

## **AUGUST RECESS: NO DAY AT THE BEACH**

Sunday, August 10, 2008

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About three or four times a day, a constituent will call and say: "Why is the Congressman on vacation? He should be working this August!" One sent a fax asking whether I was enjoying spending my August searching for a "vacation home."

August "Recess" may sound like it's full of fun, but the reality is most Congressmen have a packed schedule back in their district. It's a time to reconnect with constituents, consider local issues, and set priorities for the remainder of the Congressional session. For example, my schedule today went like this:

### **MONDAY AUGUST 11, 2008**

8:30 am: Meeting with Suffolk County official to discuss an upcoming conference on creating "green jobs"

9:00 am: Meeting with Smithtown Councilwoman Pat Biancaniello to discuss reducing municipal energy costs

9:30 am: Meeting with officials of Con Edison to discuss energy efficiency programs

11:00 am: Middle Class Listening Session at the King Kullen in Commack

1:00 pm: Meeting with officials of Canon Corporation to discuss federal highway budgets for traffic mitigation at their new corporate headquarters in Melville

1:30 pm: Meeting with a delegation from AARP

2:00 pm: Meeting with American Legion representatives

3:00 pm: Write Congressional Blog about how I am enjoying my vacation

4:00 pm: Return phone calls

6:00 pm: Home for dinner with my wife

7:00 pm: Speech about infrastructure issues to the Long Island Water Conference at the Dix Hills Fire Department

9:00 pm: Scheduled return home

Not exactly a day at the beach!

And, if you hear one of my Republican colleagues demand that Congress return to Washington to pass energy legislation, you may consider asking them why they voted no on the seven bills we tried to pass before the district work period, including one repealing the \$18 billion in subsidies to their friends in the Big Oil industry. Maybe we'd all have been better off if they had left Washington during that vote!