

Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2007 11:04 AM

To: EMAILUPDATE-MI08@LS1.HOUSE.GOV

Subject: Legislative Email Update - Rogers Proposal Would Boost Alternative Fuel Research, Protect Jobs

I write today to update you on recent legislative activities in the United States Congress. I appreciate the opportunity to contact you.

Rogers Proposal Would Boost Alternative Fuel Research, Protect Jobs

I recently proposed an amendment to energy legislation to address the issue of fuel standards for American-manufactured cars. My amendment would require automakers to build more fuel efficient vehicles, invest in alternative fuel research, but also protect Michigan jobs in the transition to a new system that embraces technology.

In Michigan, one in three jobs is related to the manufacture of cars, and across the nation one in seven jobs involve the making of cars. For Michigan, we cannot afford to have Congress try and design cars.

Some of what is being proposed in Congress today would handcuff the engineers, designers and workers in our auto industry and prevent them from making cars that Americans want to buy and drive.

If we allow that to happen, our auto industry cannot compete and it cannot survive in a global market. The measure I offered set out a challenge for the industry that would be attainable.

As Congress considers energy legislation this year, I will continue to fight for Michigan's automobile industry and the hundreds of thousands of Michigan jobs it provides.

For more information on my proposal, [click here](#) for an Op-Ed I wrote in the *Detroit News*.

Rogers Rejects Senate Amnesty Bill

Recently, I voted to oppose the immigration reform bill being considered in the Senate. I voted in favor of a resolution, offered by Representative Peter Hoekstra, expressing opposition to the bill, which would give amnesty to illegal aliens. This resolution was supported by an overwhelming majority of my House Republican colleagues, and I am pleased to report that together, we have contributed to the defeat of this dangerous legislation.

As a former FBI Special Agent, I believe the first responsibility of the federal government is to control its borders. This problem is out of control and requires a massive response. Amnesty for illegal aliens only rewards those who circumvent our laws and punishes those who abide by them. Yet legal immigrants have helped make America great since her founding. I remain committed to enforcing the law, strengthening our border patrol, and beefing up security efforts across the country.

As Congress considers immigration issues this year, I will continue to oppose any measure giving amnesty to illegal aliens. Furthermore, I will not support any measure that threatens our national security or reduces our nation's critical border enforcement efforts.

Mentoring Legislation Co-Sponsored by Rogers

As co-chair of the Congressional Mentoring Caucus, I am pleased to co-sponsor important new legislation designed to strengthen the U.S. Department of Education's (DOE) Mentoring Program.

The DOE's Mentoring Program grants, established in 2002 as part of the No Child Left Behind Act, provide competitive funding directly to community organizations and schools to establish or expand mentoring opportunities. Since 2002, over \$200 million has been granted for mentoring, which has contributed to a 20 percent growth in the number of young people being mentored.

I believe mentors serve as important role models, friends, and advisors to youth in need. Mentoring Program grants have become an effective strategy by matching caring, responsible adults with children across the country. Research has shown that mentoring has a significant impact on young people by increasing attendance at school, improving rates of high-school graduation and college attendance, and decreasing involvement with drugs, alcohol, and violent behaviors.

The results speak for themselves. Because of the success of the DOE's Mentoring Programs, I have helped develop legislation to grow and strengthen its mission. Along with my colleagues on the Congressional Mentoring Caucus, I have co-sponsored H.R. 2611, the Mentoring America's Children Act. This legislation provides over \$100 million in funding to link more children with quality mentors. It also builds stronger and more regular data collection and tracking of mentoring practices.

For information on the DOE's Mentoring Program grants, please [click here](#).

[Michigan State Receives \\$50 Million for Energy Research, Creates 100 Jobs](#)

Last week, the Department of Energy (DOE) announced grant funding for Michigan State University (MSU) to partner with the University of Wisconsin-Madison in establishing the Great Lakes Bioenergy Research Center (GLBRC), one of three new DOE Bioenergy Research Centers across the country. MSU was awarded \$50 million in federal funding for new research aimed at solving some of the most complex problems in converting natural materials to energy.

This is truly exciting research, and it's not a surprise MSU was chosen to be a leader in this new endeavor. MSU will focus its efforts on breeding new varieties of bioenergy plants, developing new processing techniques for breaking down cellulose, improving the chemical processes that convert biomass to energy products, providing an environmental and economic framework for sustaining the biomass-to-fuel pipeline and integrating new technologies into bioenergy research. The DOE's announcement is a win-win for the Eighth District and the state of Michigan. **Over 100 jobs are expected to be created through this research project**, including MSU faculty, postgraduate students, technicians and support staff.

I commend MSU for their hard work in developing a reputation as one of the nation's leaders in alternative energy research. This is a proud accomplishment for MSU and the state of Michigan, and an important step toward an economy powered by new developments in alternative fuels.

For a *Detroit Free Press* report on MSU's new grant, please [click here](#). To read more about MSU's energy research efforts, please [click here](#). I appreciate your continued interest in the legislative activities of your U.S. Congress. As always, should you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,

Mike Rogers
Member of Congress



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