

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE JEFF DENHAM

CENTRAL VALLEY SOLUTIONS

A SUMMARY OF KEY LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE 114TH
CONGRESS BENEFITING CALIFORNIA'S 10TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

OCTOBER 2016

Dear friends,

In the Central Valley, we understand the importance of celebrating the harvest. Whether its almonds or legislative solutions, success always begins with proper planning and hard work. In Washington, it also means being a leader and being willing to reach across the aisle and work in a bipartisan manner to influence policy solutions that work for the hardworking men and women in California's 10th congressional district.

As we approach the end of the 114th Congress, now is a good time to celebrate our progress in Washington and look ahead to where we are building momentum for change. I hope that this collection of information provides you with a picture of our greatest successes and that you see your priorities reflected. For a more complete listing of legislative activity and voting records, or to contact me about any issue that's important to you, visit my website at www.denham.house.gov.

Thank you, as always, for allowing me to serve you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Denham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "J" and a long, sweeping tail.

AGRICULTURE

Leader on the House Committee on Agriculture to protect the Central Valley's ag interests and co-founder of the Congressional Pollinator Protection Caucus



Rep. Denham hosts a panel to discuss habitats and ag industry practices at a Pollinator Protection Caucus briefing.

Co-sponsored H.Res.834, a House resolution to recognize the important role pollinators, such as bees, birds and butterflies, play in agriculture and in maintaining our diverse ecosystem (July 14, 2016)

Introduced the *Highway BEE Act* as part of the highway bill, which allows for highway beautification and right of way landscaping to include bee habitat to encourage the growth of the domestic pollinator population (signed into law Dec. 4, 2015)

Hosted in-district roundtable with over 20 different produce, livestock and agricultural stakeholders to discuss issues affecting local business, including water, labor, regulations and trade (Oct. 28, 2016)

Supported several efforts through the Appropriations process to ensure California's unique specialty crop industry receives adequate research support and crop insurance parity

Participated in countless hearings, briefings and meetings focused on 2014 Farm Bill implementation to track compliance and identify areas of effectiveness or shortfalls for the next Farm Bill's consideration

Frequently and actively engaged with federal trade officials on behalf of several important ag industries - including almonds and dairy - facing politically-driven or intentional trade barriers overseas that resulted in costly profit or product losses

WATER

Authored the *New Water Available To Every Reclamation State Act (New WATER Act)*, which would authorize a pilot project to help finance development of water resources infrastructure in reclamation states, such as California (introduced in the House Sept. 20, 2016)

Authored the *Save Our Salmon Act* to remove the fish doubling provision in the 1992 Central Valley Project Improvement Act for non-native, predatory striped bass, thereby protecting native salmon and steelhead and reducing nonessential water usage (passed the House July 5, 2016)

Voted repeatedly to rein in overregulation and prevent implementation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's *Waters of the U.S.* (WOTUS) rule:

- Co-sponsored H.R. 1732, the *Regulatory Integrity Protection Act* (passed the House May 12, 2015)
- Co-sponsored H.R. 5078, the *Waters of the United States Regulatory Overreach Protection Act* (passed the House Sept. 9, 2014)
- Vote in support of S.J. Res. 22, a joint resolution between the House and Senate that nullifies the *Waters of the U.S.* rule

Joined colleagues in a letter to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy expressing his extreme concern with revelations that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) spent federal taxpayer dollars on a billboard accusing farmers of water pollution in Washington State

VETERANS

Instrumental in securing funding for French Camp VA Hospital (signed into law as part of the Continuing Resolution on Sept. 29, 2016)

Voted for the *VA Accountability Act of 2015* (passed House July 29, 2015) to build upon the bipartisan *Veterans' Access to Care through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act of 2014* (signed into law Aug. 7, 2014)

Supported the *Gold Star Fathers Act of 2015* to give federal hiring preferences to both mothers and fathers of servicemembers who were killed in action (signed into law Oct. 7, 2015)

Founding member of the Congressional Veterans Jobs Caucus, which works to decrease the unemployment rate of our nation's veterans



Rep. Denham meets with veterans at American Legion Post 74 in Modesto.

