

Nebraska's First Congressional District is, literally and figuratively, a breath of fresh air from the tumultuous and frenzied world of Washington. We call it the "good life" in Nebraska – the diverse terrain of farm and ranchlands, expansive prairies, rolling Sandhills, the vast Ogallala Aquifer, and a Heartland culture of hard work, personal responsibility, and neighbor helping neighbor that has helped Nebraska remain stable, peaceful and secure in the midst of a very difficult period for our nation.

What works in Nebraska could work for America: a focus first on the values that give rise to sound thinking, good governance, and economic diversity. Nebraska today has the second lowest unemployment rate in the nation and consistently ranks at or near the top of national surveys evaluating economic strength and opportunity. This, matched with a resolve to do good work and preserve opportunities for the next generation, is a "Nebraska model" that would serve Washington well in 2012.

For the Nebraska model to take effect in Washington, and for lawmakers to begin to work collaboratively to address the needs of the country, the continued input and encouragement of engaged citizens will be critical. I have been honored over the past year to represent some of the most civically engaged constituents in this country, as countless Nebraskans have told me Washington needs the Nebraska approach to solving big problems: be smart, be resourceful, and work until the job is done.

The Nebraska model helps inform my decisions in Congress. Clearly, and rightfully so, economic recovery was the dominant theme for 2011. At the end of each year in Congress, my office publishes a summary of our work in the areas of economic security as well as national security and family security. The 2011 Year-End Report can be found at [here](#).

In the report, you will find information about key actions and legislative measures I have undertaken in the areas of the economy and jobs, agriculture and energy, health care, national security and veterans affairs, and family life and culture. If you cannot access the document online, please call my Lincoln office toll-free at 1-866-725-5255 and ask to be mailed a printed copy.

As always, I appreciate knowing your thoughts and ideas on our work, and remain honored to represent you in Congress.

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