

Sent: Wednesday, July 25, 2007 9:42 AM

To: EMAILUPDATE-MI08@LS1.HOUSE.GOV

Subject: Legislative Email Update - Rogers' Health Initiatives Adopted by House

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

Rogers' Health Initiatives Adopted by House

Recently, two of my health proposals were adopted by the House of Representatives as part of H.R. 2900, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Amendments Act. I had introduced a measure to improve technology for protecting Americans against counterfeit prescription drugs and an amendment to improve access to pediatric medical devices.

Counterfeit medications create life-threatening situations for Americans who depend on a safe supply of prescription drugs. My proposal requires the FDA to develop, recommend and promote standards to encourage the adoption of anti-counterfeiting technologies, and authorizes appropriations to enhance joint enforcement activities and coordinate inspections and enforcement. I believe we must take additional steps to secure our prescription medications against the threat of fake drugs and work to identify and punish criminals who seek to enrich themselves at the expense of the health and lives of millions of Americans.

Furthermore, adult medical devices rarely adapt for use in treating small babies or young children. Pediatricians tell us that development of children's medical devices can be a decade behind those for adults. I believe Children should not be shut out of advances in medical technology. My proposal offers incentives to device manufacturers to create medical devices specifically designed to meet the needs of pediatric patients and it gives the FDA authority to review the devices and require post-market studies to ensure continued safety and effectiveness.

To read a *Booth Newspapers* article on this bill, please [click here](#).

Rogers Fights to Protect Great Lakes

The Great Lakes are a national treasure. They are the world's largest freshwater system and serve as a source of drinking water, food, jobs and recreation for more than 40 million Americans. As Michigan's 8th District Representative in Congress, I take seriously my responsibility to preserve and protect the Great Lakes for future generations to enjoy.

Recently, a massive oil refinery in Whiting, Indiana was given permission by Indiana regulators to dump significantly more ammonia and industrial sludge into Lake Michigan. I believe this decision by the Indiana state government runs counter to years of efforts to clean up the Great Lakes from toxic pollutants.

With this new permit, the oil refinery will be allowed to release 54% more ammonia and 35% more sludge into Lake Michigan each and every day. That equals an additional 554 pounds of ammonia and

1,279 pounds of waste per day being dumped into our source of drinking water. These toxic chemicals are a serious threat to humans, fish and wildlife throughout the Great Lakes habitat. As the first expansion of hazardous dumping in nearly 20 years, I am deeply concerned that a permit of this nature was issued. Because of the troubling consequences of this new permit, I decided to take action. Last week, I sent a letter to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) director asking him to ensure that this permit is in compliance with the federal Clean Water Act. I have also asked him to formally review the process in which Indiana regulators approved this massive new dumping permit. Furthermore, I have joined with my colleagues in the House of Representatives as a co-sponsor to H. Con. Res. 187. This resolution expresses Congress' disapproval of the new permit, and calls on the state of Indiana to reconsider its decision. As Congress works to clean up the Great Lakes, it is unacceptable to allow an increase in harmful pollutants of this magnitude. Rest assured I will remain vigilant in my efforts to defend and protect the Great Lakes against these types of toxic chemicals. To read this resolution, please [click here](#).

House Passes 8th District Energy Research Funding

I am pleased to report that last week, the House of Representatives approved funding for two 8th district energy research projects. The first project, awarded to Intermediary BioChemicals in Okemos, will conduct research and development of emerging technologies to displace petroleum based chemistry. Today, many chemicals and chemical processes require petroleum, contributing to higher fuel prices and adding to our demand for foreign oil. This exciting research is aimed at creating new jobs in Michigan and improving our environment by developing new chemical production that does not need petroleum. The second project, awarded to MBI International in Lansing, will conduct research into biomass processing, advanced fermentation technologies and downstream process systems to reduce the production costs of biomass fuels. This critical research will help fuel Michigan's alternative energy boom. Cheaper, more efficient production of biomass fuels like cellulosic ethanol and bio-diesel means that home-grown alternative fuels and the Michigan-made cars and trucks that run on them can become an everyday reality.

The funding just passed by the House will help provide important research and also provide high paying jobs in Michigan's growing energy and technology economy. These funds were approved in the Fiscal Year 2008 Energy and Water Appropriations Act. The measures will now go to the U.S. Senate to be voted on as part of the fiscal year 2008 Appropriation bills.

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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