



The 47th Flyer

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



[HOW CAN ALAN HELP?](#) | [LEGISLATION](#) | [47th DISTRICT](#) | [ABOUT ALAN](#) | [CONTACT ALAN](#)

June 19, 2015

The Debate On Trade

Last week was the long-awaited vote on approving Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) for the President, which would impact how trade deals with other nations are approved by the U.S. government.

International trade is a critical part of the 47th District's economy. At the same time, American workers and businesses should be able to conduct trade on a level playing field. I voted no on TPA, sometimes called "fast track" authority, because giving the president TPA means that Congress cannot amend a trade agreement--it can only vote to support or oppose an agreement negotiated by the President.

Sadly, the Senate and House leadership tied TPA to Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA), a program to extend aid for American workers displaced by trade. While I support American workers who have lost their jobs due to outsourcing, I am disappointed that these two bills were tied together, and last week I voted against both.

The immediate importance of TPA is that the President and his staff are currently negotiating the 12-party Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP), one of the largest trade deals in recent memory. After reviewing parts of the TPP agreement that have become public, I believe the TPP does not protect American workers and will result in the loss of American jobs.

In addition, the TPP includes Vietnam, a country that does not allow independent labor unions, which does not protect the rights of workers, does not allow religious freedom, and imprisons people who speak in opposition to the government.

I continue to have serious concerns about the TPP, but by giving the President fast track authority, the important ability of Congress to address these concerns has been severely limited, if not eliminated.

For these reasons, I will continue to oppose granting the President Trade Promotion Authority.

On The Hill

Papal Call For Action On Climate Change

This week Pope Francis released his long-awaited encyclical on the environment entitled "[Laudato Si](#)," or "Praised Be To You." Subtitled "On the care for our common home," the 184-page letter criticizes consumerism and irresponsible development, and calls for "swift and unified global action" to combat environmental degradation and climate change.

[EMAIL ME](#)

[NEWSLETTER
SIGN UP](#)

CONNECT WITH US



Would you favor or oppose the U.S. Supreme Court deciding that LGBT individuals have a constitutional right to marry, which would have the effect of legalizing same-sex marriage throughout the country?

Favor, the LGBT community deserves the same civil rights as any American
Oppose, the decision should be left up to individual states
Oppose, same-sex marriage should be illegal throughout the nation

I thank the Pope for his continued leadership in bringing global attention to the plight of the world's poor and most vulnerable because of environmental impacts nations like ours have inflicted. I applaud the Pontiff's recognition that when it comes to climate change, the science is settled and it is up to not just our leaders, but each of us as individuals, to take the science to heart, understand the impacts of climate change as a humanitarian and moral issue, and take action.

Climate change knows no geographic, political, ethnic, or religious barriers. It affects all people. As a nation we have a responsibility, not just to our own citizens, but to our fellow travelers on this delicate blue sphere we call home.

We must take action to further protect our environment and put an end to unneeded suffering caused by climate change before it gets any worse.

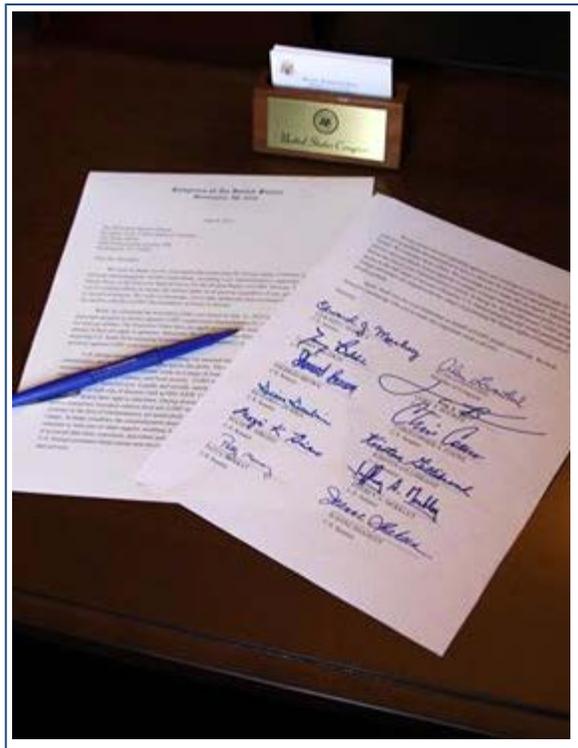
Extending LGBT Protections

Our nation has what I see as a major role in defending the innate rights of all human beings across the globe—including the LGBT community—to live, love, and prosper.

