



RESPONDING TO THE GULF OIL SPILL

The growing oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico, which resulted from the catastrophic destruction of the Deepwater Horizon drilling platform on April 20, is a very serious issue and one that I am giving my full attention.



On May first, I joined *Federal, state and local efforts are focused on containing the impact of ongoing oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico.* Gulfport, MS. Congressman Gene Taylor in flying over the area of the oil spill, observing extensive fields of oil streamers from 1,000 feet above the Gulf.

Also over the last several days I have joined Governor Riley and other state and local officials in discussing the response activities to date and preparations to protect the coast and provide clean-up.

On April 28, I met with Lamar McKay, president and chairman of BP America in my Washington office. I called upon him to expend every effort to stabilize the situation in the Gulf. Mr. McKay was unequivocal in his commitment to use every resource that BP – and the entire oil and gas industry – has to stop the leak and to prioritize both containment and clean-up from this unfortunate accident.

I also believe that federal and state governments have a major role to play and I have called on the Obama administration to work with Alabama and other Gulf states to ensure that our economy and environment are protected.

This event is going to touch every aspect of life on the Gulf Coast, from shrimpers, to oystermen, commercial and recreational fishermen, restaurateurs, hotel and condominium resort managers, and realtors, to name just a few.

While the direct impact of the oil slick has not been felt on the Alabama coastline, already our fishermen are being affected by a federal fishing ban in the federal portions of the Gulf.

I would strongly encourage all those who feel that they will be economically impacted by this spill to keep careful, detailed records in order to submit claims at the proper time.

You can visit my web site for the latest information on the claims process and other links to government-related oil spill activities at <http://bonner.house.gov>.

EADS JOINS AERIAL TANKER COMPETITION

EADS North America's recent decision to re-enter the competition to manufacture the U.S. Air Force's next generation aerial refueling tanker (KC-X) is welcome news throughout South Alabama where thousands of local workers will help build the new aircraft if EADS wins the government contract. Furthermore, EADS has made clear its intention to also construct A330 commercial air freighters in Mobile, using the same airframe – thus adding even more local jobs.

EADS' entry into the KC-X competition is not only promising for South Alabama, where much of the aircraft assembly could take place, but the possibility of a real competition between EADS and its competitor, Boeing, will mean the Air Force will have a choice between the best quality plane for the military and the best value for the American taxpayer.

As America's military continues to play a significant role overseas in both combat and noncombat missions, it is increasingly reliant upon vital supply lines, including an aging aerial refueling fleet. The current KC-135 air tankers that serve as flying gas stations for our military aircraft were first designed and constructed in the 1950's. They are a key link in our armed force's ability to project power massively and quickly around the globe.

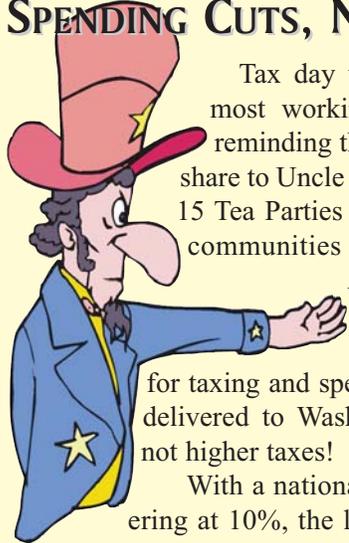
A new aerial tanker would not only replace an antique aircraft that should have been retired long ago, but represents an opportunity to increase the efficiency and safety of military operations.

EADS has a proven, state-of-the-art aerial tanker in production at its facilities overseas which would not only meet Pentagon requirements for a new tanker, but exceed them. In fact, the EADS tanker is already being tested by our allies. In contrast, Boeing has still not built the tanker it plans to offer the Pentagon. Instead, it points to other tankers it has manufactured for Italy and Japan which either don't meet U.S. requirements or suffer design flaws making them unusable by our military.

EADS has a real tanker that can be built here in Alabama, and the Pentagon has already shown that it likes the advanced capabilities of the EADS aircraft when it first selected the EADS tanker in the 2007 competition.

