

Legislative Update to Constituents

from U.S. Representative Bill Posey
Florida's 8th District

Dear Friend,

The question I am most frequently asked by constituents is “Why is Washington doing so little to address our nation’s most critical needs?”

Most folks don’t realize that the House and Senate operate by a different set of rules. In the House, a simple majority is enough to pass legislation. Current Senate rules require the agreement of 60 Senators before any legislation can be brought up for debate and a vote. Without bipartisan agreement, nothing can advance, and that is where the gridlock originates.



Rep. Posey talks economic issues with employees at Fellsmere Farms Groves.

Every year tens of billions of taxpayer dollars have been added to our massive \$18.2 trillion debt because there is no longer a funding process in Congress to root out fraud, cut wasteful spending and reform dysfunctional programs. For years the federal funding process has been stuck on pause in the U.S. Senate, leading to last-minute "crisis" votes on stop-gap funding measures and thousand-page omnibus spending bills.

This year is no different. While the House has been busy voting on annual appropriations bills to fund the various federal agencies, these bills are still being blocked in the Senate and with them meaningful reforms that make Washington more accountable. Once again, because of Senate inaction, the stage is being set for an eleventh-hour budget showdown and another too-big-to-read spending bill.

This is an irresponsible way to manage our government's finances, and I believe this will have serious consequences for our children and grandchildren. In fact, there are many great ideas that have gained bipartisan support and are still awaiting Senate action. **If we can put an end to the gridlock in the Senate, then ideas that hold Washington accountable, target wasteful spending and help our fellow Americans get back to work can be sent to the President to be signed into law.**

It is the highest privilege to serve as your Representative in Congress. Please take a moment to fill out and return the attached reply card to share your thoughts on these and other issues as I would very much welcome your feedback. If my office can ever be of assistance to you, or to learn more about the services my office can offer you, please visit www.posey.house.gov or call our local office in Brevard County (321) 632-1776 or Indian River County (772) 226-1701. We're here to serve you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill".

Bill Posey

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Legislative Update: House passes aggressive 2015 Agenda

House Addresses Overregulation: Legislative Efforts Remove Barriers to Small Business and Economic Growth

Not all regulations are bad, and sometimes new regulations are necessary. But overregulation can have a chilling effect on economic growth. Increased costs from regulations put heavier burdens on businesses as business owners spend more to comply with government red tape and less on hiring workers and rewarding pay increases. According to a U.S. Small Business Administration study, the annual regulatory

compliance costs for small businesses are upwards of \$10,000 per employee per year. Every year federal bureaucrats churn out more than 4,000 new regulations with about 200 rules adding significant costs to our economy.

With Rep. Posey's support, the House targeted overregulation by passing legislation to remove barriers so businesses can grow and compete:

- ✓ **The Small Business Regulatory Flexibility and Improvements Act** (H.R. 527) directs federal agencies to consider both the direct and indirect economic effects of the regulations they craft, gives small businesses more input in the regulatory process and requires that agencies regularly review and eliminate outdated and ineffective rules.
- ✓ **The Regulatory Accountability Act** (H.R. 185) requires agencies to pursue the least costly method of implementing the law.
- ✓ **The Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act or REINS Act** (H.R. 427) requires congressional approval of costly agency regulations before those regulations can go into effect.
- ✓ **The Save American Workers Act** (H.R. 30) repeals the employer mandate rules responsible for cutting employee work weeks from 40 hours to under 30 hours per week.

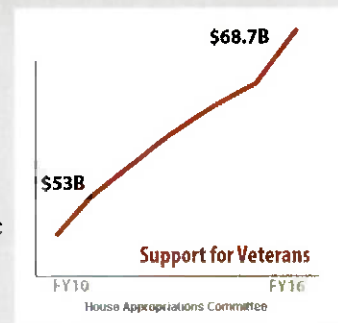


New and proposed federal regulations since April 2011

House Boosts VA Funding, Tackles Backlog and Makes Care a Top Priority

This year the House passed a VA appropriations bill that continues the fight to provide better healthcare, jobs, training and other earned benefits to our nation's military veterans by increasing funding for veterans programs by 5.6 percent over last year's levels. VA medical services are funded at \$48.6 billion, which will enable care for 6.9 million patients next year. The bill also directs resources to further support mental health care, suicide prevention, traumatic brain injury, VA caregivers, ending homelessness, and rural health initiatives.

The House VA funding bill also tackles the claims backlog and helps ensure our veterans receive the proper medical care they deserve. It speeds up claims processing, extends reporting requirements, and adds more staff to reduce the claims backlog. The bill also funds efforts to modernize the VA electronic health record system, ensures that the VA continues to work hand-in-hand with the Department of Defense, and tightens oversight of taxpayer dollars to address mismanagement.



Posey Leads Florida Delegation Effort to Replace Outdated Air Force Communications Hub



The House approved a Defense Appropriations bill which included funding for construction of a new Range Communications Facility (RCF) at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station to replace one that was built nearly 60 years ago.

Rep. Posey led a bipartisan effort in the House to replace the facility, which is critical both to our national security and our nation's space program. The RCF serves as a

critical hub for command, telemetry, and radar for the Eastern Range.

The current building is dilapidated, prone to flooding, uses decades-old technology and has become generally unsafe for personnel. A new state-of-the-art facility is a necessary component to defending America in the 21st Century, supporting our war fighters and advancing both NASA and commercial U.S. space launch capabilities. A new facility at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station has been a top priority for the U.S. Air Force Space Command for several years.

