

# A PLAN FOR JOBS



**BIPARTISAN SOLUTIONS TO CREATE JOBS  
ON THE TREASURE COAST AND PALM BEACHES**



**PATRICK E. MURPHY**

**U.S. REPRESENTATIVE  
FLORIDA'S 18TH DISTRICT**

**[PatrickMurphy.House.Gov](http://PatrickMurphy.House.Gov)**



*Congress must create a pro-jobs environment  
so all Americans can prosper.*

**— Rep. Patrick Murphy**



Dear fellow Floridians,

Jobs are the core of our economy. Jobs are central to our recovery and embody the American spirit of hard work and innovation. We in Congress have a responsibility to create an environment that spurs job growth—and then to get out of the way to let the private sector work.

While our economy is recovering slowly, unemployment remains too high across the Treasure Coast and Palm Beaches. Many Americans are having a hard time finding full- or even part-time employment. Fortunately, we have the tools at our disposal to boost job growth and reduce the deficit at the same time.

My jobs plan, summarized inside, concentrates on pro-growth policies that will help make America the most competitive place to start new businesses and expand existing ones. We must reform the tax code, boost small business as well as manufacturing and exports, lead the way in research and development, reduce needless regulation, invest in infrastructure, revitalize our education system, and help our veterans find employment. There is much to be done and Congress must come together to help Americans get back to work.

Please contact my office if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick E. Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patrick E. Murphy  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

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Keep jobs at home.

Make the U.S. tax code  
competitive again.

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**Representative Murphy is right on point addressing the U.S. Tax code. I believe he is in tune with business and strives to correct what are perceived as wasteful and egregious regulations.**

—Joe Catrambone, President and CEO  
Martin County Chamber of Commerce

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America's taxes are too high and unfairly skewed against small businesses and the middle class with tax breaks that favor the biggest companies and ultra-wealthy. As a CPA, Rep. Murphy understands why regular people and business owners must spend many hours deciphering legalese and running elaborate calculations or must hire outside experts to do their taxes, both of which waste precious resources that should be going towards expansion, innovation, and creating new jobs. The tax code must be streamlined to keep businesses from relocating overseas and taking jobs with them. And we must encourage businesses to bring back profits made overseas and reinvest them in American jobs.



# Murphy's Actions

**Rep. Murphy introduced** bipartisan legislation to encourage businesses to reinvest in themselves and generate jobs by maintaining 2013 accelerated depreciation rules for two more years. He also cosponsored bills to incentivize the creation of new businesses and to simplify income taxes for individuals who work and live in different states. Rep. Murphy organized business roundtables and attended Chamber of Commerce meetings throughout the Treasure Coast and Palm Beaches. Local businesses consistently agree that small and large U.S. businesses need tax reform to stay competitive on the world stage.

**Rep. Murphy supports** removing loopholes and simplifying the code for individuals and small businesses while lowering the corporate tax rate and providing targeted tax relief to promote hiring. He also supports maintaining credits for startups, capital investments, and research and development.

*Rep. Murphy discusses the economy and jobs with local leaders at the Treasure Coast Business Summit in May, 2013.*



# Murphy's Plan


- **Corporate loopholes and overall tax rate** – The labyrinth of existing corporate tax loopholes make it expensive to do business in the United States and lead to an uneven playing field for small businesses that do not have the time and money to take advantage of every available tax credit. At the same time, the U.S. has the highest corporate tax rate in the world, which is driving some of our biggest and most innovative companies to relocate overseas to countries like Ireland. We should remove most tax loopholes for businesses—and simultaneously lower the overall corporate tax rate for all businesses.
- **Simplify individual tax code** – Just as big business has an advantage over small business when it comes to navigating our confusing tax code, wealthy Americans have an advantage over middle-class and low-income earners. We need to simplify the individual tax code to enable both families and small businesses to quickly and easily calculate their taxes and returns on a level playing field. Rep. Murphy is working with leaders on both sides of the aisle to simplify the tax code and make it more fair for working families.
- **Payroll tax relief** – 2012's fiscal bargain hurt working Americans by increasing their taxes by about \$1,000 per year, which only hurt the economy. The payroll tax cut created jobs, which is why we should give targeted tax credits to small businesses to provide additional incentives for small businesses and startups to generate jobs.



# Murphy's Plan (continued)

- **Accelerated depreciation** – Over the past few years, small businesses have been able to deduct from their taxable income a significant but changing percent of their capital investments by using a clause in the tax code called accelerated depreciation. Accelerated depreciation is smart policy because it encourages companies to expand intelligently and to invest in new technologies that can improve their efficiency and profitability without complex annual calculations. As small businesses continue to struggle with the remnants of the recession, we should support them by extending accelerated depreciation. Rep. Murphy introduced a bipartisan bill to encourage small businesses to reinvest in themselves and generate jobs by maintaining 2013 accelerated depreciation rules for two more years.
- **Credits for capital expenses, startups, and R&D** – We must lower the cost of entry for new businesses as well as the cost of expansion for existing ones so they can generate jobs and boost the economy. To this end, we should provide or extend tax credits for expanding small businesses, starting new ones, and investing in research and development.
- **Lower medical costs for small businesses** – Small businesses currently receive tax credits for providing health insurance to their employees. This tax credit keeps small businesses competitive with larger companies and helps attract top talent. Rep. Murphy supports the credit and will continue to vote to preserve it as well as push to build on what works by expanding the credit to all small businesses with fewer than 50 employees and extending the length of the credit. The last thing new and growing small businesses need in a tepid economy are higher taxes and burdensome regulations.

