

Legislative Update to Constituents

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

Dear Friend,

I hear from many constituents who feel that Washington just isn't listening to them, and I have to say I share their frustration. But while partisan gridlock has overtaken some important issues, we have also managed to advance solid bipartisan initiatives to benefit our district, create jobs and opportunity, protect our freedom, and hold Washington accountable.

One sign that our economy continues to strengthen is the near-record low unemployment rate across our communities. More and more, businesses are choosing to move their operations to the Space and Treasure Coasts, and we welcome their presence. Still, there's more work to be done.

It's unfortunate that partisan politics clouds so much in Washington and too often derails solutions to America's problems. I'll keep working for common-sense solutions. Also, I'd love to hear your thoughts on key issues under discussion in Washington. Please take a moment to fill out and return the enclosed survey. Or, if you choose, you may take it online at www.posey.house.gov/survey.

If my office can ever be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We're here to serve you!

Sincerely,



Bill Posey



Rep. Posey meets with officials from the Army Corps of Engineers to discuss designating South Patrick Shores a Formerly Used Defense Site. Earlier in the year, Rep. Posey convinced the EPA Administrator to investigate possible contamination in that community.

"... while partisan gridlock has overtaken some important issues, we have also managed to advance solid bipartisan initiatives ..."

– Rep. Bill Posey

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Rep. Posey is Working to Create Jobs, Restore

Protecting Access to Medical Care is a Top Priority

Making health care more affordable and improving access to the health care are priorities for Rep. Posey. Legislative initiatives that Rep. Posey has undertaken include:

- ✓ Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care – H.R. 3107 ends insurance companies' use of prior approval process to delay care.
- ✓ Protecting Those with Pre-Existing Conditions
- ✓ Opposes Changes to Medicare proposed by "Medicare for All" proposals
- ✓ Early Onset Alzheimer's Assistance through *Older Americans Act* services (H.R. 1903)
- ✓ Insurance Affordability – H.R. 1398 repeals federal tax on health plans.
- ✓ *Cancer Drug Parity Act* (H.R. 1730) ensures equal access to oral cancer drugs
- ✓ Improving Colorectal Cancer and Bone Density Screenings (H.R. 1703/H.R. 2693)
- ✓ Lowering Prescription Drug Prices – H.R. 1034 and H.R. 1035 cutting drug prices for all Americans
- ✓ Ensuring Continuity of Care by banning unnecessary STEP therapy (H.R. 2774)
- ✓ Ending Surprise Medical Bills (H.R. 3502)

Posey's Flood Mapping Reform Advances Through Committee

A reform measure by Rep. Posey was included in H.R.3167, the *National Flood Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2019*, which was approved by the House Financial Services Committee in June. Posey's proposal (H.R. 342, the *FIRM IT Act*) helps FEMA update floodplain maps by requiring the Department of Defense, U.S. Geological Survey, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to share all their relevant maps for flood insurance purposes with FEMA. Posey noted that in many cases we haven't updated our floodplain maps in 20 years and that this proposal will help us do that cheaper, faster, and more accurately. "It's a win for both taxpayers and for the beneficiaries of the flood insurance program," said Rep. Posey.



Rep. Posey talks about flood insurance reform legislation with the Realtors Association of Indian River in August.

Posey, White House Trade Advisor Discuss Approach to China



White House Trade Advisor Dr. Peter Navarro met recently with Rep. Posey to discuss regulatory and trade issues, specifically why addressing China was critical to both our long-term economic health and our national security. Posey has been an advocate for combatting overregulation and cutting burdensome red-tape which he believes hampers our ability to compete and causes American jobs to move overseas.

Aside from creating a more competitive economic environment here in the U.S., Navarro elaborated on the serious threat to our security that China poses as it has a history of hacking our computers, stealing American intellectual property, forcing technology transfers, and manipulating its currency to give it an unfair competitive edge. Navarro also noted that China is also the main culprit in dumping large amounts of fentanyl, an opioid and form of synthetic heroine, on our streets. Fentanyl is highly addictive even in small amounts. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2017, nearly 29,000 Americans died from an overdose involving fentanyl.

Rep. Posey's Personal Accountability Checklist

- ✓ Voted to block Congressional pay increases.
- ✓ Has returned the pay raise every year (that was approved before Rep. Posey came to Congress in 2009).
- ✓ 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 Rule Reform, 2011).
- ✓ 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 \$1 million since taking office.
- ✓ Voted to cut Congressional pensions (H.R. 3630).

Re Our Lagoon, and Advance Local Priorities

U.S. DOT Awards Grant to Replace Aging Space Center Bridge

The U.S. Department of Transportation announced a \$90 million INFRA Grant to replace the aging Indian River Bridge which is necessary for our growing industry to access the Space Center. The existing Indian River Bridge is near the end of its service life and very soon will not be able to carry space-bound or returning freight.

Last year Rep. Posey worked with the Florida congressional delegation, including Senator Marco Rubio, to pass legislation authorizing construction of a new bridge. In July, Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao announced the Agency had accepted Space Florida's application for funding to construct a new bridge. Posey supported Space Florida's bid for the grant and worked with the state's space agency to help navigate the process. "The Indian River Bridge is critical infrastructure to our space capability."



Rep. Posey discusses the Indian River Bridge project with Secretary Chao.

