



The 47th Flyer

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



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November 22, 2013

In late 1963, I was a graduate student at Ohio State University. I lived close to my campus office and was walking home the afternoon of November 22 when people everywhere began coming out of their homes and workplaces, obviously upset. This is how I found out the President had been shot. I remember just a short time later watching Walter Cronkite give updates from Parkland Hospital when it was still unclear how bad it was. Then the news: "From Dallas Texas, the flash...this apparently official...President Kennedy died at 1 p.m. Central Standard Time..." To say my heart sank would be an understatement. Fifty years later, when I think about it, I can still feel that sense of anguish and loss. I will never forget that day.

John F. Kennedy was an inspiration to many young adults at the time, including myself. His dedication to country, such as the establishment of the Peace Corps and advocating for American space exploration leadership, appealed to the evolving culture of our society at the time. He captured the imagination of a generation, built cultural bridges during the turmoil prior to the Civil Rights Act, and instilled a sense of civic purpose in millions of Americans of all ages and backgrounds.

On the 50th Anniversary of the assassination of President Kennedy, I want to share with you a very important quote by him that I hold very near and dear to my heart: "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

TELEPHONE TOWN HALL

On Monday, I was grateful to have held my first telephone town hall, which allowed my constituents in the district to interact with me directly over the phone in Washington. The topic: the Affordable Care Act. There were thousands of folks from the district on the call who offered their questions, concerns, and comments about the new health care town hall. The tone was varied – from appreciative to confused and angry – but my sense is that our community is eager to learn more about the law and see how they will personally benefit from the changes in the law.

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Should oil and energy companies disclose where they will be fracking or drilling in our communities?

Yes - it is critical to our environmental and public health needs

Maybe -I do not think it is a big deal

No - it is too much of a burden on industry

Not sure

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



While I recognize that there have been implementation challenges with the new law, I remain willing to work with anybody and everybody to make the Affordable Care Act work for all Americans, especially my constituents.

HOLDING OIL AND GAS COMPANIES ACCOUNTABLE

I spoke on the House Floor this week against a very harmful bill, H.R. 2728, Protecting States' Rights to Promote American Energy Security Act. This bill would prevent the U.S. Department of the Interior from overseeing oil and gas fracking activities on its own lands (!). I offered an amendment that would provide transparency to fracking operations and allow our communities to have the peace of mind they need before fracking occurs near or on their land.

While predictable, it is unfortunate that some members of Congress again and again are willing to throw out basic health and safety protections in order to speed up oil and gas extraction for industry. I refuse to stand by as transparency and protections for public health and safety are under attack, and threats are made to our environment in the name of increased profits for industry.

Right now, our communities do not have access to reliable or complete information about fracking operations. We should be consistent and make sure the people in our communities also have a right to know about fracking chemicals injected below their backyards, their schools, their farms, and their parks.

H.R. 2728 allows industry to hide the facts about fracking, and it prevents the public from verifying the oil and gas industry assertion that fracking is safe.

When the oil and gas industry hides the facts, it erodes the public's trust and breeds suspicion.

I offered my amendment as the "Motion to Recommit" (MTR)– the final chance to amend the bill (See Congress U section below) – on the Protecting States' Rights to Promote American Energy Security Act. . In my [speech](#) on the MTR, I demanded that communities have the right to know when industry is drilling or using harmful chemicals in our backyards:



To view the speech, click the picture above or visit: <http://youtu.be/AwETAgzLtPU>

JOIN ME FOR A COMMUNITY COFFEE

Please join me tomorrow from 9:30am to 11:00am at the Long Beach Job Corps (1903 Santa Fe Ave.) for a community coffee where I will be discussing the latest issues in Washington.

I hope to see you there!



"Motion to Recommit"

The "Motion to Recommit" (MTR) provides the Minority Party one final chance to amend a bill before it is voted on by the full House of Representatives. After the MTR is offered and disposed of, the House must then immediately vote on final passage of the underlying bill, as amended. The MTR is rarely adopted, since it has come to be seen as a typically party-line vote for both parties.

In the case of my Motion to Recommit that I offered this week regarding transparency in fracking activities, I asked for recorded vote, but regrettably, the motion was defeated, 232-188.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alan Lowenthal".

Alan Lowenthal
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