Last week, I joined Senator Edward J. Markey and nearly 60 members of Congress in sending a letter to the President which calls for further executive action to ensure federal funds are not used to subsidize LGBT discrimination in our nation or abroad.

To promote our fundamental values of equality, fairness, and diversity, we cannot go half way at home and we certainly cannot halt the extension of these values at our border. Our nation has what I see as a major role in defending the innate rights of all human beings across the globe—including the LGBT community—to live, love, and prosper.

[To learn more, click here to visit my website.](#)



Talented Westminster Students Win Big In DC

It was a treat to have three special students from Westminster High School stop by my DC office for a visit last week. These talented students from the 47th District were in DC to participate in the Cooking up Change National Healthy Cooking Contest run by the Department of Education. They won 2nd Place nationwide!



I was very impressed by their tenacity to learn and believe these students are truly the future of improving school food.

Protecting Our World's Oceans

The world of global maritime commerce is rapidly changing, and we must continue to develop our policies to remain competitive in the global economy and protect the environment. We can and must address both the needs of our goods movement infrastructure and sustainable environmental practices required to leave our world a better place for our children. It was an honor to speak at Capitol Hill Ocean Week about the pivotal moment we face in regarding our shipping policies.

A large part of my role as chairman of the House Safe Climate Caucus is to bring attention to the impacts of climate change, such as marine species migrations due to warming oceans.

Two scientific studies in the last few weeks (the first published in [Nature Climate Change](#) and the other in [Science](#)) showed that warmer oceans are shifting marine species diversity away from the equator to cooler waters. Warmer waters hold less oxygen, so fish are migrating to colder waters to essentially breathe.





This reorganization of marine life has unknown consequences for the fishing industry, which contributes billions annually to the U.S. economy. My office recently asked officials in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration for the economic contributions of the fishing industry. They responded that in 2012, the US seafood industry generated \$141 billion in sales and supported 1.27 million jobs. Seafood imports accounted for 64% of sales impacts (\$90 billion) and 41% of job impacts (525,000 jobs).

Given the size of the US seafood economy, it would be wise to take the projections of marine species migrations seriously. It is critical that Congress take actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to slow down the warming of our oceans and protect our valuable ocean resources.

In The 47th District

Congressional Award: America's Award for Youth

Four students from my District have earned the United States Congress' Congressional Award, which honors outstanding public service, initiative, and achievement by our nation's youth.

On June 5th, I was proud to host Congressional Award recipient Jennifer Lang, a bright and talented student from the 47th congressional district, in a ceremony to recognize the first of our four recipients. I invited Jennifer, her family and friends into my district office, where I was delighted to present her with the Silver Medal Award. Jennifer will also receive her Gold Medal Award later this month at a ceremony in our Nation's Capital.



Jennifer had fulfilled her award requirements by raising and training 3 guide dogs through Guide Dogs of America, improving her musical and acting skills, training daily with her swim team, and even raising funds to help displaced fishermen in the Philippines after Typhoon Haiyan hit in November 2013. Jennifer also traveled to the Philippines to help with relief efforts by feeding and supporting survivors for 10 days.

The Congressional Award recognizes and honors the volunteerism of young men and women in the U.S. Participants must dedicate over 400 hours of voluntary service, 200 hours of personal development, 200 hours of physical fitness, and 5 days of expedition and exploration. Nearly 38,000 people participated this year to achieve this award, yet there were only 271 Congressional Gold Award winners. Jennifer will be attending Cal State Long Beach next fall. Congratulations Jennifer and thank you for your service! For more information about the Congressional Award, please visit www.congressionalaward.org.