- **Realistic depreciation schedules** – American manufacturers’ success against international competitors depends on their ability to stay at the cutting edge with the best technology and the best-trained workers. Under normal depreciation rules, manufacturers and other businesses must use Congressionally mandated depreciation schedules to calculate the amount they can deduct from taxable income each year. These schedules, which define the expected lifespan of capital investments, have not been overhauled since 1981—before personal computers, cell phones, nanotechnology, and other modern inventions. As a result, many businesses find that they are still depreciating the cost of their capital investments long after the lifespans of those investments has expired. We must create a framework for regularly adjusting depreciation schedules to help American businesses keep pace with new technologies and economic realities.

A close-up photograph of industrial machinery, likely a pump or engine, with several polished metal pipes curving upwards. The background is blurred, showing more of the machinery in shades of blue and green. A semi-transparent white rectangular box is overlaid on the lower half of the image, containing two lines of text.


Grow jobs on the Treasure Coast and  
Palm Beaches.

Boost manufacturing and  
exports.



**FTT leads the nation in patents per employee in the field of turbomachinery. Rep. Murphy's efforts to protect intellectual property rights are critical to help FTT and other small businesses as they develop technologies for domestic and international markets.**

—Shirley Brostmeyer, CEO  
Florida Turbine Technologies



The United States buys much more than it sells. In 2013 alone, we imported over \$400 billion—about 25 percent of GDP—more than we exported. We need to reverse this trend by boosting American high-tech manufacturing and exports. Our manufacturing base is the most advanced and our workforce is the most educated. Our products are sought around the world for their high quality and workmanship. U.S. policies must leverage our strengths and provide greater opportunity to export goods made in America.

# Murphy's Actions

**Rep. Murphy cosponsored** bills to repeal the excise tax on medical devices and to incentivize businesses to bring jobs back to the U.S. from overseas. Rep. Murphy voted to increase funding for public-private partnerships that improve small- and medium-sized manufacturers' capabilities in every state. He also visited innovative local manufacturers—such as GelTech Solutions, Cross Match Technologies, Florida Turbine Technologies, and Pratt & Whitney—to hear their concerns.

**Rep. Murphy supports** expanding the number of loans the Export-Import Bank can offer to U.S. exporters at no cost to taxpayers as well as modernizing and expanding our ports. He supports lowering manufacturing costs by lowering energy costs with expanded energy production and new, economical sources of power.



*Rep. Murphy visits Phoenix Metal Products, Inc. to learn about manufacturing needs in Fort Pierce .*



# Murphy's Plan

- **Boost Export-Import Bank** – The Export-Import Bank of the United States is a highly effective and completely self-sustaining mechanism that large and small businesses use to finance exports. In fact, Ex-Im generated \$1 billion in revenue in 2012. Congress can help develop access to new global markets by raising the cap on loans and credit that the bank can provide, setting aside a sizable percentage for small business exports.
- **Modernize and expand ports** – America's infrastructure is aging and needs considerable work to compete on the global stage. Money must be appropriated to maintain and expand ports to support new exports and international commerce (e.g. through the expanded Panama Canal). We can do this without raising new taxes by making fuller use of the existing Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund.
- **Fully fund Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP)** – MEP programs in every state have helped small manufacturers keep up to date with the latest manufacturing technologies. Rep. Murphy introduced a bill to authorize a MEP innovation program but Congress needs to fully fund MEP. This would help keep U.S. manufacturing competitive and growing.
- **Promote use of vocational schools** – Vocational and technical schools produce workers with high-tech manufacturing expertise necessary to compete in the global marketplace. We need to offer affordable loans and scholarships for the vocational and technical training that our manufacturers need.

# Murphy's Plan (continued)

- **Protect American intellectual property (IP)** – In addition to boosting our exports, we must protect our innovations from foreign companies that seek to copy our technologies and sell them at a discount. Rep. Murphy supported \$3 billion in funding to enforce patents and protect American innovations, and he believes we should strengthen penalties against foreign companies that steal U.S. IP to develop competing products.
- **Make America energy independent** – Energy independence will lower the cost of manufacturing and make it easier to export American goods. America will only achieve energy independence through an all-of-the-above approach of developing renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives. We also must continue to expand domestic fuel production to lessen our reliance on foreign imports. But we must produce these fuels in a responsible way by keeping environmental safeguards in place, working with local communities on key fuel development decisions, and utilizing existing infrastructure as much as possible.

*Rep. Murphy visits  
Cross Match  
Technologies in Palm  
Beach Gardens to  
hear about high-tech  
manufacturing  
developments.*





***Rep. Murphy and Shirley Brostmeyer—CEO of Jupiter-based Florida Turbine Technologies—at a Small Business Committee hearing on American manufacturing in June 2013.***



***Rep. Murphy visits Pratt & Whitney facility in West Palm Beach to learn how government budget uncertainty impacts business.***



Lead the world  
in research & development.

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**We have made remarkable progress developing the infrastructure, building the workforce, and making fundamental discoveries in biomedical science at Scripps Florida since its inception. Continued support for research and development will yield additional employment opportunities, greater recognition of Scripps Florida and Palm Beach county as a national center for biomedical research, and direct benefits to local schools.**

—Dr. Ronald Davis, Professor and Chair  
Neuroscience Department  
Scripps Research Institute Florida

