

August 28, 2007

It's been just over seven months now since I took office representing you and California's 11th District in Congress. It's been an incredible experience. I've learned so much and met so many people in Washington and in the district where I spend every weekend meeting with you and other community members at Congress at Your Corner events, parades, fairs and town hall meetings.

Looking back on the past seven months, I wanted to give you a brief update on what I've been up to.

Our state's population continues to grow and we have to ensure there's a supply of water for us all to use in the future. That's why in February I introduced my first bill, the Healthy Communities Water Supply Act of 2007. It would provide money to water agencies to recycle or reuse water and create new supplies of usable water. The bill passed the House with wide bipartisan support.

The House also recently approved my request for \$500,000 in funding to help the city of Manteca remove arsenic from the water in some of the city's wells.

I've worked to be a responsible steward of your tax dollars by voting against more than \$3 billion in federal spending. I also have supported a number of tax cut measures, including the Small Business Tax Relief Act, which will help small businesses afford to add more employees and invest in their infrastructure needs. I've also worked to be open and accountable – releasing my list of so-called 'earmark' funding requests and supporting strong new House ethics measures.

I'm committed to helping create jobs in San Joaquin County through the expansion in use, research, and development of new energy technology. Before I was elected to Congress I spent more than 20 years working with wind energy and other types of clean energy technology. I know San Joaquin County is well-positioned to benefit from the good-paying jobs that are being created by the renewable energy industry.

That's why last week I chaired an Economic Development Summit at the University of the Pacific focusing on economic growth and job creation in San Joaquin County.

One of the most rewarding parts of representing the 11th District is being able to return home every weekend to tour the region and meet with community members to hear their concerns. To date, I have held 21 Congress at Your Corner events in which I go to a supermarket, coffee shop or restaurant and spend an hour meeting with residents.

I plan to continue to make it as easy as possible for you to contact me or my office with your issues or concerns. I will continue to hold Congress at Your Corner events and I encourage you to come and meet with me personally.

Also, should you experience any difficulties with a federal agency (such as securing a passport or social security benefits) and need help, please do not hesitate to contact my office in Stockton for help. The number is 209-476-8552.

If you would like to contact me in Washington or are coming to Washington and would like a tour of the Capitol or need help setting up tours at other sites around the city, please contact me at 202-225-1947.

And of course, you can stay up to date with my activities by visiting my web site at <http://McNerney.house.gov>