

I often hear that the best thing Washington, DC, can do is to just get out of the way. As I travel up to Washington from Montross, I look at every vote and every action through the lens of how it will affect you. Last year, Congress considered legislation with changes in federal regulation for the financial sector. Unfortunately, we have recently seen the downside of too much regulation and red-tape from Washington, DC, as increased regulation is causing more fees for the consumer in the form of debit card fees. One of the most popular inquiries into my office this past week was about the announcement that a bank is charging a fee on debit cards. Folks are upset about additional costs to them at a time when family budgets are already tight. It is a true indicator that Washington, DC, must truly take the right action to institute change. That's why I opposed the federal regulation legislation last year, and continue to fight for true reform for our economy. And that's why your input is so key as I talk with folks about what actions we must take to encourage our economy, to get it moving again.

I look forward to spending time in the district this week, to hear from many of you on the issues facing you, your family or your business. I am pleased to host a federal health benefits fair for active and retired federal employees on October 18, 2011. Many active and retired federal employees live right here in the First District – maybe you are one of them. The fair, held in conjunction with the Office of Personnel Management, will be in Fredericksburg at The Crossings at Falls Run from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. I am hosting this fair to assist you and other residents of the First District in advance of the annual federal benefits open season. The 2011 Open Season (for the 2012 plan year) runs from Monday, November 14, through Monday, December 12, 2011. Health insurance and benefits are often complicated, making it difficult to understand what choices are best for you and your family. I am pleased to partner with many organizations to help folks as open season approaches.

Thanks to so many of you for continuing to share your thoughts, comments and ideas by email, on Facebook and Twitter, or by phone. Your input is so critical. Please continue to contact me through my website, www.wittman.house.gov , or by phone at 202-225-4261.