2015 Service Academy Night in Cypress High School

Recently, I hosted the 2015 Service Academy Night at Cypress High School, which was attended by more than 80 students and their parents who are interested in attending one of our nation's academies.

Representatives from the USMA (West Point), USNA (Annapolis), USAF (Colorado Springs) USAF Auxiliary (Civil Air Patrol), and the US Coast Guard (New London, CT.) gave presentations and took questions regarding the admissions process. Keynote speaker Brigadier General Mark Toy delivered an extensive presentation and I answered a wide variety of questions about the nomination process.



There are four service academies in the United States that require a nomination from an authorized nominating source.

Each academy offers young men and women a free college education at a highly-ranked, nationally-recognized academic program while preparing them for an officer's commission in the armed forces. The academies requiring Congressional nomination are: the Air Force Academy, the Merchant Marine Academy, the Military Academy at West Point, and the Naval Academy. The fifth service academy, the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, does not require a Congressional nomination.

To learn more, visit my webpage about Service Academies and the nomination process by [clicking here](#).

Direct any further interest to Robin McCray at robin.mccray@mail.house.gov.

Beach Streets Uptown

On Saturday, June 6, I participated in Beach Streets Uptown in Long Beach. The event was hosted by the City of Long Beach with help from LA Metro. During the event, Atlantic Avenue was closed to automobiles, allowing community members to celebrate the city and support local businesses by walking and riding their bikes through the area.



I enjoyed riding my bike in the event as well as meeting many members of the Long Beach community. This event featured live music and art, a farmer's market, and a robotics exhibit for participants to enjoy. Special thanks to the City of Long Beach and Long Beach Council members Al Austin, Roberto Uranga, and Rex Richardson for hosting this great event to encourage the community to be active and take larger roles in their wonderful city.

Sunburst Youth Academy Graduation

I was honored to join cadets and parents on a very special day for the Sunburst Youth Academy graduates. I presented special recognition awards with Dr. Jeff Hittenberger, Chief Academic Officer at the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE). Supporting the California Youth Challenge program has to be one of the most fulfilling parts of my service these past two and a half years in the US House of Representatives. It is truly an honor to represent the 47th district of California which I am so proud to say, includes the Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base and the outstanding Sunburst Youth Academy program.

Congress U

The Session Light

Over the last several weeks, the House has remained in session late into the night on several occasions. Anyone within sight of the U.S. Capitol at night can instantly tell if the House or Senate are still in session by whether the Session light is lit.

At the very top of the Capitol Dome, amid the columned structure called the tholos upon which the bronze Statue of Freedom sits, is located what is commonly called the Convene or Session light.

It is actually two lights.

A white light signifies that the House of Representatives is in night session (see image below). A red light signifies that the Senate is in night session. When both white and red lights burn together, they signify that the two houses of Congress are

each in night sessions or that the two houses are in joint night session.



Last Week's Poll

The House and Senate recently passed (and the President signed) the USA Freedom Act, a major reform of the Patriot Act authorities. The Act ends the bulk collection of telephone records; requires court orders to obtain such records from phone companies; and, makes vital reforms to provide more oversight to the FISA Court. Do you support passage of legislation like the USA Freedom Act?

41.8% - Yes, I believe that Congress should reform all aspects of the nation's surveillance programs, and USA Freedom is a good start.

23.8% - Yes, I support the passage of the USA Freedom Act, but I think that the reforms in the bill needed to go farther.

12.5% - No, I believe Congress should have reauthorized the Patriot Act provisions as they were.

22.0% - No, I believe Section 215 of the Patriot Act should be allowed to expire.

2.4% - Other

Thank you,

Alan Lowenthal

Member of Congress

Washington, D.C. Office

515 Cannon
House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: 202-225-7924
Hours: M-F 9-5:30pm

Long Beach District Office

100 W. Broadway
Long Beach , CA 90802
West Tower Suite 600
Phone: (562) 436-3828
Fax: (562) 437-6434

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)