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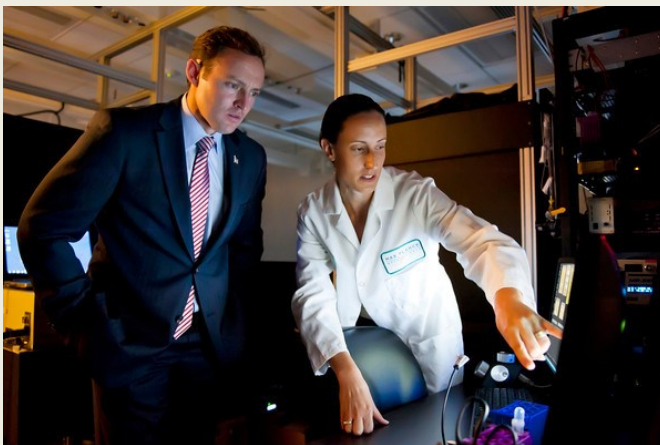
Research and development are cornerstones of American success. The United States either has originated or played a leading role in the development of every major breakthrough in modern technology, from information technology to aerospace to material science to biotechnology. Our own Research Coast is on the cutting edge in many areas of science and medicine. These innovations result in new goods and services that drive business and create high-wage jobs. To remain a global leader and keep our jobs market humming for the long haul, we must incentivize investments in R&D.



# Murphy's Actions

**Rep. Murphy worked** closely with local R&D institutes and leaders on a bipartisan effort to fully fund the National Institutes of Health, which supports much of the Research Coast's work. This effort resulted in a successful vote to increase NIH funding by \$600 million in 2014. Rep. Murphy also toured dedicated research institutes like Scripps Florida, Max Planck Florida, Florida Atlantic University, and the Vaccine and Gene Therapy Institute of Florida (VGTI) to learn about their recent scientific advances and how the federal government can best support them.

**Rep. Murphy supports** making permanent R&D credits for businesses, fully funding federal scientific grant programs, and working with state and local officials to promote small business assistance programs that help turn scientific breakthroughs into new businesses and high-paying jobs. He also supports a strong aerospace industry, which not only accounts for thousands of jobs in Florida but also generates scientific and technical discoveries that spur more startups and new jobs.



*Rep. Murphy listens to a scientist explain her work at Max Planck Florida to gain a deeper understanding of R&D in the district.*

# Murphy's Plan

- **NIH, NSF, and other science grants** – Federal grants play a huge role in stimulating basic and applied research. Our academic centers of excellence—like Scripps Florida, Max Planck Florida, FAU, VGTI, and Torrey Pines Institute—in turn generate new, marketable technologies as well as the young professionals with the skills to commercialize them and innovate further. Rep. Murphy helped pass legislation adding \$600 million to FY14 science funding, but we must continue to increase funding for the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, Department of Energy, and other federal grant programs that help support almost 17,000 jobs in our district.

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**Now is precisely the right time to invest in neuroscience research. We are just beginning to see the potential of innovative new tools to reveal how the brain works. Federal grants are critical for scientific breakthroughs leading to treatments and cures for brain disorders, like Alzheimer's and autism, that affect more than 100 million Americans.**

—Dr. David Fitzpatrick, Scientific Director and CEO  
Max Planck Florida Institute for Neuroscience

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# Murphy's Plan (continued)

- **R&D credit** – Congress has extended the temporary R&D tax credit 14 times since it first was introduced in 1981, often adding new provisions and making it more complicated. Over the course of its existence, the credit has reduced research costs by about seven percent, according to the Government Accountability Office, and provides billions of dollars of relief each year to tens of thousands of companies employing hundreds of thousands of Americans. Rather than continue to extend and complicate this “temporary” credit, we should simplify, clarify, and make permanent the R&D credit, which expired at the end of 2013 and will impact hundreds of thousands of Americans if not renewed.
- **Green credit** – Congress also has allowed the renewable energy credit to expire, which is essential to an all-of-the-above energy policy. We must extend this credit so clean energy businesses can compete on a more even playing field with traditional and fossil fuel-based energy companies.
- **Public-private partnerships to nurture small business** – Small businesses account for two thirds of all new jobs created, and innovative small businesses produce 16 times as many patents per employee as their large counterparts. These small firms—some of which will become tomorrow’s tech giants—need stability and support. That is why Congress should expand support for public-private partnerships that foster small business innovation, like the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at Indian River State College, SCORE, the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program, and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) program.


- **Space industry** – Space provides an indispensable environment to conduct scientific experiments that benefit a range of technologies—including medicine and material science. Space provides a unique vantage from which to study how the Earth is changing. It also is a growing commercial platform for technology companies. It is important that we recognize the important role space industries play in generating new discoveries, technologies, and jobs—and that we continue to support them.
- **Aeronautics** – Our district is home to aeronautical pioneers big and small that have served our country with distinction and continue to lead the world on the cutting edge of research, development, and manufacturing. Companies in our district are major suppliers to all branches of the military and are working hard to make flight more efficient, safe, and affordable than ever. Congress should push defense agencies to continue funding advanced research to keep our military on top and to funnel new technologies into commercial applications.

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**Funding clean energy initiatives, specifically the research and engineering development of clean energy technologies, can provide direct support to small businesses like Agilis.**

—Paul Gardner, Head of Business Development  
Agilis Group, Inc.

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A photograph of a stack of books. In the foreground, an open book with a red cover is lying flat, showing its pages. Behind it, several other books are stacked, some with green spines. The background is blurred, showing more books and a wooden surface. The text "Reduce the regulatory burden on businesses." is overlaid in the center of the image.

Reduce the regulatory  
burden on businesses.



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**The local business community would welcome any reduction of the regulatory burden they have to currently operate under. The expansive and unwieldy federal tax code would be an excellent starting point. Small businessmen and women want to dedicate their time and energy to competing in the market place not trying to understand and interpret the thousands of pages that comprise current federal regulations.**

—Dennis Grady, CEO  
Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches

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Businesses rate regulatory compliance as one of the most burdensome legal requirements, taking crucial resources away productivity. Small businesses are unduly penalized, spending nearly 60 percent more per employee on compliance than their large business counterparts, according to the National Federation of Independent Business. As a former business owner in Florida, Rep. Murphy has seen firsthand both the positive and negative effects of regulations on business. While it is essential that we continue to protect the rights of workers and consumers, we must strike a regulatory balance that does not stifle growth, innovation, and the creation of jobs.

