

# ANNUAL SHAREHOLDER'S REVIEW

Congressman Mark Sanford

2016

## Message from Representative Sanford:

As a new year begins, I wanted to take quick moment to share with you our Annual Shareholder's Review highlighting some of our office's work in 2016 and the 114th Congress.

I have tried to be very transparent about votes taken and stands made, and social media has proven to be an important tool in doing so. It's a two-way street. It allows people to send me their ideas without having to wait for me in front of a Walmart where I might be hosting office hours and for me to give commentary from my perspective.

In fact, I put a lot of time into explaining why I voted as I did or why I am holding a certain position. So, I'd ask two things. One, please [sign up for our weekly e-newsletter](#), and two, please forward this email to five friends who might want to do the same. Additionally, for those of you who use Facebook, this is where I post the most detailed explanations of votes and views from Washington, and accordingly, you can [follow me on Facebook](#). You can also [find me on Twitter](#). I hope you'll take a few moments to do some of this, as it allows us to more readily communicate.

All this is important because a vital foundation to representative government is transparency. Voters need to be clear what they want, and elected officials must then decipher all that they hear and take a vote. So, consider your help here a step toward more open government, greater accountability, and even a better America...now that's worth doing!

It's an honor to serve you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Sanford", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Sanford

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# Debt, Deficit, and Government Spending

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When U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford isn't fighting government spending, he's championing legislation to expand individual rights and knock down bureaucratic barriers.

— **The Post and Courier**

## Legislation Introduced:

**The Debt Limit Control and Accountability Act** (H.R. 2185) - This bill would prevent the Treasury Department from dipping into certain government funds - that later have to be made whole - in order to allow the government to keep borrowing. This practice is often called “extraordinary measures.” The bill would also close loopholes permitting Congress to merely signal its disapproval of the president raising the debt limit and expresses the sense of Congress that the debt limit should not be suspended. It is important because the Founding Fathers gave only Congress the power to raise taxes and pay debts.

**Highway Restoration Act** (H.R. 1551) - This bill would address the funding problems of the Highway Trust Fund by phasing out the diversion of highway funds to mass transit over a five-year period. According to the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, a nonpartisan budget-focused think tank, the end result of doing so would be to cut the Highway Trust Fund's annual deficit (currently \$15 billion per year) in half.

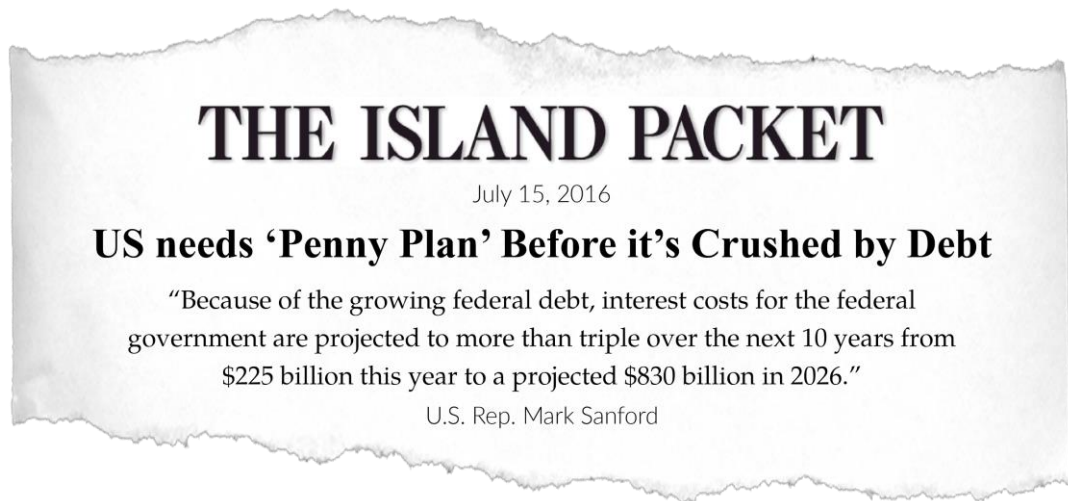
In 1956, when the trust fund was created, the gasoline tax was sold to the American public as a “user fee,” following the idea that those who drive on our roads would pay for them. Repurposing that money to pay for mass transit projects whose users do not pay gasoline taxes has significantly worsened the financial situation of a trust fund already in bad shape. The Highway Trust Fund has received more than \$70 billion total in general fund bailouts since 2008, when fund revenues first fell below fund spending.

This bill, while not a comprehensive solution, is an important first step towards making the Highway Trust Fund solvent and helping focus federal efforts on providing the infrastructure that our country needs to stay competitive globally.

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**The One Percent Spending Reduction Act of 2016, the “Penny Plan”** (H.R. 5637) - Introduced with Senator Mike Enzi, this bill would balance the budget through reducing outlays by one percent each year until FY2021 and then cap spending at 18% of GDP, which is the historic average of the economic share of federal tax revenue.

