



Home/News News by Subject Business & Lobbying Opinion Capital Living Special Reports

BLOGS Congress Blog Pundits Blog Blog Briefing Room Twitter Room Hillicon Valley E2-Wire Ballot Box On The Money

Enter Email

- Home
Senate
House
Administration
Campaign
Polls
Business & Lobbying
Sunday Talk Shows
BLOGS
Congress Blog
Pundits Blog
Blog Briefing Room
Twitter Room
Hillicon Valley
E2-Wire
Ballot Box
On The Money
Healthwatch
Floor Action
Transportation Report
BUSINESS & LOBBYING
K Street Insiders
NEWS BY SUBJECT
Defense & Homeland Security

THE HILL'S Congress Blog
Where lawmakers come to blog

Congress Blog - The Hill's Congress Blog Feed

March 24, 2011, 4:28 pm

Day eleven: Cairo, Egypt

By Dara McLeod

Tonight is my last night in the region. I leave Cairo for my home in Washington tomorrow. And this weekend, as I sit with my morning papers in my comfortable chair and read about events in Libya, they will once again seem very far away.

But events that are far away are not necessarily forgotten. And it would be impossible for me to forget all that I have seen and heard of the humanitarian crisis that is unfolding here.

Admittedly, it is very hard to know exactly what is happening throughout Libya right now from a humanitarian perspective. There are just too few observers on the ground in too few places. And having spent just one day in the country myself, I am hardly in a position to provide much evidence.

Read more...

COMMENT(1) EMAIL PRINT SHARE

March 24, 2011, 12:58 pm

Energy &
Environment

Finance &
Economy

Technology

All News by
Subject

OPINION

A.B. Stoddard

Brent Budowsky

Lanny Davis

John Del Cecato

Ben Goddard

David Hill

Cheri Jacobus

David Keene

Mark Mellman

Dick Morris

Markos Moulitsas
(Kos)

Robin Bronk

Editorials

Letters

Op-Eds

Juan Williams

Judd Gregg

Christian Heinze

CAPITAL LIVING

Gossip: In the
Know

Cover Stories

Food & Drink

Announcements

New Member of
the Week

All Capital Living

SOCIAL

Washington Scene

VIDEO

HillTube

RESOURCES

Mobile Site

iPhone

Android

iPad

Election 2010

Lawmaker Ratings

White Papers

Classifieds

Order Reprints

Last 6 Issues

Outside Links

RSS Feeds

Grow the economy with common sense reforms

By Rep. Pete Olson (R-Texas)

President Ronald Reagan once said, "The difference between the path toward greater freedom or bigger government is the difference between success and failure; between opportunity and coercion; between faith in a glorious future and fear of mediocrity and despair."

The two worlds he described are both possibilities as America's future stands at a crossroads. Soaring debt threatens our economic growth, job creation and America's preeminence in the world. However, thanks to the tenacity and commitment of the American people, we can choose the path of prosperity and liberty.

[Read more...](#)

 COMMENT(4)

 EMAIL

 PRINT

 SHARE

March 24, 2011, 12:21 pm

Reality-based patent reform

By Chris Gallagher and Kevin L. Kearns

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has just issued its long-awaited and comprehensive report entitled, "The Evolving IP Marketplace." Review of this study is critical for a complete understanding of our country's economic future, particularly job creation through innovation.

Intellectual property now comprises the great majority of corporate worth – about 80 percent. Today's situation is in sharp contrast to a mere 40 years ago when land, buildings, machinery, etc. made up the vast share of corporate value. Thus commercialized new ideas will create our next generation of industries, manufacturing plants, and jobs.

[Read more...](#)

 COMMENT(1)

 EMAIL

 PRINT

 SHARE

March 24, 2011, 10:57 am

Future shock inevitable from foreign-owned U.S. debt

By Tom Schatz

CONTACT US[Advertise](#)[Reach Us](#)[Submitting Letters](#)[Subscriptions](#)

In the 1986 ad known as “The Deficit Trials,” a young prosecutor speaks on behalf of a poor, tattered generation that by 2017 has suffered the consequences of failing to address what was then a \$2 trillion national debt. Today, at \$14.3 trillion, or \$45,800 for every man, woman and child in America, Washington continues to put off the tough decisions necessary to solve the rapidly growing problem.

Greeting members at home in their districts this week is a powerful ad by Citizens Against Government Waste, airing nationally on a host of cable networks. The “Chinese Professor” ad pays homage to “The Deficit Trials,” warning about the potential results of continuing down the current path of excessive spending and borrowing. It will not just be a lower standard of living for future generations. The Chinese, who own the largest foreign share of U.S. debt, will have the American people “working” for them.

[Read more...](#) COMMENT(3) EMAIL PRINT SHARE

March 24, 2011, 10:24 am

Nuclear storm warnings?

By [Peter Vincent Pry](#)

White House Science Advisor John Holdren and Sir John Beddington, Science Advisor to British Prime Minister David Cameron, in a recent joint article "Celestial Storm Warnings" published in the New York Times, warned that a solar flare from the Sun could cause a great geomagnetic storm, with catastrophic consequences for the United States and the world. A great geomagnetic storm would generate a powerful electromagnetic pulse (EMP) that could destroy electronic systems and collapse all the critical infrastructures--power grids, communications, transportation, banking and finance, food and water--that sustain modern civilization, and the lives of millions. Holdren and Beddington write reassuringly that "work to protect our societies is well underway."