# Murphy's Actions

**Rep. Murphy introduced** a bill to protect community banks—which did not cause the financial meltdown but do play a crucial role financing local businesses—from burdensome regulations designed for large banks. His vote helped pass a bill in the House to remove a requirement for banks and credit unions to send out duplicative annual privacy notices when nothing has changed. He also cosponsored a bill that gives small businesses a grace period to file non-critical paperwork.

**Rep. Murphy supports** the review of old regulations for relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, and fairness before they are renewed. He also continues to monitor international finance agreements to make sure they do not negatively impact our smallest banks and credit unions on Main Street.

*Rep. Murphy discusses the impact of regulations on American manufacturers.*



# Murphy's Plan

- **Update regulations** – Regulations should not be set in stone. New technologies, markets, and social norms often demand the removal or modification of regulations. Federal agencies should be required to strike or fix outdated rules to make the government as efficient and fair as possible. Examples of burdensome regulations include:
  - **Requirements for small private investors** – Pound for pound, startups generate the most jobs. Many rely on private equity investors because banks are unwilling to take greater risk. These investing firms often are run by a few people investing money for their friends and family. In an economy where startups need the maximum access to capital, these small firms should not be held to the same registration and reporting requirements as nationwide venture capital firms.
  - **Collateral for disaster recovery loans** – Following a natural disaster, small business owners may understandably be unable to offer their homes as collateral for a loan because they have been damaged or destroyed. Yet, this is exactly what is required to obtain a Small Business Administration disaster loan. Congress should pass Rep. Murphy's bill to provide small business owners greater collateral flexibility after a disaster.
  - **Regulations watchdog** – Small businesses often are unduly burdened by regulations designed for big business. The Small Business Administration (SBA) keeps track of impending regulations that will have an outsized impact on these businesses. Congress should pay close attention to SBA's findings and work with businesses as well as state and local governments to preempt needless regulation and streamline existing processes.



Attract businesses and  
protect the environment.

Rehabilitate  
U.S. infrastructure.

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**Continued partnership with state and federal government agencies is essential to support beach renourishment and other infrastructure projects. Our beaches are not only priceless to us for safety reasons but are also a vital economic tool for tourism.**

—Frannie Hutchinson, Chair  
St. Lucie County Board of Commissioners

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U.S. Infrastructure received a grade of “D+” from the American Society of Civil Engineers—having dropped in world ranking from 7th to 14th place since 2008—requiring about \$2 trillion over the next five years to gain a passable grade. According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, \$1 spent on infrastructure construction produces roughly twice as much (\$1.92) in direct and indirect economic output. All of this means we must invest in infrastructure to keep America competitive internationally, to stimulate job growth domestically, and to protect the environment. Infrastructure projects create construction jobs in the near term as well as a positive environment for all businesses to grow and generate more jobs in the long term.




# Murphy's Actions

**Rep. Murphy fought** successfully to obtain \$12 million for reconstruction after Hurricane Sandy, for beach renourishment to mitigate future storms damage in St. Lucie, Martin, and Palm Beach counties, and for dredging in the Fort Pierce and the St. Lucie inlets to accommodate trade and marine recreation. Rep. Murphy has been a tireless advocate for funding to advance Everglades restoration projects that would generate jobs in the short term and relieve pollution in Treasure Coast waterways in the long term. He cosponsored a bill to incentivize U.S. business to bring off-shore profits back home and invest tens of billions of dollars in infrastructure at no/low cost to taxpayers. And Rep. Murphy applauded the responsible construction of the Veterans Memorial Bridge between Stuart and Palm City to alleviate traffic from the turnpike and stimulate economic growth while keeping affected neighborhoods safe.

**Rep. Murphy supports** focusing on fixing our aging bridges, roads, dikes, and dams in Palm Beach, Martin, and St. Lucie as well as across Florida. He also supports making the Highway Trust Fund whole in the long term and upgrading our national telecommunications network to keep up with competitors in Asia and Europe. Infrastructure projects in our district not only help the economy but often are critical to the stewardship of the environment, which is why Rep. Murphy is a strong supporter of prioritizing maintenance of the Herbert Hoover Dike, the C-44 Indian River Lagoon Project, and other Everglades restoration efforts. These projects are essential to the health of our local waterways and in turn, our local economy.


# Murphy's Plan

- **Protect our economy by protecting our environment** – The health of our environment is critical to the economy of the Treasure Coast and the Palm Beaches. With so many local businesses dependent on the quality of our local waterways, it is essential to put a stop to the pollution that plagues the St. Lucie River and Estuary nearly every summer. This is why Rep. Murphy has been such a vocal advocate in Congress for the construction of reservoirs and stormwater treatment areas to help improve the health of the waterways in our district. When the water quality improves, our economy improves.