There are a number of ways to attack our debt, deficit, and government spending problem, and nearly all of them are complicated and hyper-technical. The Penny Plan’s best attribute is that it’s simple. It cuts a penny from each dollar of federal spending until the budget is balanced. It’s also fair. Every government program is on the chopping block equally. Finally, it forces action. It creates the burning platform that is crucial to pushing Congress to make the difficult choices necessary to right our financial ship.



**TRUTH (Transparent Recognition of Unjustified Tax Hoarding) in Government Act of 2016** (H.R. 6098) - This bill would end mandatory income and payroll tax withholding and replace it with the active payment of these taxes.

It’s hard to overstate how much mandatory withholding has facilitated the rise of big government. In fact, it is the primary basis for the \$3.6 trillion federal budget that we have today. The reason is relatively simple: withholding makes it difficult for the taxpayer to figure out how much he pays in taxes.

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Withholding is the paramount administrative mechanism enabling the federal government to collect, without significant protest, sufficient private resources to fund a vastly expanded welfare state. – Charlotte Twight, Winter, 1995



This is an easy idea to test. Many can name their tax refund, but how many can name the total amount of taxes they paid in a given year? One side effect of the growing prevalence of direct deposit is that the cost of big government is less visible to the average taxpayer. In fact, many taxpayers view the tax “refund” as a payment from the government rather than what it really is - repayment of a mandatory, interest-free loan.

Looking at the history of the current withholding law, it is clear that these realities were foremost in proponents’ minds. Withholding was passed in 1943 to facilitate tax collection for World War II. In fact, one of the early supporters of the law wrote, “the taxpayer does not have the same consciousness of parting with his income to the government,” making withholding “the most ‘painless’ method of meeting tax liabilities.” Other advocates were more direct; during committee debate over the bill, one mentioned that it would “allow more revenue to be fried out of the taxpayer.”

Popular resistance was overcome with a massive propaganda campaign (Daffy Duck was enlisted in a pro-withholding film that was seen by 43 million Americans in 1942). The Department of the Treasury even urged clergymen to include the virtues of prompt payment of tax into their services; thousands did so. Even so, the first version of the bill failed. It was only until the Treasury agreed to forgive 1942 taxes in order to satisfy withholding in 1943 that public opinion turned decisively in favor of the legislation. Withholding has been with us ever since.

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“The TRUTH in Government Act replaces a system that conceals the true process of paying taxes with a system that gives taxpayers more transparency over their income, to better ensure they do not pay too much. All members of Congress should support the TRUTH in Government Act.”

– Grover Norquist

**AMERICANS**  
*for* **TAX REFORM**

October 4, 2016

**Risk Management and Homeowner Stability Act** (H.R. 4893) - This bill would prevent the use of Fannie and Freddie guarantee fees (g-fees) as a budget offset for unrelated spending. The bill currently has 54 bipartisan cosponsors and has garnered the support of 24 different organizations, like the conservative-leaning National Taxpayer’s Union, the NAACP, and the National Association of REALTORS.

G-fees are insurance premiums paid by people who write mortgages to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac in exchange for government guarantees of the mortgage principal and interest. The money goes towards providing a pool of capital that covers potential losses by Fannie and Freddie as a result of the guarantee, hence the name “g-fee.” Raiding this capital to pay for more government spending (in the shadow of a housing crisis caused by similar practices) is a terrible precedent.

As the federal government’s spending problem consumes ever greater national resources, legislators will look for any and all revenue streams to satisfy expanding government’s need for ever-more funding. Placing certain classes of federal funds off-limits may not curb the widespread desire for additional spending in Washington, but it will at least make it harder for proponents to claim that their latest program is “paid-for.”

*“H.R. 4893 recognizes that diverting revenue from these risk-based fees both places an additional burden on the backs of homeowners and is bad public policy. G-fees should only be used as a buffer against mortgage defaults, not as a piggy-bank for increased government spending.” - National Association of REALTORS*

**Responsible Law Enforcement Acquisition Act** (H.R. 6192) - Right now, the Department of Defense is legally allowed to provide local law enforcement with military grade equipment free of charge. The president stopped that practice via executive order in the summer of 2015. The Responsible Law Enforcement Acquisition Act would return the Department of Defense’s authority to give law enforcement surplus or aging equipment with one small change: under the bill, instead of giving the gear away for free, the Department of Defense must hold an auction.

In the wake of the demonstrations in Ferguson and elsewhere, concerns about police militarization have been heightened. This bill represents a middle ground between civil

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libertarians, who would like the flow of military equipment to stop entirely, and police departments that view free equipment as essential to maintaining their effectiveness in a time of lean budgets.

Instead, with the police paying a fair-market value for the equipment, the taxpayer benefits, and only the equipment that's really crucial to carrying out the enforcement mission will end up on our streets because of price incentives.

The federal government has about \$128 trillion in assets overall, but it has a habit of giving them away without receiving fair market value. Taxpayers in the 50 states paid for these assets up front. Where we can, we should try and ensure a minimum level of cost recovery in this process.

