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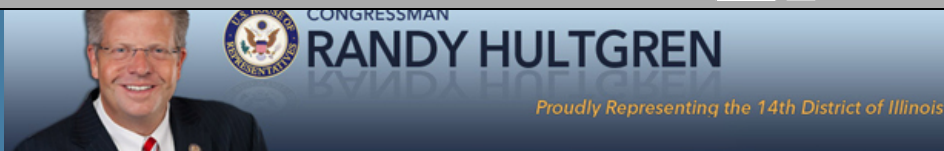
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June 29, 2014

Dear Friends,

The staggering numbers of America's poor and hungry is troubling. In northern Illinois, more than 425,000 people are food insecure and nearly half of them are children. I was humbled to welcome Woodstock resident Lou Ness after she completed her walk, "Hear Our Cry: Marching for America's Poor," a journey from Rockford, IL to Washington, DC. Upon hearing a call from God, Lou Ness—a 65-year-old grandmother and the Executive Director of Shelter Care Ministries of Rockford—set off on her journey on April 1 to bear witness for the nation's impoverished and hungry and deliver their stories to our nation's leaders. Read more on her walk [here](#).

I also delivered well-wishes from my friend, State Senator Pam Althoff who brought Lou's walk to my attention, and presented local tokens of her appreciation. I look forward to working with Lou and our community to spread the word about her inspiring journey as we call attention to America's impoverished and work on providing them much-needed relief.



(Rep. Hultgren with Lou Ness from Woodstock, IL)

Sixteen Students Selected for Top Military Academies

I am very proud to announce that sixteen students I nominated from the 14th District were selected and will be attending United States military service academies this fall. These sixteen outstanding individuals represent the best of what our district has to offer. Our nation's military is looking for bright, motivated, and above all service-minded students to lead our armed forces, and I look forward to observing their developing careers in public service.



Rep. Hultgren meets with military academy candidates. From Left to Right are the following: Thomas Schafer, Batavia, (U.S. Military Academy at West Point); Mathew Livingston, Naperville, (West Point); Vincent Hale, Naperville, (West Point); Congressman Hultgren, Tyler Vasconez, Huntley, (U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis); Christopher Scroggins, Beach Park,

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(U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point); Kat Stutesman, St. Charles, (U.S. Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs); Skylar Brooks, Warrenville, (Air Force); Nicholas Schultz, Oswego, (Air Force); Ethan Young, Batavia, (Air Force).

Not pictured:

Tanner Andrews, Elburn, (West Point)  
 Cole Bruns, Prairie Grove, (West Point)  
 Jake Magness, Huntley, (Air Force)  
 Tyler Pham, Prairie Grove, (West Point)  
 Dionte Reed, Shorewood, (West Point)  
 Ankur Saxena, Naperville, (Air Force)  
 Mackenzie Williams, Geneva, (West Point)

#### What's Chasing Away Illinois Businesses?

In a May 2014 national survey of CEOs, Illinois joined the Ten Worst States for Business, beating out only California and New York. Many are leaving for other states with friendlier policies towards expanding business and creating opportunities for workers.

So what's chasing away Illinois business and jobs?

Simply put, Illinois' leaders in Springfield have made our state's business climate inhospitable, and our neighbors like Wisconsin and Indiana are more than happy to capitalize on it.

So how we can keep, maintain and expand Illinois businesses, with the ultimate goal of getting the people of Illinois back to work?

Please take a look at my op-ed in the *Chicago Sun-Times* to find out: <http://www.suntimes.com/news/otherviews/28137037-452/taxes-and-bad-rules-chase-away-illinois-business.html#.U6CxmpRdVik>

#### Funding for our National Security

- Earlier this month, the House passed H.Res. 628, which will help moves the House and Senate versions of the House-passed **H.R. 3230, the Veterans' Access to Care through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act of 2014**, by a vote of 244-163. I am hopeful the combined legislation will, as before, require the VA to offer non-VA care at the department's expense to any enrolled veteran who cannot get an appointment within VA wait time goals, or who lives more than 40 miles from a VA medical facility. The bill would also ban bonuses for senior-level VA employees until FY 2016.

- The House also passed **H.R. 4870, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2015**, by a vote of 340-73, which funds the Department of Defense and Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO). The legislation funds critical national security needs, military operations abroad, and health and quality-of-life programs for men and women of the Armed Forces and their families.

#### Pursuing Energy Solutions

In Illinois, we know a thing or two about high energy prices. High gas costs have heaped immeasurable burdens on middle class families, those who drive their kids to school, commute to their jobs, cool their homes, run their manufacturing plants and harvest their crops—yet find their paychecks don't go as far as they used to in the current economic climate.

I'm pleased this past week the House acted to pursue North American energy independence—a truly all-of-the-above approach to energy production.

I supported passage of the following bills:

- **North American Energy Infrastructure Act (H.R. 3301)** would prevent another Keystone debacle by modernizing the approval process for cross-border pipelines and eliminating the Presidential Permit requirement.
- **Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act (H.R. 4899)** would open new areas to energy exploration and development on our vast onshore and offshore federal lands. Since the president

took office, federal oil production has been driven down six percent and federal natural gas down 28 percent. H.R. 4899 bill seeks to reverse these trends.

· **Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act (H.R. 6)** would streamline and modernize the permitting process for liquefied natural gas (LNG) export applications when facilities are in the national interest. Currently, there are 26 pending applications stalled by the Energy Department. As Russia exploits the energy dependence of our European partners, H.R. 6 can help create economic opportunities domestically and combat Russia's dominant position abroad.

#### We Need Community Banks Represented at the Fed

Community banks are an integral part of our Main Street economy, providing at least 48 percent of small business loans and serving 1,200 rural counties with otherwise limited options. They lend based upon personal relationships and local knowledge of a community, not a statistical equation based upon income and credit scores. This helps everyone access the American Dream, by extending the credit necessary to own a home, start a small business, or preserve the family farm.

Even though the Federal Reserve, one of the nation's most important bank regulators, can write regulations that significantly impact community banks, its Board of Governors currently has no representative with community banking experience. My colleagues and I urged the administration to appoint a Governor with community bank experience to help give them a voice during regulatory deliberations. Read the letter [here](#).

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

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

In Your Service,



*Randy Hultgren  
Member of Congress  
14th District, Illinois*

#### Randy in the News

WREX-TV NBC 13: [Lou Ness arrives in D.C. after 900 mile walk](#)  
Chicago Sun-Times (op-ed): [Taxes and bad rules chase away Illinois business](#)

Kane County Chronicle: [Hultgren announces 16 students selected for U.S. military service academies](#)

Elburn Herald: [Hultgren supports Illinois' community banks with legislation](#)

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