

Right Now

3% Withholding Repeal to be Voted on by House of Representatives

I wanted to inform you that the House Ways and Means Committee, the committee on which I serve, recently took a much-needed step in promoting job creation. The Committee unanimously passed my legislation, H.R. 674, to repeal something called the 3% withholding provision. The bill is expected to be voted on by the full House of Representatives in the coming weeks. The 3% withholding provision, an ill-conceived provision that was placed into a larger bill in 2005, requires government agencies at all levels (federal, state, and local) to withhold 3 percent of their payments to businesses for goods and services. Small businesses have expressed strong concern that the provision could wipe out their already slim profit margins. This bill will foster a pro-growth environment and create jobs by allowing our small businesses to keep more of their own money, rather than send it back to Washington. You can view the full text of my remarks at the committee meeting [here](#) .

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House Passage of Trade Agreements a Major Step Toward Job Creation

Lately, positive economic news has come far too infrequently but I want to let you know that Congress recently took a major step toward creating jobs in Northern California and across the country. After five years of delay, the House was finally able to act upon and pass the free trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea to level the playing field for U.S. goods

and services entering those markets. The agreements will substantially reduce tariffs and other trade barriers that have restricted U.S sales into these countries, boosting U.S. exports by a projected \$13 billion and creating an estimated 250,000 jobs here at home.

The free trade agreement with Korea will expand sales of California-grown fruits, tree nuts and wine. Likewise, the agreement with Colombia will open up new markets to California farmers and ranchers, including those producing livestock, vegetables, fruits and tree nuts. California dairy farmers, leaders of the national dairy industry, stand to benefit significantly from the agreement with Panama. The House and Senate passed all three agreements with bipartisan support and the President is expected to sign them into law. You can view a video of my speech on the House floor in support of these agreements [here](#) .

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House Votes to Repeal Regulations Harmful to Job Creation

In the latest effort to lift the red tape burden off of small businesses, the House has passed legislation, [H.R. 2250](#) , to overturn the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Boiler MACT regulations. These regulations would require any entity or business that uses a "boiler" – from restaurants to energy plants to schools and churches – to do a costly and unnecessary retrofit to meet new environmental standards. The EPA pushed forward with the regulations despite warnings from the Small Business Administration that they would harm small businesses and a Department of Commerce analysis estimating that the regulations could eliminate as many as 60,000 jobs nationwide. Northern California's biomass industry would be particularly hard hit. At a time of economic hardship, these regulations would only worsen the already unfavorable environment for job creation in our nation with only marginal environmental benefits.

Eliminating costly federal regulations that undermine job creation is a vital step toward creating a positive foundation for economic growth and hiring. In addition to stopping the boiler regulations, the House has passed legislation to put the brakes on pending regulations that would restrict electricity, cement, and coal production and cost jobs in those industries. These measures now await consideration in the Senate. I strongly supported each bill and will continue to do everything I can to reduce the costly regulatory burdens that are hurting our small businesses. You can read my remarks on the House floor in favor of H.R. 2250 [here](#) and you can watch them [here](#)

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Christian Pastor Faces Execution in Iran

I wanted to bring your attention to the pending execution of a Christian pastor in Iran. Yousef Naderkhani was convicted and sentenced to death for committing “apostasy” after converting from Islam to Christianity. I am deeply distressed by Pastor Naderkhani’s looming punishment for converting to Christianity. As Americans, we believe that freedom of religion should be protected everywhere. I believe a society that refuses this human right is an affront to humanity across the globe. Members of all nations and all faiths should rise together and condemn Iran’s clear violation of basic human freedoms. I join many others in calling for Naderkhani’s full and unconditional release and am working with other members of the House International Religious Freedom Caucus to raise awareness of Naderkhani’s situation. Along with 88 other House members, I recently [urged the State Department](#) to do everything it can to pressure Iran to remove the death sentence against him. Because our nation does not have diplomatic relations with Iran but instead advances our interests through the Swiss Embassy to Iran, I have also requested that Switzerland urge Iran to remove Naderkhani’s sentence. It is my deep hope that the escalating pressure on Iran proves successful and that Pastor Naderkhani’s life is spared.

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Recent Past

Monument Legislation Discussed at Hearing

I want to let you know that I testified before the Natural Resources Committee regarding my legislation, H.R. 817, which would amend the Antiquities Act of 1906 to require that national monument designations be subject to the approval of Congress. The President currently has the unilateral authority to make such designations. A Bureau of Land Management (BLM) document has revealed that the Obama Administration intends to use this authority to lock up more than thirteen million acres of federal land from multiple-use access. In a time of high unemployment, this would lock even more American jobs away. The BLM memorandum provides further evidence that Congress must be a part of the National Monument designation process. You can read my full testimony [here](#) .

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Lawsuit over Arizona's Immigration Law Appealed to Supreme Court

As you may know, [Arizona enacted a law](#) in April 2010 to give local law enforcement officers the ability to verify U.S. citizenship during any lawful police work (such as traffic stops) by

asking for identification if they had reasonable suspicion that a person was an illegal alien. The law would also make it a state crime to be in the country illegally and prohibit sanctuary cities in Arizona. The Obama Administration and the ACLU filed lawsuits against the Arizona law, and in April 2011 the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ruled against the State of Arizona. I disagree with their decision.

The state of Arizona has appealed the case to the U.S. Supreme Court, asking the court to overturn the Ninth Circuit's decision. Recently, I joined 58 other members of Congress in signing a [friend of the court brief](#) urging the Supreme Court to consider the case and uphold Arizona's law. I signed a similar brief last year when the case was before the Ninth Circuit. I hope that the Supreme Court will find Arizona's law constitutional and check an Administration that seems more interested in stopping the enforcement of federal law than stopping those who violate it. Congress has repeatedly authorized states to enforce federal immigration laws, and I believe the people of Arizona should be given the opportunity to do just that.

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Northern California News and Events

Honoring Constitution Day

I was pleased to join students at Simpson University in celebrating the 224th anniversary of the formal signing of the United States Constitution. Our Constitution serves as the foundation of our nation and is admired around the world as a symbol of freedom and democracy.



Unfortunately, many in Congress have acted with disregard to the Constitution, forgetting one of its bedrock principles: federalism. In particular, I believe Congress has taken actions that exceed the limited powers it was given in Article I, Section 8 and violate the Tenth Amendment. The Obamacare legislation is a clear example, especially because of its mandate which requires every individual to purchase a health care plan. The Constitution does not give Congress the authority to issue that type of mandate, which means that the issue is left to the States respectively and should not be addressed by the federal government. In taking this office, I swear an oath to defend the Constitution, and I will always fervently defend and uphold the document that has guided our nation so well.

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