## **Amendments Offered:**

**Defunding the Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing Program** - This was an amendment to the Energy and Water Appropriations Bill: H.R. 2028 (5/8/16). This amendment was adopted by the House.

The Advanced Vehicle Technology Manufacturing (ATVM) Program is intended to provide low-interest loans for "clean" vehicles. But 40 percent of the loans made by the ATVM loan guarantee program have failed, costing the taxpayer billions and making this program into a kind of "Solyndra on wheels." Stopping additional loans from this program has the potential to save the taxpayer \$4.2 billion. This amendment was adopted by the House of Representatives and could still be included in the next spending package.

**Eliminating the New Balance Earmark** - These were, in essence, the same amendment twice, first to the National Defense Authorization Act and again to the Department of Defense Appropriations Bill: H.R. 4909 and H.R. 2685, respectively (5/23/16, 6/8/16). The first was defeated by Republican leadership; the second failed by a recorded vote of 155 to 265.

At the urging of two Representatives from Maine and Massachusetts (where New Balance Corporation is headquartered), a provision was included in the National Defense Authorization Act to require the Department of Defense to purchase only New Balance running shoes for enlisted recruits. After Republican leadership killed our amendment using a procedural technique in our first attempt, we made another effort with an appropriations rider to the spending bill that funds the Department of Defense. Although it ultimately was not adopted by the House, the amendment would have prevented \$330 million in additional costs to the Department of Defense over 10 years.

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**What Others Are Saying About the New Balance Amendment:**

“Congressman Sanford deserves tremendous credit for standing up for the men and women of our military. Those selfless individuals should not be forced into a certain type of running shoe simply because one company has access to the halls of power.” – Mike Needham, CEO



May 11, 2016



“Rep. Mark Sanford, R-S.C., has been leading the charge against this misplaced protectionism.”

– Senator Jim DeMint, President

May 16, 2016

“Thank goodness there's one lawmaker in Congress who won't tolerate this blatant cronyism. South Carolina Republican Mark Sanford offered an amendment to strip the Tsongas-New



Balance language from the NDAA.”

– Veronique de Rugy

May 6, 2016



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**Flyover Cost Tracker Amendment** - This was an amendment to the National Defense Authorizations Act: H.R. 4909 (5/18/16). It was adopted by the House. The amendment would require Defense Secretary to track costs of National Guard flyovers at public events.

Without knowing how much these flights are costing, we will never know if these flyovers are wasting taxpayer dollars. As an example, according to ESPN, four jets “[that took off] in Virginia streaked over Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas [for the 2011 Super Bowl]. Because the weather was bad, the stadium roof was closed, so the flyover was visible only to TV viewers and those at the game who watched it on the giant video board. It prompted some to question the cost of the flyover to taxpayers, with one reporter in Dallas suggesting it cost \$450,000.”



Honored to be named a Fiscal Hero. I appreciate [@FixtheDebt](#)/[@BudgetHawks](#), & I look forward to continuing the fight!



**Eliminating Wasteful Defense Department Spending on Ammunition** - This was an amendment to the National Defense Authorizations Act: H.R. 4909 (5/18/16). It was adopted by the House.

Right now, the Army and the Marine Corps use different versions of the same caliber of rifle ammunition. Keeping duplicative ammunition stocks adds to logistical overhead and reduces volume discounts. The amendment would require that the Marines and the Army use the same type of rifle ammunition, likely saving hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars.

**Eliminating the Zero-Emissions Airport Vehicle Program** - This was an amendment offered in the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure to the Federal Aviation

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Administration Reauthorization Act: HR 4441 (2/11/16). This amendment was adopted unanimously by the Committee.

The Zero-Emissions Airport Vehicle program was created in 2012 in order to help incentivize the use of fully electric airport vehicles. Authorized at \$1 million, this program has yielded zero successful examples of Zero Emissions Airport Vehicles and is a clear example of why the federal government cannot pick winners and losers in the marketplace.

“ The amendment acknowledges that the Zero-Emissions Airport Vehicle pilot program has failed. There are zero vehicles, no vehicles under this program. ”

– Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman, Bill Shuster

**Keeping Commerce-Justice-Science Spending Flat** - This was an amendment to the Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations Bill: H.R. 2578 (6/3/15). This amendment failed 134 to 290. This amendment would have cut \$1.2 billion, or 2.5 percent, in overall spending in the Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations bill in 2015, in essence keeping spending flat over the previous year.



