United States' ongoing efforts with the international community to build a consensus that addresses everyone's concerns.

And of course, the biggest reason for these continued discussions is the possibility of the US being involved in a conflict in Iraq. I don't want our nation to rush headlong into war. But, as much as I hope it doesn't come to that, I like even less the idea of letting a rogue dictator like Mr. Hussein continue to play games with our nation and the rest of the world.

*Continued on Page 2...*

**REMINDER**  
**SEE PAGE 3 FOR OFFICE HOURS  
AND TOWN HALL MEETINGS**

## Disarming Iraq

Consider history -- after World War One, the international community came together to form the League of Nations in order to resolve international conflicts without war. Stiff requirements were placed on Germany to ensure that it could no longer pose a threat to its neighbors. But, when Adolf Hitler came to power and began testing the world's resolve, he was only met with appeasement, and was allowed to continue building his military and territory. It wasn't until Hitler invaded Poland and launched World War Two that the world finally realized his true intentions, and took stock of the enormity of the failure of appeasement.

Today, in Iraq and with Saddam Hussein, we find ourselves in a similarly delicate situation. Mr. Hussein is a tyrant. Over the last three decades, he has not only terrorized people from adjoining nations, but has also treated his own people as experimental lab rats for the purpose of testing out chemical weapons. And there have been many reports that the technology that has originated from these tests has been shared with the terrorist group, al-Qaeda.

When Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990, it was the last straw for the US, and we became involved in what is now known as the Persian Gulf War. In 1991, as a condition for ending the Persian Gulf War, Iraq signed a United Nations (UN) resolution agreeing to destroy its weapons of mass destruction, stop producing more, and end its support for terrorist groups.

However, it is widely agreed today that over the past eleven years, Iraq has repeatedly violated these provisions.

Congress has already passed a resolution calling for disarmament by Iraq, and authorizing the President to use force against the country if events warrant it. It is to the President's credit that he came before Congress to seek its approval in the event that such an act becomes necessary. Furthermore, he even laid out his position before the American public, and the United Nations -- which unanimously approved a new Iraq resolution! Considering initial objections by countries like Syria, this was an impressive result, and a strong message to Iraq.

Congress' resolution, and the Administration's actions, are not signs that we **must** go to war with Iraq. By fully complying with the demands Congress, the President and

*Continued on Page 4...*

## Defending Our Homeland And Our Rights

I am particularly pleased to note that under this new department, the INS will be overhauled, and its enforcement and services functions will be split. Similar to a bill I introduced several months ago -- which passed the House by a vote of 405 to 9 -- this will allow the agency to provide people with more efficient services, and at the same time, do a better job of keeping our borders secure.

Although I supported the creation of this new federal department, I still expect Congress to continue to have a hand in its development, and in the way people's lives will be affected by it. As many of you may know, I have always been wary of the federal government being **too** involved in states' jurisdictions and particularly, **in the lives of Americans**. I have fought hard to protect the rights of states, and ensure that Americans' civil rights and liberties do not get trampled on by an over-enthusiastic government hiding behind the mantra of "it's for your own good." This is why I insisted on a sunset clause in the USA-PATRIOT Act, so that Congress will have the opportunity to review and reauthorize this legislation in the near future.

The USA-PATRIOT Act was one of the first major pieces of legislation to be signed into law (October 2001) in response to our nation's terrorist attacks. Among other things, this law provides the Department of Justice with more leeway in pursuing and tracking people it suspects of terrorist activities. Since the USA-PATRIOT Act was enacted into law, I have been in constant communication with the Attorney General and officials at the Justice Department about their activities in an effort to ensure that the provisions of this new law are being handled responsibly, and that people's rights are not being violated.

Similarly, I will continue to require the federal government to prove to the satisfaction of my colleagues and I that the DHS will do what it was created to do without violating the rights of our constituents. There is no reason why we cannot have an agency that will better protect our lives, as well as our civil liberties.

*The Town Hall Meetings and Office Hours on the next page provide me the chance to hear your views on the issues before Congress or to help you with problems you may be experiencing in dealing with a federal agency. I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting nearest your home. Please contact my district office if you require special accommodations to attend.*

## OFFICE HOURS

### Monday, January 20

9:00 a.m. Fredonia Village Hall  
9:45 a.m. Belgium Village Hall  
10:45 a.m. Newburg Village Hall  
1:45 p.m. Saukville Village Hall

### Tuesday, January 21

8:30 a.m. Palmyra Village Hall  
9:15 a.m. Helenville Firehall  
10:00 a.m. Sullivan Village Hall  
10:45 a.m. Dousman Village Hall  
11:30 a.m. Genesee Town Hall  
12:15 p.m. Wales Village Hall  
1:45 p.m. Nashotah Village Hall  
2:30 p.m. Merton Town Hall  
3:15 p.m. Merton Village Hall  
3:45 p.m. Pewaukee Village Hall