**With so many people and businesses relocating to Palm Beach County because of the opportunities for a great lifestyle, it's critical that we keep up with our infrastructure needs. The County is working very hard to ensure our road network and airports are state-of-the-art.**

– Hal Valeche, County Commissioner  
Palm Beach County Board of Commissioners





*Rep. Murphy discusses beach renourishment with Martin County Commissioner Sarah Heard in April 2013.*

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**In Martin County, a healthy environment is central to our economy and the high quality of life that we treasure. Funding and completing environmental restoration projects like the C-44 and Indian River Lagoon South are smart investments. We appreciate the work of our federal partners and Rep. Patrick Murphy for helping to make our community an even better place to live, work, and play.**

—Sarah Heard, Chair  
Martin County Board of Commissioners

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# Murphy's Plan (continued)


- **Fix-It-First** – Roads, bridges, dams, and dikes long past their engineered lifespans dot the country. Our first priority should be to maintain our existing infrastructure. Examples of potential Fix-It-First projects include:
  - **St. Lucie County** – Midway Road Expansion. This main artery needs to be expanded from two to four lanes to accommodate a growing jobs corridor between U.S. Highway 1 and I-95 as well as access to hurricane evacuation via Okeechobee Road over the next 25 years.
  - **Martin County** – Britt Bridge Replacement. The 50-foot Britt Road bridge over Britt Creek is unable to bear as much weight with functionally obsolete elements. It needs to be replaced without impeding traffic in this area.
  - **Palm Beach County** – PGA Blvd Road Construction. This main thoroughfare, which is the primary evacuation route used by thousands of residents, must be raised to avoid flooding.
- **Improve/Expand transportation & telecommunication infrastructure** – Our economy depends on our ability to move both goods and information. Both our physical and digital superhighways need to be maintained and expanded to meet the ever increasing demands of modern business.



Give all Americans  
a competitive advantage.

Revitalize  
the education system.





**We're reinvigorating traditional industries with innovative technology. We're partnering with top business and research firms, working to give students applied research exposure with advanced equipment and workplace environments, pushing the boundaries of STEM, focusing on non-traditional programs like nuclear energy, nanotechnology, and life sciences. We are continuously striving for a stronger link between workforce development and entrepreneurial development.**

—Dr. Ed Massey, President  
Indian River State College



Half the challenge of creating new jobs is encouraging the opening of new small businesses and the expansion of existing companies. The other half is making sure our workforce has the skills necessary to meet the challenges of today's workplace. We must focus on strengthening our education system to help every American obtain the skills necessary to be competitive in today's economy.

# Murphy's Actions

**Rep. Murphy cosponsored** bills to keep college affordable, to provide competitive grants for career training programs, and to expand support for pre-K. He also visited many area schools, from pre-K to universities and colleges, and continues to meet with Florida PTA members and local education leaders. He stood consistently with teachers, parents, and school districts to reject the failed education model of high-stakes testing embodied in the education reauthorization bill earlier this year.

**Rep. Murphy supports** partnering schools, the private sector, and government to better align worker training with industry needs, particularly in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields; supporting retraining for workers whose skills are less applicable in today's marketplace; and promoting the use of vocational and technical manufacturing training.

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**Investment in quality prekindergarten education provides the highest payoff of any government policy because pre-K programs result in improved employability with rates of return on program costs of up to 10 percent annually. Quality pre-K also correlates with reduced rates of incarceration and teen pregnancy.**

—Doris Saffran, Administrator  
Indiantown Parent Resource Center

# Murphy's Plan

- **Quality pre-K education** – Decades of educational research show that high-quality education before the age of five yields significant long-term benefits including increased likelihood of high school graduation and college attendance as well as increased lifelong earning potential. Yet, the primary funding for this important investment is relegated to states and local school districts, creating a patchwork of programs that are inadequate to address current demands. That is why we need to increase funding for Head Start and expand grants to provide a strong educational foundation for all children.
- **Partnership for aligning education and industry** – Our best technical institutes produce top graduates in their fields, but often these grads come away with skills that do not match what our high-tech industries need. Because of this disconnect between what industry needs and what our education system produces, high-tech companies want to increase the number of skilled foreign workers they can bring in to fill jobs. To help employ all our grads first while meeting industry's needs, we should develop a partnership to allow industry to inform the education pipeline.
- **Long-term workforce development** – Federal workforce development programs focus on short-term crisis intervention for the unemployed—often finding them placements in unstable, low-skill jobs—rather than on building human capital for a stronger workforce. To help shift the paradigm to longer-term, stable employment, we should recommit to technical education programs that equip high school graduates with in-demand skills, and we should re-tool professional development for under- and unemployed workers to pair individuals with career paths that match both their abilities and lasting employer needs.



Give veterans opportunities  
for full employment.

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**In every community the goal should be to link businesses to the labor pool. Vietnam Veterans of America is committed to helping the next generation of veterans coming out of Afghanistan and Iraq. We partner with our Business Development Board, Indian River State College, and the United Way. It does not take a lot of money, just commitment and organization, and we appreciate Rep. Murphy's efforts to help the veterans' community.**

—Frank Tidikis, Treasurer  
Martin County Vietnam Veterans of America

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Thousands of veterans have returned, or soon will, from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and it is incumbent upon us to make sure that these brave men and women who have risked everything for our country have an opportunity to find a good job at a decent wage. In addition, veterans must be given easy access to necessary health benefits so they can focus their efforts on pursuing careers.



# Murphy's Actions

**Rep. Murphy worked** across party lines to pass legislation that has reduced the monstrous veteran disability claims backlog. Veterans should not have to spend months or years fighting for benefits they have already earned. Rep. Murphy also cosponsored bills to remove barriers that prevent veterans from entering the workforce by, for example, making information on civilian credentialing opportunities available to service members during their occupational specialty training. By preparing service members for careers before they leave the military, we can help them quickly enter the civilian workforce and increase access to higher-paying career fields, like information technology. Along these lines, Rep. Murphy helped organize a successful jobs fair for veterans living on the Treasure Coast and in the Palm Beaches.