*“I think it is interesting from a nonpartisan standpoint that Erskine Bowles and Alan Simpson said, if you look at our financial picture, it is the most predictable financial collapse or calamity in the history of man.” - Rep. Mark Sanford (6/3/15)*

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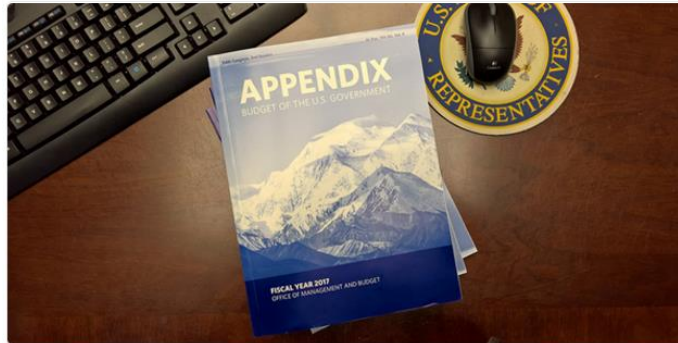
## Key Cosponsorships:

**Balanced Budget Amendment to U.S. Constitution** (H.J. Res. 55), Rep. Dave Brat - This proposed amendment to the Constitution would require a balanced federal budget.



Mark Sanford ✓  
@RepSanfordSC

First thought when seeing .@POTUS's 2017 budget: It's literally a mountain of debt.



**End Government Shutdowns Act** (H.R. 3776), Rep. Alex Mooney - This bill would create a process by which the government's funding continues but is gradually reduced in the event appropriations bills are not passed.

**Fiscal State of the Union Resolution** (H.Con. Res. 140), Rep. Jim Renacci - This resolution would require the Comptroller General to provide a presentation to a joint session of Congress on the financial condition of the federal government.

**Cost Estimates Reform Act** (H.R. 3804), Rep. Dave Brat - This bill would require the cost of debt service to be included in CBO (Congressional Budget Office) and JCT (Joint Committee on Taxation) scoring.

**Federal Reserve Transparency Act** (H.R. 24), Rep. Thomas Massie - This bill would audit the Federal Reserve.

**Budget and Accounting Transparency Act** (H.R. 119), Rep. Scott Garrett - This bill would revise the budgetary treatment of federal loans and loan guarantees to account for them on a fair value basis.

**Default Prevention Act** (H.R. 692), Rep. Tom McClintock - This bill would require the Treasury to continue to borrow to pay the principal and interest on debt held by the public or the Social Security trust funds, if the U.S. debt exceeds the statutory limit. It also

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would prohibit paying the salary of members of Congress while the debt limit is exceeded.

**Defining Overseas Contingency Operations Spending**, Rep. Mick Mulvaney - This amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act would provide a clear definition of what spending can properly be classified as used for Overseas Contingency Operations. This is important because the Overseas Contingency Operations has been used as a means of circumventing discretionary spending caps because its spending does not count against the caps.

## **Key Votes:**

**Voted against the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015**, which suspended the debt limit and authorized \$80 billion in additional spending.

**Voted against the FAST Act**, which was a five-year highway bill, with bizarre pay-fors: eliminating the Federal Reserve rainy day fund, taxing banks, tinkering with crop insurance, and the like. While many can agree that we'd like to see better roads and bridges, paying for them with gimmicks isn't the right way to go about doing that.

**Voted against the Omnibus Bill for FY 2016**, which combined 12 departments of spending into one and added \$50 billion in spending that was not offset, which means it simply gets added to the deficit. Accordingly, we voted against this \$1.15 trillion bill.

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# Expanding Freedom and Protecting Civil Liberty

WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF-EVIDENT, THAT ALL MEN ARE  
CREATED EQUAL, THAT THEY ARE ENDOWED BY THEIR CREATOR  
WITH CERTAIN UNALIENABLE RIGHTS, THAT AMONG  
THESE ARE LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS.

– Preamble to the Declaration of Independence

## Legislation Introduced:

### **Preserving Short-term Health Care Insurance Options Outside of Obamacare**

(Introduction Pending) - At the end of October 2016, the Obama administration finalized a rule that is intended to largely eliminate existing short-term health plans. These health plans are far less expensive than even the basic Obamacare plans because that are not required to have all of the bells and whistles of plans available in the Obamacare exchanges. This rule is therefore significant for potentially millions of Americans that do not want, need, or simply cannot afford increasingly expensive Obamacare plans. This bill would allow Americans to retain the freedom to choose existing short-term health insurance options.

**The Freedom to Travel to Cuba Act of 2015** (H.R. 664) - This bill, with 131 bipartisan cosponsors, would remove the travel ban to Cuba that has been in place for more than 50 years.

U.S. laws restricting travel to Cuba violate the civil liberties of U.S. citizens and embody government over-regulation, especially given that the U.S. Supreme Court has recognized that “travel abroad...may be as close to the heart of the individual as the choice of what he eats, or wears, or reads.... [and] is an important aspect of the citizen's ‘liberty’.”

Americans are free to travel to every country on the planet except one: Cuba. Indeed, we are free to travel to North Korea even though Kim Jong-un has threatened to kill every American and detonated multiple nuclear bombs only a few months ago. President Ronald Reagan championed freedom to travel to the Soviet Union as an effective foreign policy in the service of exposing people behind the Iron Curtain to American ideals. We believe that the same principle holds true for Cuba.

