



**News from the Office of
Congressman Rob Wittman**
First District, Virginia



For Immediate Release Contact: Steve Stampley

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Phone: 202-226-9873

Cell: 202-225-2207

WEEKLY WASHINGTON UPDATE

Congress comes back to Washington this week for a final legislative push prior to adjournment for the year. September should prove to be a busy month, as Congress has several initiatives that it must consider before the end of the session.

First and foremost, the leaders of Congress must schedule a vote on a comprehensive energy policy. There has been much talk over the summer, but not a lot of action. With the slowing of the global economy and the recent strengthening of the dollar, the price of oil has eased in the past couple of weeks. We should not allow this to create a false sense of security. Congress must act on an “all of the above” bill that promotes domestic drilling, aggressive conservation, incentives for increased efficiencies, and heavy investments in renewable and alternative energy.

In addition to energy, Congress must act on its responsibility to pass appropriations bills and fund the government. Currently, it looks like the House will consider the Defense Appropriations bill in the next couple of weeks. It is absolutely critical that this bill pass separate from a continuing resolution. Our military should not be hampered in its planning efforts just because Congress can’t see fit to do its work in a timely manner.

I will also be pressing for action on Chesapeake Bay issues throughout September. This week, the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans is holding a hearing on the status of Chesapeake Bay oyster restoration efforts. Along with Ranking Member Brown, I requested this hearing because I am concerned about our lack of progress, despite significant federal and state investments. My goal in this hearing is to gather the stakeholders and provide the necessary spark to chart a course forward in restoring the productivity of the Chesapeake Bay.

Also in September, I plan to formally request that the Natural Resources Committee schedule a hearing on my Chesapeake Bay Accountability and Recovery Act, H.R. 6771. Last week, I announced a coalition of groups supporting my legislation, including the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the Virginia Seafood Council, the Virginia Watermen's Association, and Ducks Unlimited. This bill enjoys broad bipartisan support in Congress and would have a substantial positive impact on Bay recovery efforts. I intend to press for its consideration prior to adjournment.

Congress has its work cut out for it over the next month. It is critical that we not leave town before our work is done, particularly on energy policy. In the meantime, I hope you’ll contact me with any questions or concerns at (202) 225-4261 or <http://wittman.house.gov>.

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