

2014 Report to Constituents

From U.S. Representative Bill Posey

Official Memorandum

To: District 8 Constituents
From: Congressman Bill Posey

As we begin 2014 there are many issues before our nation that will impact you, your family and the future direction of our nation. Your time is valuable, so thank you for taking a few minutes to read about some of the issues I am working on.

While the media like to focus on controversy, there are many issues where there is mutual agreement. In this Report I highlight some of these issues, as well as issues related to the fundamental direction of our nation.

Most importantly I want your input on the issues before us. Too often Washington and the vast bureaucracies and lobbyists think they know the answers. But I know that common sense resides outside of Washington. I hope you will send me your thoughts on the attached reply card.

It is an honor to serve you in the Congress.

Bill



Rep. Posey talks legislative issues with local WWII veterans prior to their Honor Flight to Washington D.C.

“My first commitment is to serving those I have the privilege to represent, being available to you and understanding your concerns and views.” -Rep. Posey

- ✓ Constituent Meeting office hours are held on a regular basis where constituents can meet directly with Rep. Posey to discuss any issues of concern. Call 321-632-1776 for an appointment.
- ✓ Five staff members serve as caseworkers and are available to help you resolve issues with federal agencies.
- ✓ For easier access, we have three district offices to better serve you: Viera, Vero Beach and Titusville.
- ✓ Held a dozen advisory council meetings in 2013.
- ✓ Regularly visits local businesses and organizations.

Washington Office
120 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515
Phone (202) 225-3671
Fax (202) 225-3516

District Office
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
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Melbourne, FL 32940
Phone (321) 632-1776
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Satellite Offices
Titusville: (321) 383-6090
Indian River County constituents:
(772) 226-1701
<http://posey.house.gov>

Posey's Principles & Priorities

“Americans want job creation and economic growth, and that remains my top priority.” -Rep. Posey

- ✓ **Supported 40 House-passed bills that create jobs.**
- ✓ Voted for the REINS Act to curb costly new regulations that impede job creation.
- ✓ **Establishing Small Business Taxpayer Bill of Rights.** (Cosponsored H.R. 3479)
- ✓ **American energy production** – Voted for many U.S. energy development bills that will reduce our reliance on Middle East oil, lower the cost of energy and manufacturing in America, creating many new American jobs.
- ✓ Opposes a national energy tax and carbon taxes.
- ✓ Streamlined and improved job-training programs so there is a job at the end of training rather than a dead-end street. (SKILLS Act)
- ✓ **Making space initiatives robust and collaborative** – Secured stronger commercial and human space flight budgets and enhanced military/commercial launch collaboration.
- ✓ **Greater commercial utilization of excess NASA facilities** – Reducing bureaucratic red tape to open NASA’s facilities to commercial space companies.
- ✓ **Improving Port Canaveral facilities** – Supported legislation to use port fees for port improvement and to authorize upgrades at Port Canaveral. (H.R. 335 & H.R. 3080)
- ✓ **Supports “all-of-the-above” energy plan** – domestic drilling, nuclear, renewables, natural gas, coal, conservation, solar, wind and building the Keystone Pipeline.



The Indian River Lagoon

Securing Our Nation, Supporting Our Military & Veterans

- ✓ **Select Committee on Benghazi** – We must bring to justice those responsible for killing 4 Americans – including our U.S. Ambassador – and we must get to the bottom of what happened that night.
- ✓ **Local defense initiatives** – Supported funding for Air Force JSTARs (Melbourne), Range Communication Building (Cape Canaveral AFS), Air Force Technical Applications Center (Patrick AFB), and programs important to local contractors and defense companies.
- ✓ **Supporting our troops in the field** – Worked with local veterans group to advance legislation enabling the Defense Department to transport goods supplied by nonprofit organizations to members of the Armed Forces serving overseas. (The Deployed Troops Support Act)
- ✓ Visit www.posey.house.gov/veterans for a more complete list of Veterans initiatives.

Protecting & Preserving Our Environment

- ✓ **Restoring the Indian River Lagoon** – Voted for bipartisan legislation (H.R. 4715) reauthorizing the National Estuary Program (NEP).
- ✓ **Restoring the Everglades** – Co-authored bipartisan amendment (#46) to authorize the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP).
- ✓ Supported passage of the **Water Resources Development Act** to advance Central Everglades Restoration Projects (CERP).
- ✓ **Enhancing conservation** – The federal government’s ethanol mandate has resulted in millions of acres of marginal agricultural land shifting from conservation to production. Rep. Posey supports efforts to conserve this land.
- ✓ **Saving stranded marine mammals** – The Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Program matches local funding to address issues like the increase in dolphin deaths.
- ✓ **Energy efficiency** – Rather than gambling more taxpayer dollars on handouts for speculative green energy programs, investments should focus on making energy savings upgrades to federal facilities.

Read more at www.posey.house.gov.

: An Agenda of Accountability

Holding Congress Accountable...

