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## Hoekstra Completes Bike Tour of Michigan's Second District

During the first week of August, U.S. Rep. Pete Hoekstra embarked on his annual bike tour of Michigan's Second Congressional District.

Every year carries a theme, and for 2008 Hoekstra chose to work in various jobs throughout the congressional district to understand the challenges and opportunities their industries face. Whether threading pipe at Haveman Hardware in Fremont, manufacturing vacuum cleaner components at Rexair in Cadillac or working at Snug Harbor Marina in Pentwater, local businesses face a myriad of issues.

Recurring issues were that nearly every business was unsure of how much they would pay under the new Michigan Business Tax and the obstacles to growth they confront when working to comply with bureaucratic red tape for their industry.

Michigan's leadership needs to simplify taxes so employers understand how much they will pay and work with them to meet regulations so that they can successfully compete in the free market. West Michigan has enormous potential for economic growth and job creation in such areas as manufacturing, tourism and services, but we need to encourage their creativity and ingenuity, not create barriers to their success.

To see the individual stops on the Bike Tour, please visit <http://hoekstra.house.gov/BikeTour/>.

## Hoekstra, Republican Members Return to Washington to Continue Energy Debate

On August 19, Hoekstra returned to Washington, D.C. to continue to pressure House leadership to hold a vote on an "all of the above" energy strategy to stabilize prices.

House Republicans are seeking an up-or-down vote on an "all of the above" bill that includes American energy exploration, improving energy efficiency and promoting emerging technologies and renewable supplies such as wind, solar and geothermal that will enable us to wean the economy off of fossil fuels.

Republicans have demanded that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi hold an up-or-down vote on the American Energy Act since August 1 when she adjourned Congress for five weeks, dimmed the lights, turned off the microphones and C-SPAN cameras and attempted to remove the press from the House Chamber.

Hoekstra and U.S. Rep. John Shadegg (R-AZ) authored an Op-Ed that discusses the need for the Speaker of the House to allow a vote on an energy bill that includes access to all U.S. energy sources.

The Op-Ed was published by the Washington Times and can be viewed here: <http://hoekstra.house.gov/News/DocumentSingle.aspx?DocumentID=100198>

*For more information on Pete's activities in Washington, D.C. please visit <http://hoekstra.house.gov>*

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