



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
April 3, 2008

**CONTACT:** Brad Dayspring  
(202) 225-3484

## **Let Freedom Click**

### *Hensarling introduces Blogger Protection Act of 2008*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressman Jeb Hensarling (R-TX), Chairman of the Republican Study Committee, today, along with 34 co-sponsors, introduced the Blogger Protection Act of 2008. This legislation would protect free speech on the Internet and protect bloggers and netroots activists from the burden of federal regulation.

In 2002, Congress passed constitutionally questionable campaign finance reform that did not identify the Internet as a target of regulation. Two years ago, the Federal Election Commission (FEC) issued regulations that protected bloggers from being hampered by certain campaign finance laws. Under these regulations, bloggers cannot be considered to have made a contribution or expenditure on behalf of (or in opposition to) a candidate simply because they link to campaign websites or write about the positions of federal candidates. Additionally, blogs are treated as any other publication under the general media exemption from most campaign finance restrictions. Without such protections, bloggers could be subject to various limitations and reporting requirements under campaign finance law.

The Blogger Protection Act of 2008 would prevent federal regulation of political speech over the Internet by amending federal election law to specifically exclude communications over the Internet from the definition of “public communication.”

Hensarling issued the following statement:

**“The constantly evolving online and netroots community has democratized politics in ways that we could have never imagined even 10 years ago. The growth of blogs, online communities, and information sharing websites has truly put power in the hands of the people.**

**“Regulations can be changed without congressional action, and there’s no telling what a future FEC might decide to do. We should not put the freedom of bloggers into the regulatory hands of the FEC – which is currently defunct because of vacancies and lack of a quorum. Congress should act to protect their freedoms immediately.”**

## **Co-Sponsors for Blogger Protection Bill**

*110<sup>th</sup> Congress*

1. Todd Akin
2. Gresham Barrett
3. Roscoe Bartlett
4. Rob Bishop
5. Marsha Blackburn
6. Kevin Brady
7. Paul Broun
8. John Campbell
9. Chris Cannon
10. Eric Cantor
11. David Davis
12. Mary Fallin
13. Tom Feeney
14. Jeff Flake
15. Luis Fortuño
16. Virginia Foxx
17. Trent Franks
18. Phil Gingrey
19. Pete Hoekstra
20. John Kline
21. Doug Lamborn
22. Kenny Marchant
23. Kevin McCarthy
24. Marilyn Musgrave
25. Randy Neugebauer
26. Ron Paul
27. Mike Pence
28. Paul Ryan
29. Pete Sessions
30. John Shadegg
31. Tom Tancredo
32. Tim Walberg
33. Joe Wilson
34. Robert Wittman

###

*Congressman Jeb Hensarling is Chairman of the Republican Study Committee (RSC).*