



The 47th Flyer

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



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October 17, 2014

Port Pollution Numbers Down

The ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles are two of the major economic engines of not only our region, but our nation.

Together they are the busiest container port complex in the Western Hemisphere and either directly or indirectly impact millions of jobs not just in our own nation, but in dozens of the ports' trading partners around the globe.

However, the ports historically have been major contributors to air pollution in the 47th District and the rest of the Southern California region.

The good news is that despite a slight increase in cargo traffic of 0.3% since 2005, emissions over the same period at the ports have dropped 82 percent.

Much of these reductions can be attributed to aggressive efforts by both ports to reduce their environmental impacts.

Plans such as the ports' Clean Trucks Program which replaced thousands of older dirtier-burning diesel trucks servicing the ports with newer models, are perfect examples.

Legislation, such as the bill I authored in the California State Legislature which reduced idling times by trucks outside marine terminals, has also helped.

But more needs to be done. The ports have clearly proven that business and the environment can coexist successfully. We need to spread that message. I will continue to champion better, cleaner, and more efficient ways of doing business throughout Southern California. I hope that each of you will join me in this effort. Together we can make a difference.

On The Hill

Oil and Gas Letter

As a member of the House Natural Resources Committee it is one of my primary responsibilities to be a good steward of the public lands of the United States. It doesn't matter if the lands the committee is talking about are in Maine, Florida, Utah, or California—the public in 'public lands' includes not only the people of the 47th District, but every other American as well.

When it comes to the development of oil and gas resources from these lands, my belief is that it must be done in a safe and environmentally responsible

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Same-sex marriages are now legal in nearly 30 states. How should this issue be determined on a national level?

The Supreme Court or Congress should affirm or pass legislation making same-sex marriage legal nationwide

Individual states should be allowed to decide for themselves

The Supreme Court or Congress should ban same-sex marriage nationwide

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manner that also provides a fair return to the American taxpayer.

After all—this is their land.

Two illegal activities where the taxpayer is quite simply being ripped-off are when companies are committing trespass on public lands and when companies are drilling without approval (DWOA). Trespass is where companies that have no right to the resources under public lands essentially steal the public's resources, frequently by what is called horizontal drilling. DWOA violators enter onto public land and take the public's natural resources despite not having secured the right to do so.

In addition, these trespass and DWOA violators pay little heed to environmental regulation. The Department of the Interior's Office of the Inspector General recently estimated that trespass and DWOA resulted in \$530,000 in lost royalties in North Dakota alone and \$4 million in environmental damages to a wetland in Oklahoma.

This is why I have signed a letter to the director of the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management, calling on the agency to enact strong and consistent policies that can help detect and deter trespass and DWOA violators.

Without strong enforcement regulations, there is little deterrent for future instances of trespass or DWOA, and this blatant theft from the American public will continue unabated.

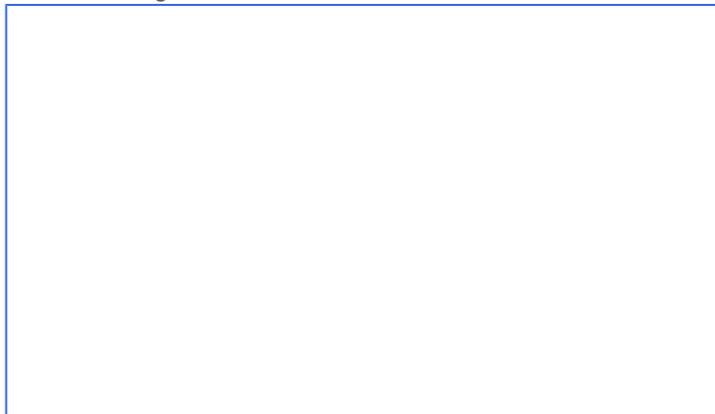
In The 47th District

Rocket Launches at the Joint Forces Training Base

5...4...3...2...1...BLAST OFF! I had a blast launching rockets with students from the Department of Defense STARBASE program at the Joint Forces Training Base (JFTB) in Los Alamitos. Highly engaged in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) curriculum, students worked in groups of two to develop, construct, and launch their own Starbase Starhawk model rocket that can travel up to 300 feet in the air.

The STARBASE program is an outstanding onsite education program at the JFTB which provides engaging STEM instruction to elementary school students throughout Orange and Los Angeles Counties. STARBASE is managed and administered by dedicated military leaders at the JFTB.

Many thanks to Brigadier General James Gabrielli, who is the Commander of all California National Guard youth and community programs, and Warrant Officer Stacey Hendrickson, Director of the STARBASE Program at JFTB, and their outstanding team of teachers.





The STARBASE program creates a bridge between the U.S. military and local students that is achieved through strong leadership, state of the art curriculum and technology, a complete understanding of military culture, and assured access to military installations. In the STARBASE program, the technology-rich military environment allows students to experience first-hand “real-world” application of STEM skills.

Unfortunately, funding for the STARBASE programs has been in danger over the last two years. In response, I have taken action by leading the effort to protect the program, with the support of many of my colleagues. Over the past two years, I championed the STARBASE program and helped to ensure \$25 million in funding last year and for the upcoming year.

The STARBASE program is important to the future success of our budding scientists, mathematicians, engineers, and technology experts, not to mention the advances they create for our men and women in uniform. I look forward to continue supporting this vital program which significantly benefits the lives of youth in our community.

103rd Anniversary of the Republic of China (Taiwan)

I was delighted to celebrate the 103rd anniversary of the Republic of China (Taiwan) this past week by attending and speaking at the 2014 National Day Reception hosted by TECO-LA (Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Los Angeles).





Our nation and Taiwan have a long and enduring friendship. As a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I am determined to continue supporting and strengthening U.S. relations with Taiwan in all areas of exchange and development.

It was wonderful to share and celebrate the significance of this day with such a joyous crowd.

47th Fun Fact of the Week

Did you know the skinniest house in the US is located in the 47th District? Built in 1932 by Nelson Rummond on a bet he could not build an inhabitable residence on a 10 feet wide by 50 feet long lot, the 3-story high, 860 square feet house is on Gladys Avenue in Long Beach.



Congress U

Capitol Campus

The United States Capitol campus consists of more than a dozen buildings situated at the eastern end of the National Mall.

The Capitol building, at the apex of Capitol Hill, and its adjacent Visitor Center sit at the center of the campus.

To the south of the Capitol building the three House of Representatives office buildings sit in a line running east to west. This is where nearly all of the House members have their offices. The oldest and most easterly of the three, where my office is located, is the Cannon House Office Building. West of Cannon is the Longworth building and at the western end of the three, the Rayburn office building (a fourth House building, the Ford, is located off the main campus to the southwest).

On the north side of the Capitol are three Senate office buildings. Running west to east are the Russell, Dirksen, and Hart Senate office buildings.

To the immediate east of the Capitol building are the three main Library of Congress buildings, the Madison, the Adams, and the Jefferson. Also due east of the Capitol is the U.S. Supreme Court building.

To see a detailed map of the campus from the Architect of the Capitol's office, [click here](#).

Last Week's Poll

Are you confident that the U.S. government and other government entities can handle any threat posed by Ebola in the U.S.?

28.9% - Very certain

22.0% - Somewhat certain

49.1% - Not certain

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

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