**Rep. Murphy supports** combining local, state, and federal resources to give veterans every opportunity to find fulfilling, long-term civilian work. As a member of the Congressional Veterans Jobs Caucus, Rep. Murphy supports incentivizing businesses to hire veterans, prioritizing veteran-owned small businesses when awarding federal contracts, and providing educational opportunities to veterans to help keep job skills up to date.



*Rep. Murphy listens to a doctor discuss veteran care at the VA Medical Center in West Palm Beach.*

# Murphy's Plan

- **Guarantee education and retraining** – Unemployed veterans deserve a chance to gain new tools for long-term employment in emerging fields. The G.I. Bill lets returning veterans attend the school of their choice, and the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP) provides veterans 35- to 60-years old with 12 months of G.I. Bill benefits. We must expand the G.I. Bill, VRAP, and VA's on-the-job apprenticeships to help veterans stay competitive in today's evolving job market.
- **Incentivize Businesses To Hire Veterans** – Unemployment among veterans is over 10 percent—significantly higher than the national average—despite the tremendous discipline, responsibility, and leadership ability these veterans have to offer businesses. We should strengthen the Work Opportunity Tax Credit to encourage businesses to hire veterans. We also must continue to hold regular job fairs and workshops that connect veterans with businesses seeking employees and help hone career development skills, such as resume-writing, job searching, and interviewing. Rep. Murphy was honored to participate in the Veterans Connection Career Fair on October 17th that brought together over 30 businesses and 20 organizations to assist veterans in gaining employment.
- **Prioritize veteran-owned small businesses** – Many veterans start their own businesses, playing crucial roles as local jobs engines. Low-interest loans can often mean the difference between a small business' success or failure, which is why we should expand the Small Business Administration's loan program for veteran-owned small businesses.



Promote small businesses.

Expand access to capital.



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**Community banks are an integral part of our society. They are fully engaged in supporting the growth of our local businesses. These local banks are increasingly the only way small businesses can access capital for growth. We must protect this access to capital by making sure they are not swept up in the burdensome regulations designed to prevent another bail out of the mega banks.**

—Dennis Hudson, CEO  
Seacoast National Bank

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Businesses suffered a lack of access to capital during the recession. But even as the recovery began and banks started lending again, small businesses continued to suffer. On top of this, Congress—governing by crisis—has provided businesses with little certainty on fiscal policy. The nation remains without tax reform and without a long-term plan for reducing the deficit. As a member of the Small Business Committee and former small business owner, Rep. Murphy knows that small businesses—which traditionally generate two out of every three new jobs—need a stable, predictable financial environment as well as reliable access to capital.



# Murphy's Actions

**Rep. Murphy introduced** a bill to help small manufacturers gain access to cutting edge technologies as well as to help small businesses get back on their feet faster after natural disasters. He cosponsored bills to extend low-interest loans for small businesses, reduce the regulatory burden on small businesses, and expand a tax credit for startups in their first year.

**Rep. Murphy supports** bipartisan efforts to reach a grand bargain that defines a path to long-term prosperity for our country. We have cut the deficit in half, but we cannot stop there. We need a balanced budget. We must lower spending responsibly, simplify the tax code, and put money into smart investments that expand businesses and grow jobs. In the short term, we need to boost access to capital for small businesses and support programs that assist small businesses.




*Rep. Murphy and fellow Members join the Small Business Committee.*



# Murphy's Plan

- **Provide stability** – Following the government shutdown and near-default in October, small businesses' expectation of hiring employees dropped by 44 percent, according to the National Federation of Independent Business. And expectations that the economy would improve dropped by 29 percent. Congress needs to put partisanship aside, fix the debt, and provide businesses with a stable environment to grow.
- **Access to capital** – Small businesses that do decide to expand need access to capital. Local businesses often depend on community banks and credit unions for loans. That is why it is so important that these small financial institutions are not overburdened by regulations designed to help big banks prevent another financial meltdown.
- **SBA programs** – The Small Business Administration has assistance programs for helping businesses plan, raise capital, start up, and grow. These programs, which include Small Business Development Centers (SBDC), SCORE, 7A loans, and Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR), are inexpensive investments with a proven record of offering huge returns. We need to continue robust support for these beneficial programs.
- **Small business exports** – The Export-Import Bank has helped small businesses grow by promoting sales overseas at no cost to taxpayers, but many small businesses remain unaware of what overseas markets exist and how to leverage them. To help solve this, Rep. Murphy plans to invite district businesses in 2014 to a Small Business Expanding Markets Workshop that will include training and networking with officials from Ex-Im, the Department of Commerce, and the Small Business Administration.



Speed up the  
housing recovery.

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**Supporting policies that make mortgages, insurance, and financing more available and equitable is one of the most effective job-creation strategies available to lawmakers. Home ownership is a meaningful, long-term investment in communities, and the local jobs it creates in turn help others realize their dreams of owning a home. For every two homes sold in America, one new job is created.**

—Jennifer Atkisson-Lovett, President  
Realtor Association of Martin County

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The housing crisis has devastated employment across Florida in construction, real estate, and housing finance. A strong recovery with vigorous jobs growth depends on a robust housing recovery. This means that as financial regulators work to prevent predatory, subprime lending from fueling another bubble, we also must avoid overregulating and putting affordable mortgages for middle class families out of reach. As a member of the Financial Services Committee, Rep. Murphy has focused on supporting a strong recovery.

# Murphy's Actions

**Rep. Murphy cosponsored** bipartisan legislation to delay unaffordable flood insurance rate hikes. The National Flood Insurance Program depends on the assurance of accurate FEMA flood maps that covered homeowners can actually afford to pay their premiums. He is also working to establish a national catastrophe fund because insurance should not cost more than your mortgage. He worked across the aisle to lead a bill to exempt community building organizations like Habitat for Humanity from unnecessary regulations.

