

Jo Bonner



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WHY I VOTED FOR THE EMERGENCY ECONOMIC STABILIZATION ACT OF 2008

In the six years I have been honored to serve as your representative, I have had to cast many difficult votes but none more complicated – or quite candidly, harder to explain – than the vote I cast earlier this week in favor of legislation to address our Nation’s economic crisis.

Obviously, no one wanted to vote for this – and in the end, a majority in the House did not.

Hopefully, the naysayers who voted no will be proven right, and nothing bad will happen to the fundamentals of our economy. However, I voted “yes” because I felt it was necessary to err on the side of caution.

We are all now left wondering what will happen next. No one knows. At the writing of this report, it appears the House will return later this week to try again. I am hopeful that the Democratic majority will work with Republicans to develop a bill that a bipartisan House majority can support and that will help keep the worst from happening.

I am also hopeful our economy will give us time to deal with this uncertainty. This is clearly uncharted territory for us all.



ACADEMY NIGHT — OCTOBER 6

My sixth annual Academy Night will be held on Monday, October 6 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the auditorium of St. Paul’s Episcopal School in Mobile.

All interested students, parents and school counselors are invited to attend.

A representative from each military academy will be on hand to speak about their respective institutions. There will also be an opportunity for students to talk one-on-one with the representatives after the formal program.

If you would like additional information, please contact Brooks Chew in my Mobile office at 251-690-2811 or 1-800-288-8711.

12 TOWN MEETINGS HELD IN AUGUST

During the August recess, I held 12 town meetings in all six counties of the First District bringing our total to 185 meetings over the past five and a half years. As you know, town hall meetings give me a chance to hear what issues are on your mind and get your suggestions on how to fix many of the problems facing our state and country today.

Naturally, some of the biggest topics of conversation were ones that have been major stories in the news recently — the Air Force tanker contract and the exorbitant price of energy.



The Mockingbird Court serves as the official hostesses for Monroe County, the city of Monroeville, and the Chamber of Commerce. This group of junior and senior high school girls provides a warm southern greeting at new business openings, ribbon-cuttings, business meetings and receptions, and I was so pleased they came out to my town meeting last month in Monroeville.



The Washington County Camellia Maids served as greeters at my town hall meeting in Chatom last month. The Camellia Maids, Washington County’s ambassador organization, contribute thousands of hours of community service each year at libraries, various community events, betterment projects, hospital facilities, and schools throughout the county.

WORKFORCE 2013 SUMMIT:

Meeting the Skills Imperative for Alabama

I am pleased to announce I will be hosting *Workforce 2013: Meeting the Skills Imperative for Alabama*.

Governor Bob Riley has agreed to join me as the honorary co-host, and plans are underway for an impressive line-up of national and regional speakers.

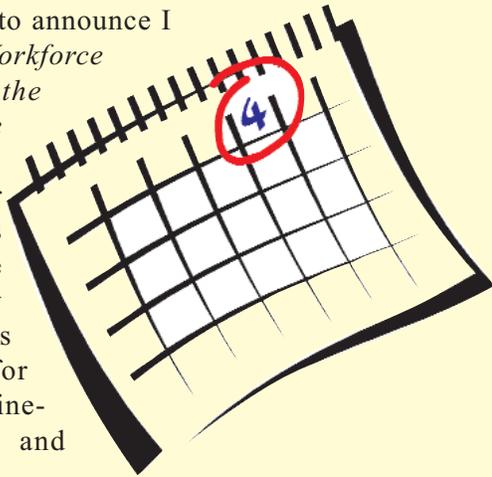
Following on our highly acclaimed *Economic Development Leadership Summit* five years ago, *Workforce 2013* will be a must attend event for local and state officials, economic development leaders, workforce training directors and human relations specialists for many of the leading companies that call south Alabama and the Gulf Coast home.

As evidenced over the past 10 years, the Alabama economy is changing, welcoming better standards of living and new economic drivers coming from tourism to manufacturing. Such change inevitably brings new challenges for citizens and leaders alike.

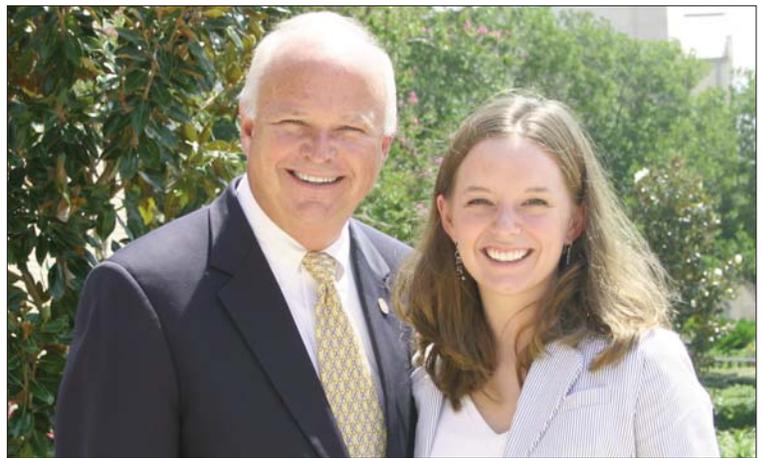
The day-long summit will focus on setting a five-year vision for the workforce future of the region. The purpose of the summit is to assess current strategies for developing a broad, skilled workforce and offer specific recommendations for action between now and 2013. More specifically, the summit will focus on the following themes and report out recommendations for action that:

- identify promising opportunities for meeting the demand for middle skills
- establish guidelines for building service economy skills
- consider ways to compete for innovation advantage
- examine the necessary steps to educate and train local residents with skills for sustainability

Workforce 2013 will be open to the public and will take place on Thursday, December 4, 2008. And be sure to check our website at <http://bonner.house.gov> later this fall, for additional details on this exciting day.



Our third and final group of summer interns (l to r) Martha Griffith, Anna Mosley, Dailey Boschung, and Matt Cavanaugh worked in my Washington office this summer.



I am also proud to offer an internship program in my District Office. Pictured with me outside our Mobile office is Jessica Shepard of Mobile. Jessica is a senior at the University of Alabama.

From the mailbox...

Dear Congressman Bonner,

I do not possess the vocabulary necessary to express my gratitude towards you and your staff with regard to my Social Security claim. I am certain I would have continued languishing full of fear and uncertainty had you not expressed an interest in my plight. For that, I will be eternally grateful.

You are a fine public servant and apparently do care deeply about your constituents. I am a living testimony.

Again, thank you for your help.

Respectfully yours,

A satisfied constituent in Foley

