

Dr. Burgess Weekly Video Address December 30, 2011

“The Energy and Commerce Committee’s Work in 2011”

Hello this is your Congressman Michael Burgess. The Energy and Commerce Committee is the oldest legislative standing committee in the United States House of Representatives. It is also considered to be one of the most powerful committees and has jurisdiction that extends over five cabinet level departments, and many independent agencies. I currently serve as the Vice Chairman of the Subcommittee on Health, and I’m a member of the Oversight and Investigations and Energy and Power subcommittees.

Since elected into Congress in 2002, health care has always been at the forefront of my priorities. In my prior life I was a physician and now as a legislator, I have vowed to work to fix the problems facing America’s patients, doctors, nurses, hospitals, and all who work in the medical profession. As the Vice Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health, I am able to work to bring these issues to the committee.

In 2011, the Subcommittee on Health has had oversight of the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, and we have marked up bills that repealed contentious parts of the law. For example, the CLASS Act was a budgetary deception included in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act as an attempt to mask the actual cost of the law. We have worked to rescind this program and put an end to another entitlement nightmare.

As a member of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee we conduct investigations within agencies, departments, and programs over which we have jurisdiction over. One of the main investigations we have conducted in 2011 is with Solyndra, a solar energy development company based out of California. Solyndra filed for bankruptcy after receiving more than 535 million dollars in tax payer’s money from the Obama administration.

When this investigation started, we never could have imagined that a simple request to find out how the Department of Energy determined which companies received stimulus funding under the loan guarantee programs could turn have into the inquiry into how the Department of Energy mismanaged and ultimately lost over half a billion dollars in taxpayer money. The American people do have the right to know why decisions were made to use 535 million dollars of taxpayer money on a project that had no hope of success. This investigation is still on-going and we will continue to pursue this issue in 2012.

There’s a lot of work to be done as Congress enters the second session of the 112th Congress. As we work on these issues and other issues, I am committed to keeping you informed on what is happening and the progress we have made. I encourage you to visit my website, burgess.house.gov, for the most up-to-date information. Thank you for taking the time to listen. God bless you and your family. And as always, may God bless Texas.