LAGOON UPDATE

House Passes Posey's Bipartisan Coastal Acidification Bill



The House recently passed Rep. Posey's bipartisan legislation, the *National Estuaries and Acidification Research Act* (H.R. 988), to fight coastal acidification and help estuaries like our Indian River Lagoon. This bill was introduced with Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) and Rep. Brian Mast (R-FL), both fellow co-chairs of the Congressional Estuary Caucus.

The bill directs the Ocean Studies Board of National Academy of Science to conduct a study of the science of ocean acidification and its impact on our estuaries. Posey said the goal is to create a better understanding of coastal acidification so we can better manage and mitigate its effects on our nation's estuaries and other natural treasures.

On the federal level, Rep. Posey has worked with colleagues in Congress to advance bipartisan legislation that will support our national estuaries and improve the health of the Lagoon:

- ✓ **Funding for the National Estuary Program:** Led successful efforts in the House to reauthorize the National Estuary Program. Testified before both the House Budget and Appropriations Committees on the importance of the National Estuary Program. Secured funding for bipartisan plan to make more resources available to our nation's estuaries.
- ✓ **Saving Stranded Marine Mammals:** Restored funding for the Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Program, which matches local funding to address manatee and dolphin strandings and deaths.
- ✓ **Everglades Funding:** Voted for passage of the *Water Resources Development Act* to fund the Central Everglades Restoration Projects (CERP) restoring the Everglades and the Lagoon.

Bipartisan Harmful Algal Blooms Legislation Signed into Law

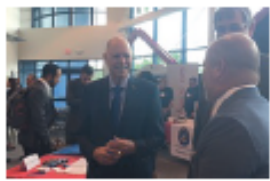
Bipartisan legislation co-authored by Rep. Posey to fight harmful algal blooms was signed into law recently. The legislation reauthorizes important research programs and includes new tools to help communities prevent and combat future algal blooms and hypoxia events like the ones threatening the health of our Indian River Lagoon.

The legislation, now law, also strengthens the Interagency Task Force, increases collaboration among agencies and cuts through government red tape when it comes to harmful algal blooms and hypoxia forecasting. It also further recognizes that harmful algal blooms are events of national significance that will likely have detrimental environmental, economic, or public health consequences.



Read more about my record on other important issues at www.posey.house.gov

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It is provided as a service to 9th Congressional District constituents.



Rep. Posey talks contracting issues with conference attendees.

Posey Hosts Annual Contracting Conference in Cocoa

In August, Rep. Posey hosted his eighth federal contracting conference to help local small businesses learn about the federal contracting process and have one-on-one meetings with federal procurement representatives from Washington D.C., and Central Florida. The conference, which was held at the University of Central Florida's Solar Energy Center in Cocoa, drew more than 170 small business owners seeking contracting opportunities with the federal government. "Many of our local businesses specialize in technology, innovation and services that can meet the needs of federal agencies," said Rep. Posey. "The conference helps local businesses pursue opportunities and understand the procurement process."

Titusville Resident Recognized for Service to Space Program

Mr. Ronald Feile of Titusville was recently honored by having his name inscribed in the wall of the National Air and Space Museum for his long service to our space program as the lead air traffic controller for the Shuttle Landing Facility and Military Radar Unit. Throughout his career, Mr. Feile has been awarded NASA's Silver Snoopy Award and NASA's Space Flight Awareness Award. Ron began his aviation career in the U.S. Army where he served as part of a mobile VFR tower crew in Vietnam and earned the Army Commendation Medal. Rep. Posey entered remarks into the Congressional Record to recognize Mr. Feile and his contribution to our space program.



Ronald Feile and his wife Jan

Committee Adopts Posey's Amendments on Homelessness

The House Financial Services Committee recently adopted two amendments proposed by Rep. Posey to fight homelessness and ensure fiscal responsibility. One amendment requires that homeless assistance programs prioritize funding for children who are homeless and ensures that no child falls through the cracks because of a technicality. Posey's other amendment, which was added to the *Ending Homelessness Act*, requires HUD to prioritize grants for communities which have enacted policies to encourage greater private-sector participation in providing housing for those with extremely low incomes.

Need Help with a Federal Government Agency?

Rep. Posey and his Staff Are Here to Serve Constituents

If you experience a problem dealing with a federal agency such as Social Security, Medicare, the IRS, the Veterans Affairs or any other, Rep. Posey and his staff (pictured at right) stand ready to assist you.

Our office can also help in obtaining U.S. flags flown over the Capitol building, providing passes/tours of the Capitol and other information for Washington, D.C. visits, assisting eligible grant seekers in finding information on federal grants, making nominations to military academies, and with college students looking for internship opportunities in our Florida and Washington offices. If you need assistance, please feel free to contact our local office at 321-632-1776. We're here to serve you.



Rep. Posey's District Office Staff (R-L): Patricia Febro, David Jackson, Cheryl Moore, Rob Medina, Chelsea Greene and Patrick Gavin

"We would like to express our thanks to you all and all your staff who helped solve our problem with Social Security Administration. We were at wits end when we contacted your office. Please pass this message on to all of your staff, thank yous don't come often enough." - Sebastian Constituent

"Thank you very much for the time and effort you and your staff put in to helping our internal medicine practice with our Medicare issue... This issue could have crippled my office forcing me to shut down. Thanks to your staff who took the bull by the horns... Words alone cannot tell you how grateful I am." - Melbourne Constituent