Read more about my record on other imp

...while waiting for the Senate to act

House Passes Rep. Posey's Bipartisan Plan to Help Estuaries with Critical Needs



Legislation was passed by the House (H.R. 944) in June to reauthorize funding for the National Estuary Program (NEP) for Fiscal Years 2016-2020. Rep. Posey, a principal co-author of H.R. 944, was able to secure the inclusion of his bipartisan plan (H.R. 573) to reprioritize existing

funding so more money is available for estuaries with critical needs like our Indian River Lagoon.

In addition to providing strong funding for base NEP grants, Rep. Posey's plan directs the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to prioritize funding to provide additional awards for estuaries that are experiencing urgent and challenging ecological problems such as sea grass loss, reoccurring harmful algae blooms, invasive exotic species or jellyfish proliferation. It's now up to the Senate to act on this legislation to help revitalize our nation's estuaries.

- ✓ **Ten Mile Creek** – Cosponsored bipartisan legislation to help local authorities take over the Ten Mile Creek Water Preserve Area Critical Restoration Project so the project can move forward without further delay
- ✓ **Seismic Testing** – Introduced bipartisan legislation to place a moratorium on seismic testing activities off the coast of Florida until its effects on sea life and marine mammals can be better determined

Posey's Commercial Space Proposals Approved by House



Rep. Posey recently met with employees at Rockwell Collins to talk defense issues and tour their Melbourne facility.

In May the House passed H.R. 2262, the SPACE Act, which included several of Rep. Posey's key proposals to help promote future commercial space ventures and streamline the regulatory process to make the U.S., and Florida, more competitive for commercial launches.

The landmark space legislation includes Rep. Posey's bipartisan, bicameral bill to create a legal framework to protect property

rights for American companies that obtain asteroid resources in outer space. Asteroids are excellent potential sources of highly valuable resources and minerals that can be used here on Earth and to support future space missions. Posey said that, if Americans are willing to invest in asteroid mining, they will need legal certainty that they can keep the fruits of their labor.

Also included in the SPACE Act is Posey's Amendment to streamline the regulatory process and require greater cooperation between the Federal Aviation Administration, the Department of Defense and NASA which have overlapping jurisdiction over commercial space launches.

Maintaining America's Leadership in Space

- ✓ Supported NASA reauthorization legislation to shift the focus of NASA to human space flight and space exploration
- ✓ **Worked to achieve record level funding for commercial crew at KSC**
- ✓ **Protected KSC ground systems** funding from being redirected to other space states and secured a record increase in funding levels
- ✓ Supported legislation to increase funding for planetary exploration
- ✓ Introduced bipartisan legislation (H.R. 2036) to direct NASA to craft a plan to return to the Moon by 2023 with the intent of establishing a permanent human presence as a precursor to further exploration
- ✓ **Introduced bipartisan (H.R. 2726) legislation to recognize and celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon landing** and the estimated 400,000 Americans across the country who contributed to its extraordinary success with a Commemorative Coin



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Protecting Taxpayers and Restoring Trust in the IRS

With Rep. Posey's support the House passed several pieces of legislation to strengthen taxpayer protections and bring about a fairer, more accountable and transparent Internal Revenue Service (IRS). For several years the IRS has been plagued by scandal over the illegal targeting of conservative groups, its lack of transparency and violations of confidentiality regarding taxpayer records.

To restore the public trust in the IRS, the House passed legislation that takes steps to improve the quality

of service taxpayers receive at the IRS, enhance privacy protections and allow taxpayers a forum to challenge IRS positions (H.R. 1058).

Furthermore, the House passed legislation to make the IRS more accountable by prohibiting employees from conducting government business on personal email accounts (H.R. 1152), increasing transparency during investigations (H.R. 1026), and making IRS political targeting a cause for termination (H.R. 709).

Rep. Posey's Personal Accountability Checklist

Rep. Posey believes that he should lead by example, and here's how he's doing it:



Rep. Posey speaks to constituents about efforts in Congress to fight human trafficking.

- ✓ Voted to block Congressional pay increases for 2010 to 2015
- ✓ Has returned the pay raise every year (that was approved before Rep. Posey came to Congress in 2009). Also returned full pay for service during federal government shutdown
- ✓ Introduced legislation requiring at least 72 hours for the public and Congress to review bills before a House floor vote can take place (Adopted as House Three-Day Rule Reform, 2011)
- ✓ Reformed House rules to add more transparency by making bills easier to read for Members of Congress and the public
- ✓ Cosponsored and voted for the STOCK Act to ensure that Members of Congress don't trade stock based on insider information (P.L. 112-105)
- ✓ Filed an amendment to stop sweetheart investment deals that enable Members of Congress to participate in Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) not available to the general public (H.R. 3606)
- ✓ Cut his own office budget by more than \$550,000 over the past 6 years
- ✓ Proposed ending the Congressional death gratuity so that Members of Congress are required to purchase their own life insurance rather than getting a taxpayer handout when they die (H.R. 3127)
- ✓ Introduced legislation banning Members of Congress from lobbying for 5 years after leaving office (H.R. 318) and to eliminate their federal benefits if they choose to lobby (H.R. 319)
- ✓ Voted to cut Congressional pensions (H.R. 3630)