**Rep. Murphy supports** a comprehensive community bank regulatory relief package because even the most well-intentioned regulations can have a negative impact on small, local banks that serve Main Street businesses and homebuyers. He supports reforming Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to protect taxpayers by safeguarding the 30-year fixed rate mortgage for middle class families and guaranteeing stability for the housing market. Private capital should be the first to gain during the good times and the first to lose during the bad times, aligning investor and taxpayer incentives.

# Murphy's Plan

- **Preserve the 30-year fixed rate mortgage** – Taxpayers were forced to bail out Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac after these enterprises guaranteed risky, exotic mortgages. We need to reform Fannie and Freddie to protect taxpayers from predatory subprime lenders. But we also must preserve the responsible 30-year fixed-rate mortgage, which is a cornerstone of the American dream and puts homeownership within reach for so many in the Palm Beaches and Treasure Coast. Rep. Murphy voted to preserve the 30-year fixed-rate mortgage for middle class families and keep low-interest home loans within reach for many first-time homebuyers. He also is working on a bipartisan compromise to responsibly reintroduce private capital back into the mortgage finance market.
- **Protect Main Street banks and borrowers** – Even under the best-intentioned regulatory regime, one size does not fit all. While strongly regulating Wall Street after the financial meltdown that threw our country into the worst recession since the Great Depression was necessary, we need to recognize that subjecting Main Street community banks and credit unions to the same regulations as Wall Street will not make our financial system safer. It will only mean more bank fees for the middle class, reduced access to affordable mortgages for first-time homebuyers, and fewer options for small businesses looking to expand and create jobs. That is why Rep. Murphy worked across the aisle to pass targeted community bank relief through the Financial Services Committee and introduced legislation to protect American Main Street banks from capital requirements designed overseas for the world's largest banks.





Maintain a vibrant  
tourism industry



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**Travel and tourism are the two key economic drivers for Palm Beach County. Our goals for tourism for 2014 are to attract 6 million visitors to Palm Beach County, reach 72% hotel occupancy, grow hotel room inventory by 10% and add 5,000 full-time jobs.**

—Jorge Pesquera, CEO  
Discover Palm Beach County

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Tourism is the number one industry in Florida and is a major economic driver for Palm Beach, Martin, and St. Lucie counties. Palm Beach County alone welcomes close to five million visitors per year, injecting about \$5 billion into the local economy and supporting over 46,000 jobs. Florida's 18th Congressional District is a destination for fishing, golf, arts, and culture. We need to continue to spotlight our attractions to draw domestic and international travelers. As a member of the Congressional Travel & Tourism Caucus, Rep. Murphy is working to expand accessibility to our district to make visiting easier because every visitor represents about \$1,000 spent at local hotels, restaurants, stores, and other businesses.

# Murphy's Actions

**Rep. Murphy cosponsored** legislation to modernize our visa system to expand the number of international tourists in Florida. He met with local officials and stakeholders including Visit Florida, Florida Attractions Association, Cruise Lines International Association, and the Florida Sports Foundation to discuss creating tourism related jobs and attracting visitors to the Treasure Coast and Palm Beaches.

**Rep. Murphy supports** expanding arts and cultural grants through the national endowments for the arts and humanities to support the arts, develop new cultural institutions, and attract more visitors. He strongly supports efforts by local, state, and federal officials to keep our waterways clean and attractive, and to maintain beach renourishment. In addition, Rep. Murphy supports efforts to make sure the hospitality industry has enough workers to support growing business.



**Our Indian River Lagoon—the most diverse estuary in the nation—provides the fishing stock for our nation's oceans, and offers recreational fishing, boating, and diving opportunities of over \$4 billion annually.**

—Chris Dzadovsky, Commissioner  
St. Lucie County Commissioner



# Murphy's Plan

- **Conferences and events** – While we must be vigilant to protect our pristine waterways, wetlands, and beaches from overdevelopment, a number of areas in our district are well-suited for tourism and depend on it for their livelihood. In these areas, conferences and other widely attended events can bring large numbers of travelers who support local hotel, restaurants, and service industries. To make sure our district has enough hotel rooms and banquet space to attract conferences and other events, we should expand foreign investment programs.
- **Keeping our waters clean** – On the Treasure Coast and Palm Beaches, our waters are the life blood of our economy. It is vital that we keep our oceans, rivers, and lagoons clean because in addition to impacting our quality of life and well-being, they directly impact tourism. Keeping our waters clean means beaches for tourists, rivers for responsible fishing, and lakes for kayaking and boating.
- **Boost tourism partnerships** – Public-private partnerships like Brand USA and Visit Florida have an outsized impact on tourism. For every dollar spent marketing Florida destinations to Americans around the country, Visit Florida generates more than \$258 in tourist spending. Brand USA promotes U.S. destinations to foreigners and is funded by the private sector and fees charged to international visitors. Federal, state, and local officials must continue to collaborate to develop innovative and cost-effective tourism marketing strategies that shine a spotlight on Florida and our district.





Feed the country from our backyard.

Support agriculture.



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**Agriculture was the one pillar of our economy that continued to provide reliable jobs for Floridians during the Great Recession. It's imperative that we continue to fund research and development to advance the state of the art in agriculture and to develop solutions to problems like citrus greening.**

—Reed Hartman, Board Member  
Florida Farm Bureau

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Agriculture is an essential Florida employer, supporting tens of thousands of jobs and bringing hundreds of millions of dollars into the economy by feeding the country with produce from our fields. However, our farmers have suffered for years at the mercy of crop diseases that severely reduce yields year after year. With 45,000 acres of citrus trees in our district, diseases like citrus greening can have an outsized impact on our local economy. This is why Rep. Murphy has been working to find ways to combat this terrible disease and other invasive blights, to protect jobs, and to preserve an iconic portion of Florida life.

