



CONGRESSMAN STEVE COHEN

Working For Memphis

This year, I have continued working for Memphis in Washington to bring jobs to the Ninth District, help grow our local economy, reduce hunger and poverty, and protect voters' rights. I've also been fighting to bring more flights to the Memphis airport, protect consumers, keep young people out of prison, and give non-violent offenders who have turned their lives around a real chance to start over. Here are a few of the initiatives that I have been working on:

Developing Our Workforce

In August, I reintroduced my *Jobs for Urban Sustainability and Training (JUST) in America Act* to create jobs and provide training for Americans struggling to find work. My legislation would eliminate tax breaks for wealthy oil companies and put that money towards public works and job training programs for unemployed workers. My bill will help ensure taxpayer money is well-used while supporting job training and economic development programs that will help get struggling families back on their feet.

Working with President Obama for Shelby County

I've been working closely this year with President Obama and his Administration to make sure that Memphis and Shelby County receive their fair share of funding from the federal government. For example, earlier this year I announced \$10 million from the U.S. Department of Transportation for improvements at the Memphis Airport and \$3.6 million from the U.S. Department of Commerce to help Memphis EDGE promote job creation, support economic diversification, and encourage entrepreneurship and small business development in Memphis. I will continue to the work closely with the President on jobs, transportation infrastructure, and to implement the Affordable Care Act.



Congressman Cohen's District Director Marzie Thomas and Deputy Directors Willie "Hank" Henry and Beanie Self spend each day working to help solve the problems of the Ninth District's citizens.

Protecting Consumers from Harassment

Just like the United States government, consumers should pay the debts they owe, but they still deserve protection from harassment and the abusive and predatory tactics used by some debt collectors. That's why I introduced the *Fair Debt Collection Improvement Act*, which would prevent debt collectors from threatening legal action when none is available to them or tricking consumers into paying more than they would otherwise be legally obligated to pay.



This year, Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx visited our city and joined Mayor A C Wharton and me to discuss local transportation priorities and other important projects. We showed him around Memphis—including the BNSF rail yard and the FedEx late night hub operation—and took him on a bus tour that ended at Harahan Bridge. After I helped secure funding for the project, the Department of Transportation awarded a \$15 million TIGER Grant last year that gave the project life. Having Secretary Foxx in Memphis provided a great opportunity for him to see how DOT funding has helped Memphis and to have him see firsthand how Memphis can benefit from future projects.

Promoting Equal Employment Opportunities for All

Using a job applicant's credit history to deny employment is not fair because personal credit history is not an accurate predictor of job performance. And worse still, without a job the chances of improving one's credit rating can be significantly diminished, meaning that using credit ratings to deny employment only perpetuates these cyclical problems. My *Equal Employment for All Act* would help those with those with less-than-stellar credit reports by prohibiting employers from using consumer credit checks and bankruptcy filings in the hiring or firing processes.

Fighting Hunger and Poverty

Instead of cutting benefits to families and taking food out of the mouths of hungry children, Congress should do everything in its power to keep Americans out of poverty. That's why I have fought recent attempts to slash the SNAP program and co-sponsored the *Extend Not Cut SNAP Benefits Act* with Rep. John Conyers to prevent even more children, families, and seniors from going hungry.

Protecting Voters' Rights

In October, the Tennessee Supreme Court unfortunately upheld a new unfair, burdensome, and restrictive state voter ID law. The goal of laws like these is—plain and simple—to make it harder for minorities, the elderly, and young people to exercise a Constitutional right that we in this country hold sacred: the right to participate in the democratic process by casting a ballot. The history of our nation is one of expanding access to voting, not restricting it—and this law is a step in the wrong direction. I wrote the *Voter ID Accessibility Act* to help the citizens of Tennessee—as well as every state with restrictive and burdensome voting laws—exercise their right to vote by providing better access to the information and documentation needed to do so.