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## Amendments Offered:

**Lifting the Cuba Travel Ban Amendment** - This was an amendment to the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act: H.R. 5485 (7/12/16). It would have lifted the ban on Americans traveling to Cuba.

**Flight-sharing Amendment** (aka “Uber for Planes”) - We introduced this amendment during the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee markup of the FAA Reauthorization bill: H.R. 4441 (2/11/16). This amendment was adopted by voice in Committee. It would have allowed private pilots to connect with travelers over the internet and split the cost of a flight. This would reduce the cost of flying and expand individual choice in terms of where and how to travel.

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Rep. Sanford’s efforts to support flight-sharing would resolve such regulatory quagmires by allowing a new and market changing service to benefit consumers and the economy.

**AMERICANS**  
*for* **TAX REFORM**

June 21, 2016

## Key Cosponsorships:

**Email Privacy Act** (H.R. 699), Rep. Kevin Yoder - This bill, which was signed into law by President Obama, would improve email’s level of privacy protection to achieve greater parity with that of regular mail.

**Geolocation and Online Privacy Act** (H.R. 491), Rep. Zoe Lofgren - This bill contains the Email Privacy Act, and it also requires law enforcement to get a warrant for cell phone tower information (i.e., geolocation data).

**First Amendment Defense Act** (H.R. 2802), Rep. Raul Labrador - This bill would prohibit the federal government from taking discriminatory action against a person who believes or acts in accordance with their faith.

**FAIR Act** (H.R.540), Rep. Tim Walberg - This bill would modify general rules governing civil forfeiture proceedings.



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**Constitutional Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act** (H.R. 923), Rep. Marlin Stutzman - This bill would permit an individual with a state permit to carry a concealed weapon to carry that firearm in states that also issue concealed carry permits. We believe that one's legal right to carry a concealed weapon should not be infringed when crossing the border of another state that extends concealed carry rights to its own citizens, thus ensuring an individual's right to self-defense while upholding the firearms laws of individual states.

**Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act** (H.R. 986), Rep. Richard Hudson - This bill would provide that if an individual is permitted to own a gun in his or her home state, they must be allowed to do so in any other state that permits its own citizens to carry concealed weapons.

**Securing Military Personnel Response Firearm Initiative Act** (H.R. 3139), Rep. Duncan Hunter - This bill would allow armed services personnel to carry a sidearm at recruiting centers. In the summer of 2015, six unarmed service members were murdered in Chattanooga, Tennessee when an individual opened fire on two military installations, a recruiting center, and a Navy reserve center. This incident is not isolated and follows shootings at Fort Hood, Texas in 2009 and 2014 and a 2013 shooting at the Navy Yard in Washington DC.

**Enhancing Safety at Military Installations Act** (H.R. 3115), Rep. Scott DesJarlais - This bill would permit armed services personnel to carry a sidearm on military bases.

## Key Votes:

**Voted against the USA Freedom Act**, a bill we originally cosponsored, because of changes made to the proposal. These changes would allow the NSA to collect information on American citizens without a specific target and would also compel telephone and technology companies to provide large amounts of data to the NSA, indiscriminately.

**Voted for the Email Privacy Act**, which was signed into law by President Obama and will improve email's level of privacy protection to achieve greater parity with that of regular mail.

**Voted against the Intelligence Authorization Act for 2015** because it didn't go far enough to rein in the NSA and protect individual liberty and privacy.

**Voted against the Intelligence Authorization Act for 2016** because the bill would have continued authority used by the NSA to undertake mass data collection and phone call surveillance of U.S. citizens under the USA Freedom Act and the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

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# Preserving Quality of Life in the Lowcountry

“ Rep. Sanford has consistently listened to concerns from coastal communities he represents. He led the fight to stop offshore drilling off our coast as our representative in Washington D.C., and continues efforts to stop seismic blasting for oil and gas off our coast. ”

— OCEANA

## Legislation Introduced:

### Coastal States Extension

**Act:** This bill would increase a state’s jurisdiction over its coastline from 3 miles to 12 miles. The practical effect would be to allow states to choose how their own coastal resources are used.

The Founders were deliberate in enshrining federalism into the 10th Amendment of the Constitution. In many respects, the federal government has gotten away from that idea as it’s become larger and

larger over the course of our lifetimes, but we happen to believe that it’s still a good idea.

In particular with regard to offshore drilling - where a multi-billion dollar tourist economy has the potential to be significantly damaged by a spill, allowing a little more local control seems sensible. It’s the individuals living in the Lowcountry who will have to deal with the consequences of a spill, not taxpayers in Kansas or South Dakota.





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## Key Cosponsorships:

**Permanent Reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund** (H.R. 1814), Rep. Raul Grijalva - The original “contract” between the environmental community and those involved in natural resource extraction was that the Land and Water Conservation Fund would collect royalties from oil and gas leases on federal land (and therefore owned by the public) and use the proceeds to buy and maintain land to be enjoyed by the public. While the Fund may have expired at the end of September, there is a great deal of support in Congress to permanently reauthorize it.

