July 17, 2008

Rep. Joe Knollenberg
2349 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Rep. Knollenberg,

I'm a teacher at the Academy of the Sacred Heart in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. I'm a life-long Michigan resident and have taught in public and private schools for over 35 years.

In all that time, I have never written to a member of Congress – until now.

President John F. Kennedy pledged to put a man on the moon before the end of the decade. It was an ambitious, long-range goal to be sure. He was criticized on many levels, but he showed the leadership necessary to take us where we needed to be.

The United States faces an energy and resulting economic crisis not seen in many decades. If Congress had shown genuine leadership after the first oil crisis in 1973 and if Congress had been courageous then, we would not be where we are today.

Genuine leadership today would call for energy independence in ten years.

Intelligent leadership would call for the use of our own resources rather than continuing to buy them from other countries. (Would anything negative happen if we sent less money to the Middle East?) Talented leadership would develop wind, solar, and nuclear energy sources as well as finding new sources of fossil fuels. Gifted leadership would demand that environmental and safety concerns be safeguarded at the same time.

But here's the true test. Leadership must be courageous. Those who have courage will make decisions based on what's best for the United States. They will not be concerned with expediency. They will not be concerned with the short term. They will not lose their drive when conditions improve slightly. They will tell the American people things we don't want to hear but are nevertheless true. They will cross the aisle to get things done. They will stand up to special interests even if it means losing their support and money.

And most important, Congressional leaders know that their mission is to lead – not to get re-elected!

There have been leaders in Congress since the days of the First Continental Congress through the Civil War, World War II, and 9/11. You can do this. Your country needs you to lead. So lead!

Sincerely,

Richard M. Kuhn

Richard M. Kuhn
4187 Kenmore Rd.
Berkley, MI 48072
248-435-6817