During President Obama's Second Inauguration in January, Congressman Cohen met with hundreds of Memphians who were in Washington, DC, at his Capitol Hill office.

Bringing More Flights to the Memphis Airport

More flights to and from the Memphis Airport means more jobs in the Ninth District. That's why I have spent this year pushing for more airlines and expanded passenger service routes at Memphis International Airport to help our city make lemonade out of the lemons of Delta's broken promises. I asked the CEOs of American Airlines and US Airways to consider expanding their presence in Memphis as they move towards a merger, and I have also encouraged other airlines, such as JetBlue and Southwest to expand their Memphis presences. I was glad when Frontier Airlines announced they would offer service to Memphis, and I was at the Memphis Airport last month when the first Southwest flight touched down.

Helping Minority-Owned Small Businesses

Small businesses are the backbone of the American economy, but those owned by women, minorities, and veterans often have more difficulty accessing the capital that they need to get off the ground. This year, I wrote the *Expanding Opportunities to Underserved Businesses Act* to help these small businesses get off the ground and thrive in our 21st century economy. It would increase the resources available to underserved small businesses through the U.S. Small Business Administration's microloan program and help those businesses succeed and create good-paying, private-sector jobs in Memphis and around the country. And the Minority Business Center that I worked to secure funding for continues to operate, helping local minority business leaders win contracts and compete in the 21st century global economy.

Cutting Red Tape for the Delta Queen

Through my relationships with President Obama and members of his Administration including former Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood, I've brought good-paying jobs to our region by solidifying a deal that brought the American Queen back to Memphis—and I have not stopped working towards that goal. During the Delta Queen's 80 years of continuous operation, it was a vital part of the tourism industry in Memphis as well as cities along the Mississippi River. The historic ship attracted countless visitors to the Delta region for generations and still has the magnetism and fortitude to continue its voyages for generations to come. This year, I successfully led the effort to pass a bill through the House of Representatives to cut red tape and allow the ship to resume operations. I hope the Senate takes up our bill quickly and look forward to the day that the Delta Queen can once again sail the Mississippi.



Congressman Cohen hosted a procurement fair at the University of Memphis in August to help local small businesses and entrepreneurs learn about federal government contracting opportunities.



Congressman Cohen welcomed more than 300 veterans and servicemembers at his annual Veterans Day event at BRIDGES, where he also discussed his efforts in Congress to support veterans.

VISIT MY WEBSITE: COHEN.HOUSE.GOV

U of M Distinguished Alumnus Award

I was honored when the U of M Alumni Association presented me with their 2013 Distinguished Alumnus award for my work in Congress. The University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law helped prepare me for a long and successful career in public service, and I will always be grateful for the education I received there. All of my life, I have supported and loved the University as I know so many Memphians do, and I truly appreciate this great honor.



Secretary Sebelius and Congressman Cohen Help Memphis Get Covered

Following my invitation, U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius came to Memphis in October. During her visit, I joined Secretary Sebelius in meeting with local partners like Seedco Mid-South who are helping enroll uninsured Memphians in high-quality, affordable coverage. We also participated in an Affordable Care Act outreach and education session at the Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library with area residents who were interested in enrolling in the Tennessee Marketplace, accessible through www.HealthCare.gov.



Get Covered!



The implementation of the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, is well underway. If you are purchasing your health coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace, accessible online at www.HealthCare.gov or by phone at **(800) 318-2596**, please remember that the open enrollment period closes on March 31st, 2014. If you need help enrolling in coverage or have questions about plan options, you can talk to trained experts in Memphis by visiting Seedco's Mid-South office at 22 North Front Street, Suite 900, or calling them at **(901) 528-8341**.

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Steve Cohen

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Presorted Standard

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CONGRESSMAN STEVE COHEN



Winter 2013/2014

District Issues Meeting Please Join Me!

Monday, January 6, 2014 10 a.m. to 12 noon

The Clifford Davis/Odell Horton Federal Building
167 North Main Street, Suite 369

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