**Disaster Assistance Equity Act** (H.R. 3863), Rep. Steve Israel - This bill allows community associations to be eligible for federal assistance during natural disasters. Currently, residents of community associations pay federal taxes yet cannot benefit from disaster assistance, despite the fact that a natural disaster does not distinguish between a community associations and ordinary neighborhoods.

**Atlantic Seismic Airgun Protection Act** (H.R. 5817), Rep. Donald Beyer - A bill that would stop seismic airgun testing, a precursor to offshore oil drilling, off the Atlantic Coast.

**Offshore Seismic Moratorium Amendment**, Rep. Don Beyer - This amendment to the Interior and Environment Appropriations bill would have stopped the use of funds to conduct offshore seismic airgun testing. The amendment was not adopted.

**Guantanamo Transfer Prevention Act** (H.R. 4126), Rep. Ted Yoho - This bill clarifies that the president does not have authority to transfer detainees to the United States and that any transfer he would perform would be illegal.

**House Resolution 617**, Rep. Jeff Duncan - A bill that would provide the House with standing to sue the president, if he did decide to transfer Guantanamo Bay detainees to the U.S. mainland.

## Key Votes:

**Voted against the Ratcliffe Amendment to Interior Environment Appropriations** - This amendment would have stopped an Environmental Protection Agency clean design program.

**Voted against Buck Amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act** - This amendment would have stopped the Department of Defense from planning for the impacts of climate change, a serious issue for bases in low-lying areas like Parris Island.

**Voted against a resolution of disapproval against ozone regulations** - Ozone is a damaging pollutant that has been linked to a host of issues, such as lung cancer and asthma.

**Voted against a bill that would make mountaintop removal mining easier** - Mining coal in Appalachia using this practice is one of the most damaging environmental practices known to man. The EPA has worked on a rule detailing how mining companies that engage in this practice must protect the surrounding ecosystem for five years, and the effect of the bill would have been to tell the agency to start over.

## Other Action:

**Sanford-Scott Letter on Seismic Testing** - Letter to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management urging them to halt the process for extending permits to conduct seismic airgun testing in the Atlantic Ocean.

**Congressmen join Sanford opposing offshore testing, drilling**

BY BO PETERSEN

More than 30 members of Congress have joined U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford's in calling on federal regulators to halt the approval process for oil and natural gas testing and drilling offshore.

Twenty-five Democrats and eight Republicans, led by Sanford, R-S.C., and Rep. Bobby Scott, D-Va., signed a letter to Abigail Ross Hopper, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management director.

They request the bureau conduct a new environmental assessment of the proposed work "based on the many studies that show harm to fisheries and marine mammals due to human-produced noise, including seismic airgun testing."

BOEM has not received the letter and declined to comment, said spokeswoman Blossom Robinson on Thursday afternoon.

In seismic tests, powerfully loud air guns are fired repeatedly underwater to read "echoes" from the bottom geology. The tests can open the way for drilling test wells.

How much the seismic gun noise disturbs endangered species such as the right whale and sea turtles is a contested issue between environmental and industry interests; leasing in offshore waters has tended to include some noise, season and distance restrictions to protect the creatures.

Seismic guns emit sound blasts that can deafen and injure marine animals, according to studies by the Navy and other groups. But they have been used for 30 years by research groups as well as the industry, and extensively in the Gulf of Mexico.

The issue cuts to the heart of coastal life, where people appear to largely support curbing exploration to protect dolphins, whales, sea turtles and other marine life, as well as a billion-dollar tourism economy. Nearly 90 municipalities along the Atlantic Coast, including nearly all in South Carolina, have passed resolutions opposing the work.



Sanford

**The Post and Courier**

Friday, December 11, 2015

**Sanford Letter to Defense Undersecretary Anthony McKeon** - Letter to the Pentagon declaring that the president's proposal to transfer Guantanamo Bay detainees to the United States was flat-out unlawful.

**Delegation Letter to Secretary of Defense on Guantanamo** - In late August 2015, the South Carolina delegation sent a letter to the president declaring that it was unlawful to transfer detainees from Guantanamo Bay to the Naval Brig in Hanahan.

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# Making Our Country More Competitive

*“The greatest advances of civilization, whether in architecture or painting, in science and literature, in industry or agriculture, have never come from centralized government.”*

— Milton Friedman

## Legislation Introduced:

**Puerto Rico Minimum Wage Improvement Act (H.R.4637)** - This bill would give the Puerto Rican government the authority to set its own minimum wage.

At the end of 2015, Puerto Rico’s governor declared that the island was insolvent and would not be able to pay its debts, which at the time were roughly \$118 billion - more than 114 percent of the size of the territory’s economy. Over the course of spring 2016, Republican leadership and staff on the Natural Resources Committee negotiated with the White House as well as with Democratic leadership in both chambers to find a solution. The outcome of these negotiations was the PROMESA Act, a bill that was intended to put Puerto Rico back on the path towards solvency. How this bill would look was a subject of fierce debate within the Republican Conference, with the first draft getting pulled from consideration and a number of delays occurring on the second draft, which was ultimately passed into law.

