

Dr. Burgess Weekly Video Address February 3, 2012

“We’re Still Not There, Yet”

Hello this is your Congressman Michael Burgess. Today the Joint Economic Committee held a hearing on the latest unemployment numbers that were released earlier this morning. The good news is that the United States added 243,000 jobs in January, which exceeded expectations.

While adding these jobs is a positive, our unemployment rate continues to be over eight percent and has been for thirty-six months. The economy hasn’t recovered and we are not seeing job creation at a rate where it should be and quite frankly, where America needs it to be if we ever want to get over this hill of continuous high unemployment.

I lack faith in the ability of this administration to grow the economy. In fact, I believe President Obama’s proposals are the reason the economy isn’t stronger and the reason our country’s unemployment rate hasn’t seen a substantial decline.

Let’s look at some of the examples. Did the president approve the Keystone Pipeline which would have created thousands of new jobs? No, even though he was recently on a political barnstorming tour promoting energy exploration. Even the Obama administration’s Jobs Council stated that we need to optimize all of our natural resources if we are going to compete and accelerate job creation.

There are other examples: new regulations that affect utility production, the cross-state pollution rules, the Environmental Protection Agency’s war on natural gas, and the Affordable Care Act, the individual mandate tax, the employer mandate tax, the medical device tax, the increased Medicare tax, and the list goes on and on and on.

America is the greatest county in the world and we will overcome any challenge. What I find most frustrating is that the past three years has been filled with legislation that has halted the economy and jobs recovery and it is well past time for a new approach.

House Republicans have passed well over twenty bills that focus on job creation. No one is satisfied with the current unemployment – eight percent is not a recovery and the Senate must take action if we are going to create an environment that promotes job growth.

Thank you for taking the time to listen. Please visit my website, burgess.house.gov, to learn more about this issue and other issues before the United States Congress. God bless you and your family. And as always, may God bless Texas.