It's time to have a real contest to build America's next aerial tanker. EADS has a *real* tanker ready to compete!

SPENDING CUTS, NOT HIGHER TAXES!



Tax day was over three weeks ago and most working Americans don't need any reminding that they pay more than their fair share to Uncle Sam. As evidenced by the April 15 Tea Parties around our nation, including in communities in South Alabama, working Americans have had enough with the Obama administration and the liberal Congress's desire for taxing and spending. The clear message they delivered to Washington is more spending cuts, not higher taxes!

With a national unemployment rate still hovering at 10%, the last thing our struggling economy needs is dramatic spending increases and job killing taxes. Yet, the president has already forced through a costly health care takeover which will add to the budget deficit and he's also squandered \$787 billion on a failed economic stimulus. As the federal budget deficits are forecast to rise in the years to come, the president is floating the idea of imposing a European-style "Value Added Tax" (VAT) — after the November general election — in order to pay for record deficit spending.

The VAT has been described as kind of a national sales tax. It would target consumption, taxing both the production and the sale of goods and services. Everyone will pay it. With sales tax rates in many Alabama cities approaching 10 percent, it's not hard to imagine how unpopular this additional federal tax would be.

And a VAT would not mean the end of April 15 federal tax headaches either. The Obama administration wants to combine the VAT with the current income tax system.

President Obama has already declared that he intends to let beneficial tax relief passed in 2001 and 2003 expire. So just as income tax rates start to rise and deductions would be lowered for middle class taxpayers, the administration would also impose a national VAT on the shoulders of many struggling Americans.

Since taking office, President Obama and the Democrat Congress have enacted tax increases totaling more than \$670 billion, including at least 14 separate tax hikes on middle class Americans, in direct contradiction to the president's previous pledge not to burden them with tax increases.

I have voted against the president's wasteful stimulus and his second stimulus, and I opposed his health care reform bill with \$570 billion in tax increases. Furthermore, I am adamantly against his plans to phase out the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts which were instrumental in job creation and helped to provide real tax relief to the middle class.

I also will vote against any effort to pass a VAT. We don't need more taxes; we need to stop this expansion of government and reign in deficit spending.

FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT ART COMPETITION WINNERS

Cori Yarbrough, of Mobile's Baker High School, is the 2010 winner of the First Congressional District High School Art Competition. Cori and the other winners of the annual congressional art competition were honored during an April 18 award ceremony at the Mobile Museum of Art.



Cori Yarbrough of Baker High School took first place honors in the 2010 First Congressional District Art Competition.

Cori Yarbrough's artwork, "Lanterns," will represent Alabama's First Congressional District among the winning entries from America's other congressional districts. Her artwork will be displayed in the U.S. Capitol for one year. Her art teacher is Anne Fredella.

The First Congressional District Art Competition is part of "An Artistic Discovery," an annual nationwide congressional art contest that has spotlighted the talents of thousands of young artists going back three decades.

It is an honor to be part of such a worthy competition that inspires the creativity of our young people while showcasing the very best of their efforts in our nation's capitol. I also applaud the Mobile Museum of Art for their continued support of this exciting competition.

The second and third place winners of the First Congressional District Art Competition will be displayed in Congressman Bonner's Alabama offices for one year.

Additional winners from this year's competition are: second place, Kara Kimbrell, Theodore High School; third place, Britney Guice, Theodore High School; honorable mentions: Allyson Clements, Satsuma High School; Kayla Trinh, Murphy High School; Sarah Grace McClain, Fairhope High School; India Cakley, Baker High School; and Belle Newby, St. Paul's High School.

From the mailbox...

Dear Congressman Bonner,

Thank you for the help you promised and followed through with. You have helped restore my faith in our government. You helped me so much. My only hope is that you will continue to work on the Social Security system so that people who are sick or hurt will not have the added stress of not having the money to meet their basic needs.

*Sincerely,
A grateful constituent*

