

Comments on “Action Plan: America Wins” developed by Congressman Bob Inglis

*By Charles Jeter, Republican candidate for
US Congress, South Carolina’s 4th District*



I hope the people of our great District will read Congressman Inglis’ document very carefully and determine if the values and positions he proposes are consistent with his voting record and his stated political philosophy as a fiscal conservative Republican who believes in private sector solutions with limited government intrusion. This is my response to Congressman Inglis’ “Action Plan: America Wins.”

Energy

The United States has an energy crisis due to our dependence on foreign oil. Demands for oil by China and India have caused the price to skyrocket. The cost has also been artificially inflated by speculation. It’s a sad day when the President of the United States has to plead with Saudi Arabia for a relatively meager amount of oil.

We could have avoided much of this crisis. One reason we don’t have sufficient oil is because we quit exploring and drilling. Additionally, the last refinery was built more than three decades ago. Now, Congressman Inglis does not want to drill in ANWR. We need to drill in ANWR, offshore and other places where we have oil. We need to build refineries. We need to do it and do it NOW.

Electrical power is an energy area where we can become independent and supplement our oil and gas shortages. We need to immediately build coal-power electrical generating plants. Congressman Inglis appears to oppose coal-fired plants because they “belch carbon dioxide.”



www.jeter08.com ~ charles@jeter08.com ~ PO Box 1170, Spartanburg, SC 29304 ~ 864-607-3085

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For the time being, we have no option. Without them, the lights will go out. I do agree with nuclear power for the future.

Electricity can support plug-in hybrid cars. Additionally, we can use electricity as an alternative to other oil and gas needs. Electrical power is our best option for total energy independence in the future.

Hydrogen fuel cars will never be a major, practical source of transportation. The production of hydrogen itself takes massive amounts of energy. Additionally, it would take a complete restructuring of our gasoline-based infrastructure.

I strongly support the need to explore alternate energy sources, but we need to be careful. Ethanol seemed like a good alternative but it is becoming a disaster, primarily because it has increased the cost of food, used up our corn supply and requires excessive amounts of water to produce. Wind power is a good alternative but it only supplies one percent of our electrical needs now and it will never produce enough electricity to meet or supply a major percentage of our demands. Wind is an unreliable resource. If the wind stops blowing, you need a backup. Additionally, you need a vast amount of land to supply wind energy on a level that would truly make a difference. For example, to supply New York City alone with electrical power would require a wind farm the size of the state of Connecticut. Congressman Inglis proposes solar energy, but solar is not efficient and has major initial costs. If the sun isn't shining, you still need a back-up electrical supply system.

Illegal Immigration

On illegal immigration, I think some of Congressman Inglis' points are acceptable. However, he needs to live up to what he is advocating and he has not. In fact, South Carolina is now leading the nation in the percentage increase of illegal immigrants. He has shown no active leadership in curbing the flood of illegal immigrants into our state and nation. Illegal immigrants are undermining our healthcare system, our schools, our jobs, our culture, our language and our prisons. In his faith-based section, Inglis says, "when I calm the fires on immigration, I'm trying to tune my heart to beat in sync with God's heart." This is a noble position. The fact is, the people of this District do not object to immigration. The people of this District object to illegal immigration.



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Climate Change

On climate change, the plan is so carefully worded that the Congressman must realize his liberal stance is not favorable to the people in this District. He mentions the doomsday scenario, ironic because he is one of the people perpetuating this scenario! He and people like Al Gore are undermining our country by their catastrophic and frantic messages about climate change. Our earth is a living planet. That distinguishes it from other planets in our universe. It is always warming or cooling. It is currently in a slight warming stage, about one degree Fahrenheit in the last hundred years, but the situation certainly is not catastrophic.

The other issue is the idea that we can somehow impose carbon sanctions against China and India. I would question how he proposes to do this and how a program to implement and enforce this concept is going to be paid for. Also, it is important to note that these countries aren't even controlling their basic pollution now. I suggest if he means what he says then we should be imposing sanctions NOW.

Iraq

On Iraq, he has given us a philosophical discussion about the war. I think most Americans want a sensible solution to end the war in Iraq. But, the fact remains: he was one of the few Republicans who did not support our military leaders when he voted against the military surge. Our military leaders asked for more help with additional personnel and Congressman Inglis said "no."

Healthcare

Inglis' action plan requires substantial, additional governmental costs, controls and expenses that are unnecessary. The healthcare plan he is recommending is basically a nationalized Clinton-like healthcare system. This type of system will increase taxes and will destroy the high-quality healthcare system we currently have. Who is going to pay for this? The answer is we will pay for it in higher taxes. Clearly, we need modifications to our healthcare system. However, we don't need socialized medicine.



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Jobs and Trade Agreements

Our District desperately needs new and better jobs to provide economic opportunity for all. Congressman Inglis cast one of the deciding votes to approve the Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA). It has caused the loss of manufacturing jobs in this District. We need fair trade agreements, not free trade agreements.

Education

I fail to understand what Congressman Inglis is saying on education. A proper education is the single most important factor necessary to give people the opportunity to enjoy a productive life. Approximately 50% of our South Carolinians fail to finish high school, which limits their opportunities for life.

Education begins at home at a young age. We need to educate a parent or parents on the importance of education. We need early childhood education.

If we really want to reduce the size and burden of the federal government, I would propose we first get rid of the Department of Education and send the money to the state and local school districts.

Religious Beliefs

Congressman Inglis' religious section in his action plan is moving and I also share a strong religious belief. However, the people of this District need to remember how he voted in the Pledge Protection Act. The Pledge Protection Act was legislation that would require "under God" to be included in the "Pledge of Allegiance." He was the only Republican to vote in committee AGAINST requiring "under God" in our "Pledge of Allegiance." His was THE deciding vote that eliminated "under God."

Summary

Congressman Inglis says "we've been on the couch for 35 years." I doubt the great people of this District have spent any time on the couch. You have been working hard to support your families and ensure a prosperous future. Inglis, on the other hand, has been in Congress off and on since 1994. I would encourage you to review his action plan and his voting record and consider whether he truly represents the needs and desires of the people of this District.



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