- ✓ Blocking Congressional pay raise for 2010-2014.
- ✓ Returned pay raise every year (raise was approved before coming to Congress in 2009).
- ✓ Returned full pay for service during the government shutdown.
- ✓ No special exemptions – Enrolled in an Obamacare Exchange (same as staff).
- ✓ Introduced legislation requiring 72 hours for the public and Congress to review bills before a House floor vote can take place (Adopted as House Rule Reform).
- ✓ Cosponsored and voted for the **STOCK Act** to ensure that Members of Congress don't trade stock based on insider information. (S. 2038)
- ✓ Cut his own office budget by \$500,000 over the past 4 years and cut overall Congressional budget by 20% over the past three years.
- ✓ Stopping Washington's revolving door by banning Members of Congress from lobbying for 5 years after leaving office. (Introduced H.R. 440)
- ✓ Voted to reduce Congressional pensions. (H.R. 3630)

... And All of Washington!

- ✓ Holding federal agencies responsible for regulatory overreaches that harm small businesses (Amendment adopted).
- ✓ **Opposing "Too Big to Read" bills** that spend hundreds of billions of taxpayer dollars with no accountability.
- ✓ Protecting Florida taxpayers from being forced to bail out Detroit and other fiscally irresponsible governments. (Cosponsored H.R. 3002)
- ✓ Eliminating Department of Transportation program that sends officials overseas to study road signs and park benches (Amendment adopted).
- ✓ **Cosponsored Constitutional Balanced Budget Amendment.**
- ✓ Cutting regulator overreach by adopting the "One in, Two Out" plan requiring federal agencies to eliminate two regulations for every new one they propose. (H.R. 2997)

Restoring Liberty, Protecting Personal Privacy

- ✓ Introduced legislation to hold Federal employees personally accountable if they release Americans' private health, tax or financial information. (H.R. 3762, H.R. 3763 & H.R. 3763)

Ending Sexual Assault and Human Trafficking



Rep. Posey talks with constituents in Port St. John about current issues before Congress.

- ✓ Ending sexual assault in the Armed Services – Cosponsored and voted for bipartisan legislation to ensure protections and justice for the victims of sexual assault in the Armed Forces. (H.R. 2016 and Roll Call #294)
- ✓ Protecting students from sexual assault and sexual predators. (Voted for H.R. 5 and supported H.R. 2083)
- ✓ Putting an end to human trafficking – Making the fight against human trafficking and sexual abuse a higher priority for the State Department. (H.R. 2283)

Border Security First

Having recently visited the Arizona border, Rep. Posey has a deeper understanding of the need to first secure our nation's borders – land, air and sea. Washington has been promising to secure the borders since passage of the 1986 amnesty legislation – 27 years ago.

Border security is critical for national security, preventing crime and for public safety. According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), the Senate-passed immigration bill fails to secure our nation's borders, estimating that a decade from now the U.S. will be right back where we are today with 5 million new people here illegally.

The CBO also estimates that the Senate bill will reduce the wages of lower-income, lower-skilled workers who are already struggling to make ends meet. Passing a bill that further compromises their ability to advance

economically is not good for them or for our overall economy. What we need are policies that enhance economic opportunities for all workers, particularly those in lower-wage jobs so that they can climb the economic ladder.

We still have over 20 million Americans who are unemployed or underemployed, and we must keep their plight in mind and see that their need to find a good job is secured.



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It is provided as a service to 8th Congressional District constituents.

Health Care Law Update and Posey Health Initiatives

- ✓ Repealing and replacing the new health care law.
- ✓ Improving breast cancer research.
(Co-sponsored H.R. 1830)
- ✓ Winning the battle against rare diseases.
(Bipartisan letter to Congressional leaders 2013)
- ✓ Fighting childhood cancer. (Cosponsored bipartisan legislation, H.R. 2607)
- ✓ Supporting funding for federal special diabetes programs.
- ✓ Focusing research on Gestational Diabetes.
(Co-sponsored H.R. 1915)
- ✓ Protecting seniors' access to necessary treatments –
Co-sponsored H.R. 351 to repeal the President's Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB).
- ✓ Ensuring that vaccines are safe and thoroughly researched.
(Introduced H.R. 1757)



Recent regulations from Washington, piled high.

At the outset of the health care reform discussion in 2009, Rep. Posey met with HHS Secretary Sebelius and suggested that there was broad agreement on addressing pre-existing conditions and making sure that health insurers could not drop someone who gets sick. He proposed working together on those key issues.

The response was, no, the President wants to do one comprehensive health care restructuring bill. Unfortunately, that was the path that was taken and it has led to a massive disruption of health insurance and significant increases in health care premiums for millions of Americans.

Each day Rep. Posey receives letters from constituents who have lost their coverage, cannot afford their new insurance or are losing access to their health care providers. He supports repeal of the law, and replacing it with a plan that restores individual freedom and choice and addresses the issues he outlined to the Secretary in 2009.

“I would really like to hear from you on this issue. How has the new health care law affected you personally? Please respond in the attached reply card or e-mail me through my website www.posey.house.gov.” -Rep. Posey