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RANDY HULTGREN***Proudly Representing the 14th District of Illinois*[Home](#)[About Randy](#)[Serving You](#)[News](#)[Our District](#)[Contact](#)

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[Overcoming Illinois' Economic Climate](#)

My priority in Congress and as I've traveled around the 14th District is finding out from employers what they need to hire just one more worker, and learning from workers what skills and training they need to fill the jobs available now.

It's no secret that Illinois continually rates as one of the most challenging states in which to do business. I wanted to hear directly from employers on what obstacles they face to expanding their operations and hiring more workers, and how to help remove those obstacles. That's why I invited local employers and business leaders to a breakfast discussion on the current economic climate and how to help Illinois businesses grow.



(Rep. Hultgren meets with 14th District business leaders)

I also met with McHenry County officials, including members of the county board and the McHenry County Economic Development Corporation (EDC), to discuss how our communities can work together with businesses to help them thrive.



(Rep. Hultgren meets with McHenry County officials to discuss boosting the 14th District economy)

Later, I visited employees and executives at Parksite which serves the building industry through sales, marketing, and distribution of the materials they need for interior and exterior

[Celebrating and Hearing from our Veterans](#)

(Rep. Hultgren speaks with veterans at VFW Post #4600)



(Rep. Hultgren visits the Purple Heart Memorial at the McHenry County Government Center with Rich Young who spearheaded the effort to have it built)

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projects. Parksite is another great example of an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP) company where employees have a direct stake in the company's success. It's a great model for Illinois businesses to thrive amidst uncertainty, and for their employees to become even more motivated to see the business succeed.

Click [here](#) for information on a bill I introduced to encourage more employee ownership in businesses across the country.

#### Building America through Skills Training

Speaking of getting America back to building things, I met with Illinois members and leadership of Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC), a national association representing 23,000 merit shop construction and construction-related firms with nearly two million employees.

We talked about how to survive amidst a challenging economy, what they need to expand and hire more workers, and how to remove obstacles to that end.

Their top concerns?

- Uncertainty regarding government economic policy
- Too many intrusive or needless regulations
- High taxes
- Massive government mandates, like the President's healthcare law
- Lack of skilled workers needed to fill critical positions

The House has acted repeatedly to address these issues through numerous jobs bills, from the bipartisan SKILLS Act which was signed into law to help train and retrain workers to match their skills with the available jobs of the 21st century, to passing the Revitalize American Manufacturing and Innovation (RAMI) Act to help small and mid-sized manufacturers expand their research and development capabilities and train an advanced manufacturing workforce.

The House also passed the Regulations from the Executive In Need of Scrutiny Act (REINS) Act, a bill sitting in the Senate which ensures that Congress, not unelected bureaucrats, retains control and accountability for the content of the laws passed on the American people. I cosponsored the American Renaissance in Manufacturing (ARM) Act to create a fairer and more competitive tax code, rein in bureaucratic red tape and reduce frivolous lawsuits, among other things.

I will continue to fight in Congress on behalf of Illinois workers and employers.

#### Celebrating and Defending Illinois Farmers

Did you know that Illinois' agricultural commodities generate more than \$19 billion annually? Our state's 74,300 farms are a key to our economy and our prosperity. I believe that Illinois farms means Illinois jobs and we must protect and preserve all agriculture-related industries. I was thrilled to accept the "Friend of Agriculture" award from the Illinois Farm Bureau as I continue to defend their interests in Congress.



(Rep. Hultgren accepts award from Kane County Farm Bureau, McHenry County Farm Bureau, and Illinois Farm Bureau representatives)

#### Ensuring Emergency Preparedness from Infectious Diseases

The country is rightfully concerned at the spread of the Ebola virus. The federal government has taken action. The Centers

for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Department of Homeland Security have announced new layers of entry screening at the five U.S. airports, including Chicago O'Hare, that receive more than 94 percent of travelers from Ebola-affected nations.

We must make sure we are prepared at home for all emergencies. This week I met with officials from McHenry County Public Health and Emergency Management Agencies to discuss emergency preparedness in the face of growing concerns about infectious diseases.

As we continue to focus on the safety of American citizens, I want to hear from you. Please use the Contact button at the top of this email to share with me your thoughts and suggestions on how else the federal government should respond to the Ebola crisis.

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](#)

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