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June 16, 2014

Dear Friends,

With summer in full swing, here is the latest on how I am serving you in Illinois and Washington, D.C.

[Small Businesses, Big Economic Growth](#)

It's no secret: Americans are still struggling to put food on the table and gas in their car. The middle class is struggling with underemployment and unemployment. Most Americans simply want to enjoy the value of good, hard work

Previously, the House has passed bills like the SKILLS Act (H.R. 803) which helps connect out-of-work Americans with the job training programs they need, and the Hire More Heroes Act (H.R.3474), a bill to make sure our veterans aren't hurt by healthcare regulations when looking for work. The Senate is working on similar legislation and I hope they pass it quickly so the President can sign it.

This past week, I supported passage of two key bills to get the engine of our economy—America's small businesses—back to hiring and expanding again.

- **America's Small Business Tax Relief Act, H.R. 4457** (passed 272-144), permanently extends tax benefits for small businesses that invest in new equipment or property. This legislation levels the playing field for small business owners who make the critical decisions to create jobs and invest in the growth of their business.

- In line with H.R. 4457, the House also passed the **Permanent S Corporation Built-in Gains Recognition Period Act, H.R. 4453** (passed 263-155), which offers small businesses an easier route to organize as S corporations, opening access to much-needed capital without tax penalties. We must remain committed to ensuring small businesses keep more of their earnings and are able to reinvest in the work they are proud of. These bills provide the certainty and support small businesses need to put Americans back to work.

[Leading the Charge for Air Traffic Controllers](#)

Airplanes carry Americans daily across the country, and I want to be sure we are putting only the best people possible in the cockpits and towers. I have become concerned with new and obscure hiring procedures rolled out by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) which have jeopardized the careers of aspiring air traffic controllers and raised concerns of safety and transparency.

Currently, there are 272 air traffic controllers living in the 14th Congressional District, the most in Illinois. For decades, the FAA has relied on colleges and universities like Lewis University in Romeoville to prepare air traffic controllers through the collegiate training initiative (CTI). Without warning, this year the FAA changed its hiring practices with few details given about how the changes would be implemented and with little advance warning.

On June 12, I led members of the Illinois delegation in a bipartisan effort to press U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx for answers regarding the new procedures for our aspiring air traffic controllers. The FAA must come clean about the purpose of these new practices and bring clarity those whose future careers in this field are imperiled. You can read the letter [here](#).

[Promoting the Proper Role of Federal Support of Science](#)

Watch: Remembering Army Sgt. Rachel Carey, Illinois Veterans



(Click picture to watch video)

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The past week in the Science, Space and Technology Committee was busy with activity.

On Monday, the Illinois Science Coalition came up to Washington to talk about the excellent high performance computing resources available to the research and business communities through Argonne National Lab, Fermilab and the University of Illinois. By asking fundamental questions about the universe, we must build the tools to get those answers. These high performance computing resources are now being used to slash development time for manufacturers from years to weeks, while also allowing us to test prototypes before they are actually built.

Basic scientific research in high energy physics led to the technology used in every MRI machine in hospitals around the world. Particle accelerators are now being used to treat cancers in the least invasive manner possible, which can be groundbreaking for sensitive procedures, especially in pediatric cancers. On Tuesday, the Subcommittee on Energy, on which I sit, was pleased to have Fermilab Director Lockyer testify on how the particle physics community plans to prioritize projects over the next 10 years.

I believe it would be unwise to abandon such a technology-driving science as high energy physics. The prioritization plan made tough choices and was bound by stringent budgetary scenarios. This is a responsible plan that allows America to keep a leadership role in developing technology, opens Fermilab to the international community to ensure projects continue in the United States, and ensures that new discoveries – and everything that comes with them – will be made here. You can watch the hearing [here](#). More info on their report is available [here](#).



(Rep. Hultgren meets with National User Facilities Organization members)

The Science and National Labs Caucus, which I am honored to have founded and now co-chair, hosted the National User Facilities Organization on Capitol Hill. **Our National Labs build the machines to answer the largest questions in science which individual universities cannot do on their own.** When lab facilities are not being used, they should be open to researchers from across the country. The business community can also use these facilities at a fee when there are no university users in line. This ensures we get the best bang for our buck when building these facilities.

As the Science Committee continues writing legislation to authorize spending within the Department of Energy, I will continue to push for a budget which cuts overall spending and subsidies to business, while properly funding the Office of Science and the research areas where the federal government does have a legitimate role.

Ensuring Timely Access to Care for Veterans

This past week I also supported the passage of the **Veteran Access to Care Act of 2014, H.R. 4810**, a bill that requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to offer non-VA care at the department's expense to any enrolled veteran who cannot get an appointment within VA wait time goals, or who lives more than 40 miles from a VA medical facility. The bill would also ban bonuses for all VA employees until FY 2016.

When veterans can't get a timely appointment because of bureaucratic problems at the VA, they need another option—this bill gives them one. And VA employees should be incentivized to identify the current problems in the VA system

and rewarded for coming up with solutions that result in higher quality care.

If you haven't already, be sure to like my [Facebook page](#), follow me on Twitter ([@RepHultgren](#)), or check out my [YouTube page](#) to stay informed on everything I'm doing on your behalf in Washington and in Illinois.

As always, thank you for the honor and privilege of serving you.

In Your Service,



Randy Hultgren
Member of Congress
14th District, Illinois

Randy in the News

Chicago Tribune: [Report: Chronic fatigue still problem at air traffic towers](#)

Chicago Tribune: [Illinois colleague expects Roskam to run for whip job](#)

FireChief: [Lawmaker asks Ill. Gov. to honor military firefighting certifications](#)

McHenry County Blog: [Hultgren Questions New Air Traffic Controller Selection Process](#)

Politico: [Air traffic control hiring](#)

Bringing My Office to You

Tuesday, June 17, 2014
9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
Gurnee Village Hall
325 N. O'Plaine Road, Gurnee, IL

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