The core aspect of the bill established a financial Oversight Board and created a mechanism that allows Puerto Rico to “restructure” its debt, in essence reducing or delaying agreed-upon interest payments and principal amounts. The Board would have the power to force creditors to agree to the payments, known as a “cramdown” provision. Adding this type of revision to existing bankruptcy law after debt contracts had been written was unprecedented in our country’s 240-year history.

Our focus over the course of the debate was on two aspects: whether or not this “cramdown” was so damaging to the rule of law in our country that the bill was unworthy of support and helping the island with the economic reforms necessary to grow out of its debt problem.

In fact, when Douglas-Holtz Eakin, the former Director of the Congressional Budget Office, was asked at a congressional briefing what the most important economic reform for Puerto Rico was, he answered: “Exempt Puerto Rico from the federal minimum wage.”

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With that in mind, we introduced the Puerto Rico Minimum Wage Improvement Act in order to provide a focus for discussion of this important reform in the conference. We were encouraged when the original draft of the legislation had a weak exemption for Puerto Rico from the minimum wage, applying only to the youngest workers under 20 years of age for a limited time.

After the first version of PROMESA was pulled, we were able to garner a number of cosponsors and internal support for the policy within the conference. We were not able to get acceptance in the discussion draft for a full exemption, but the final bill did move towards our position, exempting all workers under 25 for a limited time period. The expanded exemption ended up applying to essentially double the number of Puerto Rican workers as the original text.

When we offered our full exemption as an amendment to the final bill, Republican leadership ruled our amendment out of order, fearing that it would gain majority support and sink the final bill, which had to get Democratic support in order to pass into law.



*“If we want to change the economy in Puerto Rico, we’ve got to signal something concrete to the marketplace. If you’re going to make a decision on building a hotel, it’s more than a four-year decision. If you’re going to make a decision on building a factory, it’s more than a four-year decision.... Reengineering debt does not help you solve the debt problem at the end of the day. Reengineering is a short-term solution. The bigger question for Puerto Rico is competitiveness, and I think this amendment would move us in that direction.” - Rep. Mark Sanford, testimony to the Rules Committee (6/6/16)*

## Key Cosponsorships:

**TAILOR Act** (H.R. 2896), Rep. Scott Tipton - This legislation would require financial regulators to tailor regulations to different financial institutions to account for the

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differences in size and other factors of those institutions. It does not make sense if regulations are one size fits all.

**End Executive Overreach Act** (H.R. 4956), Rep. Tom Price - This legislation would prohibit executive orders and significant rulemakings from the time of enactment through when President Obama leaves office.

**Cuba Trade Act** (H.R. 3238), Rep. Tom Emmer - This bill would allow the United States to trade with Cuba.

**Protecting Workplace Advancement and Opportunity Act** (H.R. 4773), Rep. Tim Walberg - This legislation would overturn the Department of Labor's rule expanding the number of workers eligible for overtime pay. This may sound good in theory, but there are a host of unintended consequences that includes shifting more workers from salaried positions to hourly wages.

**Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act** (H.R. 427), Rep. Todd Young - This legislation requires that every regulation with an economic cost greater than \$100 million be approved by Congress, instead of requiring Congress to overturn them.



**Protect Medical Innovation Act** (H.R. 160), Rep. Erik Paulsen - This legislation would repeal Obamacare's harmful tax on medical device companies that increases the cost of healthcare.

## Key Votes:

**Voted for the Water Infrastructure Improvement for the Nation (WIIN) Act of 2016**, which authorizes funding for key water infrastructure projects, one of which is \$231 million for the deepening of the Charleston Harbor. What's notable about the bill is not only which projects were authorized, but the way those projects were approved. The WIIN Act's passage and signing into law shows the federal government can responsibly fund infrastructure projects – something that's more so a novelty in Washington today.



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**Voted in favor of the resolution of disapproval for the fiduciary rule**, which would overturn the Department of Labor's fiduciary rule. This rule would require more regulation for people who give investment advice and outlaw certain types of compensation for investment advisors. However, the rule will have the opposite effect than the one intended and actually hurt small investors by making financial advice more expensive.

**Voted for the resolution of disapproval for the Waters of the United States rule**, which would have overturned President Obama's rule that would have vastly expanded what the Environmental Protection Agency is allowed to regulate and, in doing so, oversteps the federal government's authority.

**Voted for the SCRUB Act of 2015**, which would create a temporary commission that would identify harmful, duplicative, and outdated regulations to be repealed. Government agencies would then have to eliminate any of their regulations the commission suggests to offset any new regulations they propose.

**Voted for Protecting Americans Against Tax Hikes of 2015**, which was a major package of targeted tax breaks for businesses and families. In Washington-speak, they call it the "tax extenders package," and it comes up just about every other year. It smooths the way to tax reform because tax breaks that are actually permanent, but scored as temporary, make it harder to amend those taxes.

