

Northern California News and Events

Encouraging Entrepreneurs in Northern California

Last week, I held a press conference in Redding with James Hill, President and CEO of Air Cover Integrated Solutions, to discuss how his company and other small businesses in rural Northern California would benefit from the "Rural Microbusiness Investment Credit Act," bipartisan legislation I have introduced with Congressman Ron Kind (D-WI).



The bill, [H.R. 2858](#), would provide a tax credit of 35%, subject to a cap, on new investment in capital and labor by qualified microbusinesses (businesses of five employees or less) in economically distressed rural areas. Communities across Northern California have struggled for years with tough economic conditions, in part due to misguided federal regulations that have devastated our natural resources and agriculture industries. The Rural Microbusiness Investment Credit Act will help these areas recover from this damage and promote job creation in rural communities. The real answer to our economic problems is bolstering our entrepreneurs

and small businesses so that they may begin to grow again and create jobs.

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Listening to Business Owners in Red Bluff

I joined Greg Stevens from the Red Bluff Chamber of Commerce to visit several small businesses in downtown Red Bluff. Hearing directly from business owners about their concerns helps me understand the types of policies needed in Washington to improve job creation.



Doug Clift, store manager of Holbrook's Clearance Center, shared his concerns about how burdensome regulations affect small businesses like his in Northern California. I enjoyed hearing his perspective and that of other job creators in Red Bluff, and I look forward to visiting more businesses in Northern California and hearing further ideas for restoring prosperity to our economy.

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Hosting a Dialogue between Doctors and Regulators to Improve Health Care

I recently had the opportunity to host meetings where doctors in Northern California could talk with representatives of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) regarding their concerns about requirements placed on them by CMS. As you may know, CMS is the federal agency that administers Medicare and works with the state of California to administer Medi-Cal.



These open and honest discussions centered on the difficulty physicians and other medical providers encounter in dealing with a large bureaucracy and declining reimbursement rates. One of the major concerns was finding ways to help health care providers spend less time on paperwork and more time caring for patients. CMS has taken steps in recent weeks to eliminate several outdated requirements, and these meetings were a good opportunity for them to hear directly from doctors how regulations could be further improved.

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Right Now

House Approves Legislation I Authored to Repeal 3% Withholding Tax

The House recently passed by an overwhelming vote of 405-16 legislation I authored ([H.R. 674](#)) to repeal the 3% withholding tax. The strong, bipartisan vote in the House to repeal the 3% withholding mandate brings us one major step closer to making it easier for small businesses in our nation to create jobs. Coming from a small business background, I can attest that businesses look several years ahead when they're deciding how to invest and that they frequently operate on slim profit margins. It is not surprising that repealing 3% withholding is supported by dozens of businesses as well as state and local governments. I'm also encouraged that the President has endorsed repeal of this detrimental mandate.

I spoke on the House floor in support of the legislation. You can watch a video of my speech [here](#) as well as read the text [here](#).

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Signing of Trade Agreements Provides Boost to Job Creation

I am pleased that the President has signed the [trade agreements](#) with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea into law, creating a major opportunity for American small businesses and workers. By leveling the playing field for U.S. goods and services entering these three countries, the

agreements will provide a significant boost to our economy and create an estimated 250,000 new jobs, including jobs both on and off the farm in Northern California. They are an example of bipartisan support for real, permanent economic solutions at no cost to American taxpayers. I am glad these win-win agreements are finally set to take effect.

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Recent Past

Demise of CLASS Act Underscores Health Care Law's Failures

The Obama Administration recently announced that they will not be implementing the CLASS Act, a new government-run insurance program for long-term care that was included in last year's health care law. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) concluded that there was simply no way to structure the CLASS Act to make it financially solvent. Premiums would have been insufficient to cover future expenses, and the program would eventually have needed a taxpayer-funded bailout.

This conclusion hardly comes as a surprise. As outlined in a recent [congressional report](#), the administration's own nonpartisan actuaries had warned that the CLASS Act was unworkable long before it became law. Despite those warnings, Democrats in Congress included the program in the health care overhaul, in part because it offered a convenient budget gimmick. The CLASS Act would have begun collecting premiums several years before it had to pay out claims, so on paper, it appeared to reduce the short-term budget deficit even though it was a

long-term liability. In this way, it was typical of the broken promises surrounding many aspects of President Obama's health care law, such as the false claims that it would reduce health insurance premiums and that people who like their health coverage would be able to keep it. I believe the demise of the CLASS Act offers another powerful argument that Congress should repeal the new health law in its entirety and replace it with real reforms that will reduce the cost of health care, as legislation ([H.R. 397](#)) I have introduced would do.

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Iran's Assassination Plot Warrants Stronger Action Against Regime

As you may have read in the news, the United States recently charged two individuals connected to Iran with plotting to murder the Saudi Arabian Ambassador to the U.S. here on American soil. According to a Department of Justice [report](#) outlining the allegations, an Iranian-American named Manssor Arbabsiar sought to hire a member of a violent Mexican drug trafficking cartel to conduct the assassination using explosives and had \$100,000 wired into a U.S. bank account as a down payment for the act. Meanwhile, Gholam Shakuri, a member of Iran's special operations "Qods Force" which engages in terrorist activity, allegedly was aware of—and approved—the plot. Arbabsiar was arrested and reportedly confessed to his role in the plot, while Shakuri remains at large, presumably in Iran.

I believe these allegations are extremely alarming and further confirm the threat Iran poses to our national security interests. Iran continues to aggressively pursue [nuclear weapons](#) , funds and [SU](#)
[pports terrorist groups](#)
in the region, has
[provided arms](#)
that have killed U.S. troops serving in Iraq, and has a dismal human rights record as evidenced by their pending threat to
[execute a local pastor](#)
who converted to Christianity.

With these concerns in mind, I strongly supported passage of a [law](#) last year that strengthened U.S. sanctions against Iran. Most recently, I have agreed to cosponsor
[legislation](#)
to further discourage foreign companies from doing business with Iran and to insist that President Obama utilize the full weight of sanctions available to his Administration. Further, in light of the assassination plot, I call on Russia and China and other countries deeply invested in Iran to support additional international sanctions against the regime. Because Iran's nuclear program severely threatens U.S. troops and our national security, I also continue to believe the United States should keep all options on the table to prevent Iran from producing a nuclear weapon.

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