

Congressman Travis Childers Holds Tele-Town Hall on Energy Policy

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Childers Discusses Plan to Address Energy Crisis, Responds to Constituents' Concerns

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Washington, DC - Tonight, Congressman Travis Childers (D-MS) held his first Tele-Town Hall to address rising gas prices and the country's energy crisis. Over the course of an hour, the Congressman spoke to more than 22 thousand callers. He discussed in detail his energy plan, released Monday, July 14, presented recently introduced legislation to promote energy independence, and responded to questions and concerns from constituents.

"One of the top issues on North Mississippians' minds is skyrocketing prices at the pumps. When I came to Congress, the average price of gas in Mississippi was \$3.61 per gallon. Now, barely two months later, the price is over \$4.00 per gallon," said Congressman Childers. "The people of the First Congressional District need relief now, and they need to know that their concerns are being listened to and addressed. But, we also need more than just short-term fixes. We need long-term solutions that make lasting progress towards ending our nation's energy crisis.

"This forum was a wonderful opportunity to discuss the energy issues that are most important to North Mississippians. I only wish there had been time to answer every last question. I'm looking forward to speaking with everyone again soon."

During the call, the Congressman laid out his six-point energy plan to provide immediate relief to North Mississippians facing increasingly high gas prices and offer long-term solutions to the overall energy crisis. He announced the plan yesterday, along with co-sponsorship of the American-Made Energy Act of 2008, a bipartisan measure promoting American energy independence that would move a large portion of Childers' plan into law. Congressman Childers also discussed other legislation that would put the remainder of his plan into effect.

Callers asked a range of questions relating to our current energy crisis, from what measures the Congressman proposes to bring down rising food costs, to whether he supports the construction of oil refineries and new oil drilling.

The forum utilized interactive technology that allows thousands of people to be on a single call simultaneously. Participants were also able to instantaneously respond to survey questions that helped the Congressman better direct his answers to members of the audience.

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