### Monday, February 3

9:00 a.m. Butler Village Hall  
9:45 a.m. Lannon Village Hall  
10:30 a.m. Sussex Village Hall  
11:15 a.m. Jackson Village Hall  
1:00 p.m. Slinger Village Hall  
1:45 p.m. Addison Town Hall  
2:30 p.m. Kewaskum Village Hall

### Tuesday, February 4

9:00 a.m. Fox Point Village Hall  
9:45 a.m. Bayside Village Hall  
10:30 a.m. River Hills Village Hall

## TOWN HALL MEETINGS

### Monday, January 20

7:00 p.m. Oconomowoc City Hall

### Thursday, January 30

2:00 p.m. Elm Grove Village Hall  
7:00 p.m. West Allis City Hall

### Sunday, February 2

1:00 p.m. New Berlin Public Library

### Tuesday, February 4

7:00 p.m. Menomonee Falls Public Library

### Monday, February 10

2:00 p.m. Whitefish Bay Village Hall  
7:00 p.m. Waukesha Public Library

### Sunday, March 16

1:00 p.m. Delafield City Hall

### Saturday, March 29

9:00 a.m. Mequon Safety Building  
1:00 p.m. Brown Deer Public Library

### Tuesday, January 21

7:00 p.m. Shorewood Village Hall

### Saturday, February 1

9:00 a.m. Port Washington Police Dept.  
1:00 p.m. Hartland Village Hall

### Monday, February 3

7:00 p.m. Glendale-North Shore Library

### Sunday, February 9

1:00 p.m. Hartford City Hall

### Saturday, March 15

9:00 a.m. Wauwatosa Public Library  
1:00 p.m. Cedarburg Police Department

### Monday, March 17

2:00 p.m. Johnson Creek Village Hall  
7:00 p.m. West Bend City Hall

### Sunday, March 30

1:00 p.m. Richfield Town Hall

Monday, March 31: 7:00 p.m. Brookfield Safety Building

*...Continued from Page 1*

## **Working Toward A Prosperous Economy**

both bills. After intense pressure, the Senate finally relented and allowed a much weaker package to become law.

But it's a new year, and the make-up of Congress and President Bush's economic team has changed.

As many of you may know, in December, the President made some changes relative to his economic advisors. In a White House announcement ceremony, President Bush announced that investment banker Stephen Friedman would replace Lawrence Lindsey as his chief economic advisor. During that announcement, Mr. Friedman said, "I strongly share your conviction, sir, that now is the time for a robust growth and jobs policy."

I couldn't agree more.

We need a coherent and long-term economic agenda, so people can plan for the future without worrying about rules that may change ten years from now. We need to help Americans get back to work and reduce the number of people on unemployment -- many of whom have run out of time, and are unable to collect unemployment anymore. The shake-up of the President's economic advisors, combined with the new people in office in this session of Congress, bodes well for the nation. With new insight and fresh perspectives, it may be easier for both bodies of Congress and the Administration to agree on a plan that will turn things around. Although there are potential events on the horizon that may lead to unpredictable results, such as Iraq failing to comply with the United Nations' resolution, it is my hope that 2003 will be a much happier and prosperous year for my constituents and Americans nationwide.

## New District, New Washington Office, and New E-mail

By now, most of you probably know about the changes that have taken place in Wisconsin. Due to the results of the 2000 Census, Wisconsin lost a seat in the House of Representatives. Although Wisconsin's population grew in the last decade, it did not grow as much as in other states. Consequently, our state is now represented by eight instead of nine Members of Congress.

Even though the number of representatives has gone down, it is my hope that you will feel better represented than ever. Instead of the Ninth District, you are now residents of the Fifth District of Wisconsin, which I represent. And though the district number has changed, my services have not. I will continue to offer the same representation I did before. You are always welcome to correspond with me and share your ideas and concerns, and I will always respond to your communication.

For your easy reference, my contact information is printed below. Please note that I now have a **new** office in Washington, DC (Room 2449), a **new** zip code, 20515-4905, and a **new** e-mail address: [sensenbrenner@mail.house.gov](mailto:sensenbrenner@mail.house.gov). My phone, fax, and Brookfield office information still remain the same as before.

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## Disarming Iraq

the UN have laid before him, Mr. Hussein can avert any potential conflict. But, if disarmament through diplomacy and inspection fails -- and it can only fail by Mr. Hussein's own choosing -- then he needs to be stopped.

I certainly hope that Mr. Hussein doesn't interfere with or impede the inspection being conducted by the UN weapons inspectors as this would be a clear violation of the UN agreement. Considering the history, and character of the man currently in control of Iraq, we need to keep our options open, and not be hesitant to use force if there's a possibility that Mr. Hussein may jeopardize the safety of the world.

## Contact Information:

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

**2449 Rayburn Building, Washington, DC 20515-4905;  
(202) 225-5101**

*To get help with federal agencies, contact me at:*

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

**Outside Metro Calling Area: 1-800-242-1119;**

**E-Mail: [sensenbrenner@mail.house.gov](mailto:sensenbrenner@mail.house.gov); Website: <http://www.house.gov/sensenbrenner/>**

*Congressman*

**JIM  
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