## Other Action:

**Led a bipartisan letter with 142 members on the Water Resources Development Act**, which asked Speaker Paul Ryan and Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy to allow the House to debate and vote on the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 before October. There was a chance that Congress would not do so, and that would put projects in the bill, such as the Port of Charleston, in jeopardy. Fortunately, the House did pass the bill in September, in part due to this bipartisan effort.

## Sanford leading push to secure harbor funds



FILE/BRAD NETTLES/STAFF  
The shipping industry is shifting to larger, heavier vessels like the 1,155-foot-long Axel Maersk. The trend has some U.S. ports scrambling to deepen their navigation channels.

S.C. lawmakers urge authorization for \$509M Charleston deepening

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# Upholding the Rule of Law

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A government of laws and not men.

— *John Adams*

## Amendment Offered:

**Buck/Sanford Amendment to Reduce the Salary of the IRS Commissioner to Zero** - This was an amendment to the Financial Services - General Government Appropriations bill: H.R. 5485 (7/7/16). The amendment failed.

There has been a lot of discussion about the misdeeds of IRS Commissioner John Koskinen and the role he played in covering up the agency's targeting of politically conservative groups for extra scrutiny. While Rep. Jason Chaffetz, Chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, introduced articles of impeachment against Commissioner Koskinen, Rep. Sanford joined forces with Rep. Ken Buck from Colorado to hold the Commissioner accountable for his improper actions more swiftly by eliminating his salary.

While the amendment failed by a vote of 197 to 224, it was a reminder that Congress's role in overseeing the federal government is virtually useless unless these oversight actions have teeth. The amendment was also a message that Congress's exclusive constitutional duty to appropriate, or not appropriate, money can and should be used to hold agents of the federal government accountable when they work against the best interests of the public.

## Key Cosponsorships:

**Separation of Powers Restoration Act of 2016** (H.R. 4768), Rep. John Ratcliffe - This legislation reverses the *Chevron* deference thus allowing the judiciary not to be bound by deferring to the position of federal agencies when interpreting statutes. This bill would give the judiciary the option to reassert its authority over the executive in the area of regulation.

**Mobilizing Against Sanctuary Cities Act** (H.R. 3002), Rep. Lou Barletta - This legislation would strip federal funding for states or localities that resist or ban enforcement of federal immigration laws or flatly refuse to cooperate with immigration officials. Sanctuary cities and states pose a significant public safety issue throughout the country. According to U.S.

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Immigration and Customs Enforcement, there are approximately 300 sanctuary jurisdictions from coast to coast that have adopted policies that are not cooperative with federal immigration laws and provide a safe harbor for undocumented immigrants.

**Credits for Kids Act** (H.R. 5297), Rep. Mark Meadows - This bill declares that no refundable portion of the child tax credit can be claimed without putting a social security number on the tax return. This would prevent illegal immigrants from taking advantage of the child tax credit and receiving a tax refund from the federal government.

**Cuban Immigrant Work Opportunity Act** (H.R. 4247), Rep. Carlos Curbelo - This bill would stop Cuban immigrants who are permitted to enter under wet foot/dry foot from receiving welfare benefits.



**Birthright Citizenship Act** (H.R. 140), Rep. Steve King - This bill would limit the ability to grant automatic citizenship to children born in the United States to non-citizen parents.

**Refugee Resettlement Oversight and Security Act** (H.R. 3572), Rep. Michael McCaul - This bill would require the president to submit a plan to Congress that outlines the number of refugees he wishes to relocate to the United States. This bill halts all incoming refugees and requires that the Secretary of Homeland Security, Director of the FBI, and Director of National Intelligence certify the background checks of each admitted refugee.

**Resettlement Accountability and Prioritization National Security Act** (H.R. 5816), Rep. Brian Babin - This bill would require a joint resolution of Congress to restart the refugee program for six countries: Iraq, Syria, Libya, Yemen, Somalia, and Afghanistan. To further



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protect the homeland from attacks by unknown enemies, we joined Rep. Brian Babin from Texas in sending a letter to House Leadership to include language in the continuing resolution prohibiting the use of funds to relocate refugees from Syria and Iraq.

## Key Votes:

**Voted for the Enforce the Law for Sanctuary Cities Act** (H.R. 3009), Rep. Duncan Hunter - This bill passed the House by a vote of 241 to 179. It simply denies sanctuary cities and states from receiving grant money from three programs within the Department of Justice, which are designed to aid state and local law enforcement agencies in upholding the law.

**Voted for the American Security Against Foreign Enemies (SAFE) Act of 2015** (H.R. 3999), Rep. Richard Hudson - This bill passed the House and simply presses the pause button on the resettlement of Syrian and Iraqi refugees in the United States until we can put necessary measures in place to fully vet them.

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With a FreedomWorks scorecard lifetime rating of 93% and a perfect score of 100% in 2015, Rep. Sanford has demonstrated a consistent commitment to limiting waste and breaking through bureaucratic obstruction.





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