Unfortunately, the truth is that work to protect our societies has not even begun. Those of us who have dedicated careers to protecting the American people from an EMP catastrophe know that no actual technical work is yet underway to physically protect the national power grid from EMP. We are running out of time to make this happen. As Holdren and Beddington note, the solar maximum, and increased possibility of a great geomagnetic storm, is fast approaching, now less than a year away.

[Read more...](#) COMMENT(11) EMAIL PRINT SHARE

March 24, 2011, 10:02 am

USIP goes public

By Steven Heydemann

On March 21, the United States Institute of Peace formally began work from its new headquarters on the National Mall. Although the official dedication of the building will take place this fall, as of this week, the building is up and running. More than 25 years after Congress created the Institute, and almost 20 years after Congress authorized construction of the new building, USIP finally has a home.

The opening of the new USIP headquarters is a moment for celebration, not just for the staff but also for the American people. Created as a public institution, and required by Congress to dedicate a large share of its budget for public purposes, the Institute's new building will finally make it possible for USIP to fully honor its mandate to serve, educate, and train the public.

[Read more...](#)

 COMMENT(0)

 EMAIL

 PRINT

 SHARE

March 24, 2011, 9:57 am

U.S. engagement delivers concrete action to support Iranian people

By David Elliott

The international community took its strongest action to-date in support of human rights in Iran today, in a major victory for President Obama's policy of engagement at the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC). Yet, this accomplishment did not come without controversy. Only four days before, the Chairwoman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), launched a withering attack against the international human rights body and announced her intention to introduce legislation that would block the United States from running for reelection at the HRC.

Thanks to its active presence on the HRC, the Obama administration was able to work with Sweden and a broad coalition of cross-regional partners to ensure the Council took action on Iran. This groundwork paid off today as the HRC voted to establish an independent human rights monitor on Iran to address the ongoing human rights crisis.

[Read more...](#)

 COMMENT(5)

 EMAIL

 PRINT

 SHARE

March 24, 2011, 9:46 am

Bringing order out of chaos – a modest proposal

By Joann Prinzivalli

In New York State, I am legally female for most purposes for which a driver's license is useful, but male for those purposes for which a birth certificate is used.

I'm a woman, in a legal marriage entered into under New York law with another woman, though it took three hours to get a marriage license from the New York City Clerk. We file jointly for income taxes, since federal DOMA shouldn't apply to us. Some states might apply their super-DOMAs to us.

In Texas (a wrongful death action), Florida (a child custody matter) and Kansas (an estate proceeding), legally female transgender women and a legally male transgender man who had valid marriage licenses saw their marriages invalidated by courts. In three states (Ohio, Tennessee, and Idaho), transgender people can't ever get their birth certificates corrected – and in those states, it's likely that same-sex marriage is already legal for some couples, much as it has been legal in parts of Texas since 1999.

Federally, I can get a passport as female today, but if I had to change my sex designation for social security after October 2002, I couldn't.

[Read more...](#)

 COMMENT(15)

 EMAIL

 PRINT

 SHARE

March 24, 2011, 9:20 am

U.S. and Afghanistan's troops promoting democracy

By Rep. Joe Wilson (R-S.C.)

Last week, I had the pleasure of hearing General David Petraeus, U.S. Army Commander of the International Security Assistance Force and of U.S. Forces in Afghanistan, testify before the House Armed Services Committee on Afghanistan. Ever the dedicated professional, the General not only outlined the current state of affairs on the war front but also updated Members as to the progressions and potential setbacks currently facing allied forces in Afghanistan.

After hearing his testimony and visiting with him and his troops last month in Afghanistan, I remain steadfast in my belief that our troops are truly making a difference in helping to establish a democracy in a country that was once run out of fear and corruption by terrorists, warlords, and the Taliban.

[Read more...](#)

[COMMENT\(0\)](#)[EMAIL](#)[PRINT](#)[SHARE](#)

March 24, 2011, 9:09 am

A bipartisan solution to the fiscal crisis

By Nancy Jacobson and Mark McKinnon

It turns out you can have an adult conversation in Washington.

Last week, Erskine Bowles -- Co-Chair of President Obama's bipartisan National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform -- addressed more than 20,000 citizen leaders on a national telephone town hall for our organization, No Labels. His message: the need for a bipartisan solution to the fiscal crisis confronting America.

[Read more...](#)[COMMENT\(6\)](#)[EMAIL](#)[PRINT](#)[SHARE](#)[1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [6](#) [7](#) [8](#) [9](#) [10](#) [Next >](#) [End »](#)

The Hill Archives: [Senate](#) | [House](#) | [Administration](#) | [Campaign](#) | [Business & Lobbying](#) | [Capital Living](#) | [Opinion](#)

View News by Subject:

[Defense & Homeland Security](#) | [Energy & Environment](#) | [Healthcare](#) | [Finance & Economy](#) | [Technology](#) | [Foreign Policy](#) | [Labor](#) | [Transportation & Infrastructure](#)

[Home/News](#) [News by Subject](#) [Blogs](#) [Business & Lobbying](#) [Opinion](#) [Capital Living](#) [Special Reports](#)



[Home](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms & Conditions](#) | [Contact](#) | [Advertise](#)
The Hill 1625 K Street, NW Suite 900 Washington DC 20006 | 202-637-2000
The contents of this site are © 2011 Capitol Hill Publishing Corp., a subsidiary of