

# Dr. Burgess Weekly Video Address January 25, 2013

## “The Rules Committee”

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Hello this is your Congressman Michael Burgess. In a recent video address I let you know that I am the Vice Chair of two Energy and Commerce Subcommittees, Health and Oversight and Investigations. Since then, I've also been chosen to serve on the Rules Committee.

Many people outside of Washington, D.C. are unfamiliar with the House Rules Committee. The committee has been described by various scholars as a “legislative traffic cop,” or a “gatekeeper,” or a “field commander.” All of these terms underscore the critical role the committee plays.

The committee is responsible for managing how each and every bill comes to the House Floor for debate. This means that once a committee has crafted and approved a bill for consideration by the full House, the bill then goes to the Rules Committee.

At that point the rule is written to determine the length of floor debate, what amendments will be offered, and other parameters which determine how the bill is considered on the floor of the House. Importantly, this allows members of the Rules Committee one final say on legislation before a bill is brought to the House for a vote.

As a new member of the Rules Committee, I am certainly looking forward to working with fellow Texan, Chairman Pete Sessions and the other members of the committee. I hope to be a constructive member of the committee, and am pleased that I will still maintain the same active role on the Energy and Commerce Committee that I have enjoyed – contributing to the important debates surrounding health care, energy production, and commerce issues.

Thank you for taking the time to listen. For more information on legislative issues before the United States Congress, please visit my website, [burgess.house.gov](http://burgess.house.gov). May God bless you and your family - and as always, may God bless Texas.