

October 24, 2011 - The "Loop"

Greetings! I pray this Loop finds the folks of the fortieth living in His Kingdom Principles so as to be open to His Wise Council in an ever- increasing dangerous world.

The Transportation Security Administration and the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security set up simultaneous checks at truck weigh stations across the state in a coordinated effort to maintain traffic security on interstate highways in Tennessee. TSA is normally associated with air travel safety however you cannot ignore the mass transit system such as rail and interstate highways. West Tennessee is one of the major interchanges of transportation in the nation. With business air and cargo, large inland maritime ports and major railroads all forms of "paths" do lead to our great state. Interstate 40 is this country's major thoroughfare and the third longest east to west interstate highway in the U.S. Though there is no particular threat at present, Hats off to the various departments who are working together to be prepared and coordinated all the way from East Tennessee to West Tennessee should we in fact have to deal with a serious threat. With Everything from Wal-Mart merchandise to illegal drugs and illegal immigrants transported through this area I believe these inspections will only strengthen the team work and prepare us for the worst so we can be ready for almost anything.

On Monday I met with the Commissioner of Education Kevin Huffman in my office to discuss the numerous emails from teachers in my district who have expressed frustrations with the evaluation process set in motion by the Race to the Top Legislation. It was encouraging to hear him say that yes we are tweaking this process and considering lessening the amount of evaluations. I voiced my concern that it is important to do all we can to encourage our great teachers so as not to load them down with unnecessary paper work. That discussion went on to the No Child Let Behind Federal law with my suggestion to cut the strings with D.C and let Tennessee teach her own students. That being said, funding will be less but then again it ain't all about the money is it? If we truly are all about the children and have education to fit the child's blueprint then Tennessee should embrace all forms of education. Whether parochial, public, private, homeschool or vouchers let the parents make the choice for their children. As long as the child succeeds, that is the form of education I support. Cookie cutter education is not the only form to teach our children well.

I also met with representatives from TWRA to discuss commercial fishing consideration in the state. I have heard one side and will be listening to those who embrace bringing this business to certain lakes in the state. One cannot make wise decisions hearing only one side. We also discussed the possibility of federal funding ceasing that pays the bill to keep our waterways stocked with fish. Living on the Caney Fork, it is important to me to have a proactive plan so as to not hurt the large fishing industry in my district. Continual talks with the Governor's office concerning the Death Tax Legislation and with Congresswoman Diane Black's office on the federal regulations being put in place on local businesses in the 40th district by this insane President Administration, kept your State Representative hopping! It is work worth doing and I am honored to do it.

As one of the three- panelist for the UT Extensions for Upper Cumberland, a program that serves the folks in rural districts, I was asked last Tuesday what was my main concern facing this next year. With unemployment increasing and the revenues for the state decreasing we are going to have to make more decisions with even less. Programs that are great just will not have the funds to continue. However still optimistic, we are living in a new norm so we tighten the belt tighter, enjoy our beans with even less rice or none at all and live on this diet trusting in the One who will meet the needs, If we Only Believe!

Blessings,

Terri Lynn