Authored the *Appropriate Care for Disabled Veterans Act*, reinstating a requirement for an annual report from the VA on the department providing adequate care for veterans with service-connected disabilities (signed into law as part of the Continuing Resolution on Sept. 29, 2016)

Co-sponsored the *Women Airforce Service Pilot Arlington Inurnment Restoration Act*, requiring the U.S. Army to resume the practice of offering inurnment at Arlington National Cemetery to female pilots who flew combat missions during WWII, also known as Women Airforce Service Pilots, or WASPs (signed into law May 20, 2016)

Obtained two vans to transport area veterans to the VA Palo Alto Health Care System

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Chairman of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials

Led the charge to reform funding for locally-owned bridges, allowing more money to go to those that are structurally deficient (roughly 3,000 bridges in California)

Repeatedly introduced and voted for legislation to stop the now \$68-billion California High-Speed Rail project that has failed to deliver on taxpayer promises

Helped secure national legislation that affects the Central Valley, including the first long-term surface transportation bill in a decade (signed into law Dec. 4, 2015)

Introduced the NEPA Reciprocity Act to streamline environmental review for local governments on infrastructure projects and dramatically reduce the cost and timeline of delivering local transportation projects (signed into law with the highway bill on Dec. 4, 2015)

Fought for crude-by-rail safety provisions in the highway bill that will:

- require thermal blanket and top fittings protection on all new tank cars carrying flammable liquids;
- direct railroads to provide local emergency responders with crude-by-rail shipment information;



Rep. Denham meets with Amtrak President Joe Boardman and local leaders aboard the San Joaquin line.

- fix loophole that previously allowed over 35,000 old, unsafe tank cars to remain in service; and
- improve DOT's hazardous materials safety and grant programs by streamlining approvals process and reforming an underutilized emergency responder grant program.

Authored several key provisions in the national *Safe PIPES Act* to improve the safety of our nation's gas and hazardous liquid pipelines (signed into law June 22, 2016)

Brought Washington to the Valley:

- Hosted members of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on three separate occasions, giving local leaders the opportunity to be engaged in the national policy making process
- Hosted Administrator Sarah Feinberg of the Federal Railroad Administration to meet with ACE Train and local transportation leaders in an effort to help ACE expand service and ridership

JOBS, ECONOMIC GROWTH & EDUCATION

Supported H.R.622, the *State and Local Sales Tax Deduction Fairness Act of 2015* and H.R.1105, the *Death Tax Repeal Act of 2015*, both of which aim to reduce the tax burden on American families and small businesses by eliminating unnecessary taxes and simplifying existing tax code (both passed the House on April 16, 2015)

Introduced the *Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act* to save taxpayers billions of dollars by selling unused and vacant federal properties (passed the House May 24, 2016)



Rep. Denham answers questions from students about government and public service at Eisenhut Elementary School.

Supported House reauthorization and reform of Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education programs to enhance local workforce by providing the skills and work experience needed to fill vital high-skill jobs that are multiplying in the Valley (Sept 13, 2016)

Supported congressional passage and enactment of the *Every Student Succeeds Act* to reduce federal footprint and restore local control in schools, empower parents and educators to hold schools accountable, and bolster student performance improvement efforts (Dec 15, 2015)

National deficit has been *reduced* by roughly \$861 billion since 2011 (Source: White House OMB)

HEALTHCARE

Original cosponsor of the *Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act* to reform America's broken mental health system by amending the shortage of inpatient beds, expanding the mental health workforce, and establishing grant programs for research and treatment, especially for veterans and children (passed the House July 14, 2016)

SECOND AMENDMENT

Cosponsored H.Con.Res. 148, reaffirming that the Second Amendment protects individual right to keep and bear arms for the purpose of self-defense and that this right is fully applicable to all states

Voted for the *Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act of 2016* to amend existing laws to expand access and increase opportunities for hunting, fishing and other recreational activities and restore power to the states by freeing up access to federal funds for the expansion of shooting ranges and prohibiting federal agencies from regulating lead content ammunition and fishing tackle that are otherwise compliant with state laws

IMMIGRATION

Co-chair of the Assyrian Caucus and the Immigrant Service Member and Veterans Caucus

Re-introduced his *ENLIST Act*, which would allow otherwise qualified undocumented immigrants brought here by their parents through no fault of their own to earn legal status through military service



Rep. Denham discusses his ENLIST Act in front of the U.S. Capitol.

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