# Murphy's Actions

**Rep. Murphy fought** citrus greening by leading efforts to appropriate funds for research against the disease. He co-founded the bipartisan Citrus Caucus to raise awareness of the impacts of citrus greening across the government, and he brought Washington USDA officials together with local farmers and researchers in Fort Pierce to discuss solutions. Shortly after this meeting, the USDA announced the formation of USDA's Multi-Agency Response to Devastating Citrus Disease to coordinate efforts to overcome the disease. And in January, Rep. Murphy proudly voted to allocate \$145 million to research this disease as part of the Farm bill and the 2014 budget omnibus. Rep. Murphy also supported local growers by sending a bipartisan letter to the USDA that supported a major juice purchase from their produce.

**Rep. Murphy supports** taking additional steps to advance science that can protect our citrus harvest, improve product quality, and enhance food safety. Thus, Rep. Murphy voted to pass the Farm Bill and supports full implementation of its provisions to promote specialty crop research programs and organic farming initiatives. He is an advocate of the Farm Bill's provisions that would expand international market access for Florida produce, and Rep. Murphy understands the importance of protecting specialty crop insurance, which is essential to Florida farmers.

# Murphy's Plan

- **Advocating for agriculture research** – Research into protecting and expanding America's agriculture sector is crucial to job growth. For Florida's 18th district, this means developing treatments and cures for citrus and other crop diseases. Congress must prioritize funding for programs that support these initiatives and look to tariffs on citrus imports to assist in this American agricultural crisis.
- **Promoting Florida citrus internationally** – Florida citrus is the best citrus in the world, and though the industry has overcome many obstacles on its own, it is time for Congress to pitch in during these tough times. Through supporting programs like the USDA Market Access Program and Foreign Market Development Program, which promote American agricultural exports around the world, Congress can act to make sure we do everything we can to help promote Florida citrus in the global marketplace.



*Rep. Murphy visits the Tropicana facility in Fort Pierce to learn about citrus greening and other local industry issues.*

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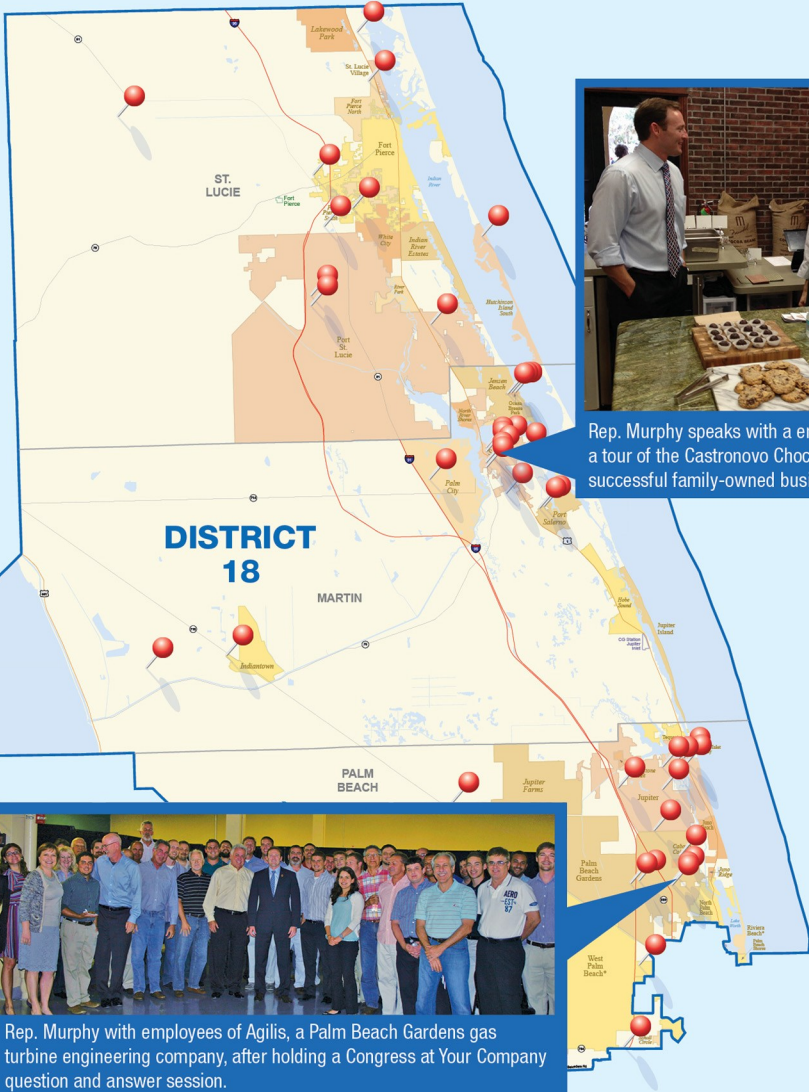


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# REP. PATRICK MURPHY'S 18TH DISTRICT

# JOBS TOUR



Rep. Murphy speaks with an employee during a tour of the Castronovo Chocolate factory, a successful family-owned business in Stuart.



Rep. Murphy with employees of Agilis, a Palm Beach Gardens gas turbine engineering company, after holding a Congress at Your Company question and answer session.

**FOR THE FULL LIST OF THE MORE THAN 60 BUSINESSES REP. MURPHY HAS VISITED SO FAR, GO TO [PatrickMurphy.house.gov](http://PatrickMurphy.house.gov)**