



The 47th Flyer

News for California's 47th Congressional District
from Congressman Alan Lowenthal



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June 13, 2014

It was another busy week on Capitol Hill, as Congress debated and voted on the Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development (THUD – pronounced “tee-HUD”) Appropriations Bill. This bill allocates previously-approved federal funds to critical agencies and programs, such as the Federal Aviation Administration, Amtrak, National Transportation Safety Board, and housing programs for our nation’s most vulnerable Americans.

Regrettably, this bill contained harmful cuts to the Maritime Security Program, Federal Aviation Administration, Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Program, Amtrak, and TIGER grants, which are critical to maintaining the competitiveness of the Port of Long Beach. For these reasons, I voted “no” on the THUD bill. It ultimately passed along party lines, 229-192.

In The 47th District

This week marked the 51st anniversary of President John F. Kennedy signing the Equal Pay Act of 1963 into law. This historic law set us on a course to narrow—and eventual erase—our nation’s unfair wage gap. While we’ve made many gains since that day, there still remains much to be done, as women still earn on average \$0.77 for every \$1.00 earned by a man.

Thankfully, in California, that income disparity is not as wide; women earn \$0.85 for every \$1.00 earned by a man. That is not enough though. We must have equal pay for equal work. I am committed to achieving that reality. That is why I am cosponsor of the Paycheck Fairness Act, which prohibits pay discrimination based on gender.

On The Hill

Protecting Endangered Species and National Marine Landmarks

Two weeks ago the House Natural Resources Committee marked-up amendments to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Act – a law written for managing our nation’s fisheries.

The bill passed along party lines and its provisions were of great concern, as they supersede longstanding protections for endangered species and our national marine landmarks.

This is why I offered an amendment that would have kept Marine Sanctuaries, the Antiquities Act, and the Endangered Species Act from being superseded by Magnuson-Stevens, which should only be for managing fisheries.

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Do you agree with President Obama's student loan repayment reform?

Yes - We must do everything we can to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions

Maybe - Each State should decide emission levels for their coal-fired power plants.

No - Coal-fired power plants have enough regulations as is.

I do not know

[If you have a problem, click here to open survey in a new window](#)



Click the image above or [click here](#) to see the video.

Thankfully, the Senate is taking a bipartisan approach to Magnuson-Stevens. I urge our committee leaders to follow suit and work across party lines to build a bipartisan fisheries bill.

Action on Student Loan Repayments

In California, 52 percent of our college graduates are over \$20,000 in debt. These numbers are appalling.

I am thankful that the President has announced the expansion of a program that allows students to have their monthly loan repayments capped at 10 percent of their annual income. This translates into more graduates having more money in their pockets to help start their careers and contribute to the economy.

To build upon this new development for our students, I have also become a cosponsor of the [Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act](#). While the President's plan is good to students with new loans, the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act allows students with current loans to renegotiate their repayments as a capped percentage of their income.

Learn more about the President's plan by clicking [here](#).

Israel's New President & My Meeting with the Ambassador

Congratulations to Israel's President-elect Reuven Rivlin, whose long record of service to the State of Israel will benefit the Israeli people for years to come. I wish President Shimon Peres only the best as he finishes his term, and I look forward to continuing the strong partnership our nation has with Israel.

On Thursday, I met with Israel's Ambassador to the United States, Ron Dermer, to discuss the leadership transition, the peace process, and how we can continue working together on issues of mutual interest.



Meeting with Ambassador Ron Dermer

Congress U

Voting “Present”

When a bill is being considered on the House Floor, Members of Congress vote on an electronic recording device. The device has three voting options: YEA, NAY, and PRES. In this case, “PRES” means “present.” Voting present is essentially a refusal to take a side on a particular vote, and it does not count towards or against the final passage of a bill.

Members of Congress often vote present as a party in order to showcase the views of the opposing party to the general public. While voting present is always an option, it is rarely used by many Members. As for me, I prefer to have my vote, either “yea” or “nay,” on record for my constituents to see where I stand on a particular issue.

Last Week’s Poll

Should the federal government regulate greenhouse gas emissions from coal-fired power plants?

50.7% - Yes - We must do everything we can to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions

12.5% - Maybe - Each State should decide emission levels for their coal-fired power plants.

33.1% - No - Coal-fired power plants have enough regulations as is.

2.9% - I do not know

0.7% - (NO RESPONSE)

Thank you,

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

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