



Congressman Bud Cramer

March 2006
E-Newsletter

PAGE ONE OF TWO

Typically each year, March is considered one of the busiest months in Congress, and this year was no exception. Throughout the month, numerous individuals and groups visited my Washington office to discuss issues that are important to all of us in North Alabama.

In addition, my Appropriations and Intelligence Committees held a number of budget hearings with high-ranking government officials including Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, FBI Director Robert Mueller, and NASA Administrator Michael Griffin. These hearings are an opportunity to ask the tough questions about how their budget and goals will directly impact the people in North Alabama as well as areas across the country.

Also this month, Howard Thraikill was confirmed and sworn-in as the first Alabamian to serve on the Board of Directors for the Tennessee Valley Authority. This is a tremendous honor for Howard and our community. I look forward to working with Howard and the entire TVA board to ensure TVA continues to provide its essential services throughout North Alabama.

As always, for the most up-to-date information on these and other important issues, as well as activity in Washington and Alabama, please visit my website, <http://www.cramer.house.gov>.

Bud Cramer

Washington Update

During a meeting of the House Appropriations Committee this month, Cramer voted in favor of an amendment that denied a company owned by the government of the United Arab Emirates from holding leases or contracts at U.S. ports. After the vote, Cramer said, "The proposal to allow a foreign government-owned company to manage and operate six of our major ports is questionable at best."

In addition, Cramer voted to provide an additional \$275 million for veterans medical care. He said, "We need to make sure that troops returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom get the quality medical care they deserve."

Both of these amendments were considered during debate of the FY 2006 Emergency Supplemental for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery Appropriations Bill. This legislation passed the full House of Representatives on March 16th.



Congressman Bud Cramer

March 2006

E-Newsletter

PAGE TWO OF TWO

Washington Update Continued

During a meeting of the House Science, State, Justice, and Commerce Appropriations Subcommittee, Representative Cramer urged U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales to “show more leadership” and pressed him to provide more methamphetamine funding for law enforcement communities struggling to defeat the meth epidemic. He said, “Congress has worked hard to make sure our local law enforcement has the tools and the resources it needs, but I do not see the Justice Department committing the resources needed to effectively fight this epidemic.”

Also this month, the U.S. House of Representatives approved the Children’s Safety and Violent Crimes Reduction Act. This legislation will increase and tighten supervision of sex offenders and will enhance uniform notification standards for tracking predators. In 2005, Representative Cramer and Representative Mark Foley (R-Fla.) introduced the Sex Offenders Registration and Notification Act. The Cramer-Foley bill would strengthen the ability of federal law enforcement to track convicted sex offenders and improve the way school districts and neighborhoods are notified about convicted sex offenders. Title 1 of the Children’s Safety and Violent Crimes Reduction Act of 2005 includes key language from Cramer and Foley’s bill.

District Update

Representative Cramer met with farmers from Northwest Alabama this month to receive input on how Congress can strengthen the nation’s agriculture industry. Congress will soon consider the reauthorization of the 2002 Farm Security and Rural Investment Act. This legislation, better known as the Farm Bill, is set to expire in 2007. Cramer said, “Our farmers have lived and worked through the Farm Bill. Their first hand experience and input on what aspects of the bill are successful and what needs to be improved will be extremely valuable as Congress works toward the 2007 Farm Bill.”

During a speech before the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) of North Alabama this month, U.S. Representative Bud Cramer (Ala.-05) celebrated the area’s recent economic development successes. He specifically discussed with members the Base Realignment and Closure Commission’s recommendations for Redstone and the creation of the Hudson-Alpha Institute for Biotechnology. He told ABC members, “We have an aggressive group of economic developers in North Alabama and with all of us working together, we make North Alabama more attractive and this continues to have positive dividends.”

Also this month, Representative Cramer gave the keynote address at the 57th Annual Hartselle Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting and Awards Program. During his remarks, Cramer discussed his Intelligence and Appropriations Committee assignments, economic development, and other issues important to the Hartselle area.