

After years of passing short-term extensions, I was pleased the House passed <u>H.R. 3086</u>, the Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act (PITFA), a bipartisan bill I cosponsored which permanently prevents state and local governments from imposing new taxes on internet access or imposing multiple or discriminatory taxes on e-commerce.

Introducing Bipartisan, Bicameral Legislation to Modernize our National Labs

Our national labs like Fermilab and Argonne have been a primary driver of American innovation since the Manhattan Project, but many of their most important discoveries have been made in the past decade. Research produced there has enormous economic potential, but many times their discoveries remain stuck in the labs. It is essential we update Cold War-era policies, acknowledge the rapid pace of technological change, and improve the labs' capacity to partner with private enterprise and convert their cutting edge research into marketplace innovation.

That's why I took action and introduced the Department of Energy Laboratory Modernization and Technology Transfer Act of 2014, <u>H.R. 5120</u>, a bipartisan companion bill to similar legislation sponsored by Senators Chris Coons (D-DE) and Marco Rubio (R-FL). These bills will make it easier for our labs to work together with businesses of all sizes to bring groundbreaking research to the marketplace, create jobs and help solve 21st century problems. Further, they will help incentivize the private sector, not government, to spend further resources on promising technologies.

Reining in the IRS

The IRS has immense power over individuals and has abused that power to trample on Americans' First Amendment freedoms.

In the House, the latest appropriations bill we passed this past week, the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act for FY 2015, <u>H.R. 5016</u>, reins in overreach by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), among other things.

H.R. 5016 keeps the IRS in check by:

- Prohibiting funds for the IRS to target individuals based on their political beliefs.
- Prohibiting funds for a proposed regulation to determine tax-exempt status under section 501(c)(4), which could infringe on Americans' First Amendment Rights.
- Prohibiting funds for wasteful and overly expensive conferences or inappropriate videos.
- Prohibiting funds for employee bonuses or awards unless employee performance is given consideration.

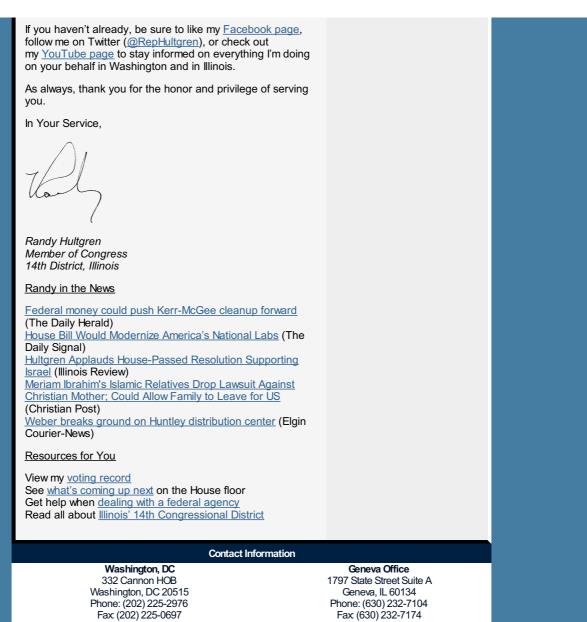
This legislation will prevent the IRS from further targeting individuals based on which box they check at the polls or what church they attend. It's time to rein in the IRS.

In addition, the legislation included the text of <u>H.R. 992</u>, the Swaps Regulatory Improvement Act, a bill I introduced to ensure that entities like farmers and manufacturers that rely on certain types of financial products to persevere during uncertain times would continue to have affordable and stable access to those tools they use to manage market volatility.

Preparing the Next Generation of STEM Leaders

Technological competency is an essential requirement for today's workforce, and computer literacy is key to ensuring our children are prepared to meet the challenges of the future. We cannot underestimate the importance of computer science and coding in the global economy.

This past week, I supported House passage of legislation which would strengthen science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education in the classroom, prepare students for tomorrow's workplace, and promote scientific research and innovation. <u>H.R. 5031</u>, the STEM Education Act of 2013, defines STEM to include other academic subjects that build on these disciplines such as computer science, supports informal and out-of-school STEM education, and supports STEM majors and professionals in becoming K-12 teachers.



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