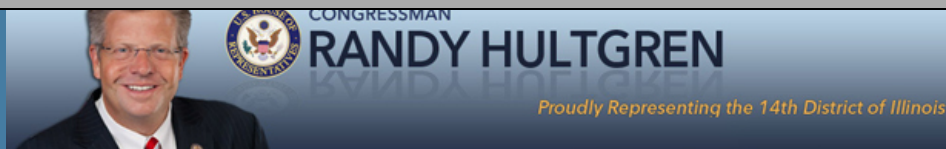


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July 12, 2014

Dear Friends,

This week we were hard at work passing legislation for the benefit of Americans and my constituents in the 14th District. Here's the latest on what's going on in Washington that affects you. And how do Oswego students keep winning at congressional contests? Read on!

House and Senate Modernize Jobs Training Services

When far more Americans—our veterans, our youth, our middle-skill workers, our long-term unemployed—have left the workforce than found new jobs, we must help get workers in Illinois the knowledge and education they need to participate in the 21st Century economy. That's why I was pleased that the House and Senate and both sides of the aisle came together to pass (415 – 6) the **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (H.R. 803)** which reforms federal workforce development services and helps workers acquire needed skills and education. The agreement was based on the Supporting Knowledge and Investing in Lifelong Skills (SKILLS) Act, a bill I supported and the House passed in March 2013. These bills embody key principles that are necessary to ensure a modern, efficient, and effective workforce development system, including:

- **Empowering local workforce investment boards** like the McHenry County Workforce Network Board and the Kane County and River Valley Workforce Investment Board (Kane, DeKalb, Kendall) to tailor their services to our region's needs. It requires a majority of workforce investment board members to be business owners.
- **Providing Illinois and states more flexibility** by maintaining the 15 percent funding reservation at the state level.
- **Streamlining a confusing maze of programs and burdensome federal mandates**, for instance repealing nine federal requirements governing the membership of local workforce investment boards so they can more easily reflect the needs of areas like the 14th District.
- **Enabling better community college—business connectivity** by permitting local areas to contract directly with community colleges like McHenry County College or Waubensee Community College to provide specialized group training programs for employers who need to hire several skilled workers.
- **Targeting youth unemployment** by requiring 75 percent of youth funding to support out-of-work youth, of which 20 percent is prioritized for work-based activities.
- **Promoting skills training for in-demand jobs** by combining “core services” and “intensive services” into a new category of “career services,” allowing individuals to more quickly receive the services that best meet their needs.
- **Delivering strong accountability over the use of taxpayer dollars** by repealing 15 workforce development programs, the first time in more than a decade Congress has repealed ineffective programs. It also reduces funding to states that perform poorly and fail to meet performance metrics.

For more information, visit: <http://edworkforce.house.gov/skillsact/>.

SCRUB Act will Sunset Obsolete Regulations on Businesses

It is plain to Illinois small- and medium-sized business owners that too much regulation, especially outdated regulation, means higher prices, lower wages, and fewer jobs for their hardworking employees, not to mention less overall American economic growth.

Federal regulations now impose an estimated burden of \$1.86 trillion on our economy—that's roughly \$15,000 per U.S. household! This is simply unacceptable to the families in my district who are finding their incomes are not keeping up with rising energy and food prices.

To address this problem, I have become one of four original cosponsors of [H.R. 4874](#), the **Searching for and Cutting Regulations that are Unnecessarily Burdensome (SCRUB) Act of 2014**, at the specific request of the House Judiciary Committee. H.R. 4874 incorporates key elements of my own bill, H.R. 309, the Regulatory Sunset and Review Act, which calls for establishing a process by which federal agencies can sunset obsolete, duplicative and conflicting regulations, especially “major rules” with an economic impact of \$100 million or more.

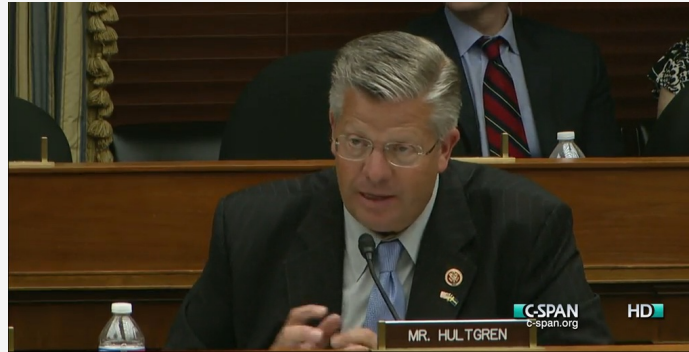
Navigating Muddy Waters at EPA

I have heard from Illinois farmers and businesses who are concerned at how new

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rules under the Clean Water Act will affect them. I, too, have trying to find out just what these new rules will mean for farms with ditches and other small bodies of water. This week in the Science, Space and Technology Committee, I **pressed Honorable Robert Perciasepe, Deputy Administrator at the EPA, over his wavering and muddled explanation of these new rules.**

I wanted to know why, if science is the backbone of rules that are written by the EPA, there is no scientific justification for what a “shallow subsurface hydrological connection” is, a term that was used nearly 30 times in one five-page section of the rule, and more than 50 times throughout the entire rule. Nor is there an explanation for what depth water below the surface ceases to be shallow subsurface and turns into groundwater.

In our exchange below, even Mr. Perciasepe wasn't sure about the rules' extent. (The exchange begins at 1:36). Ultimately, how can a regular citizen be expected to know whether or not they are digging into something that would be groundwater, which the EPA says is exempt in the rule, or shallow subsurface water, where the Clean Water Act comes into play?



(Click picture to watch video)

The rule was less clear to me than when I walked into the hearing, and my constituents are equally confused. From an agency that prides itself on keeping our skies and waters clean and clear, there's an amazing lack of clarity here.

Take Action: Previously, I sent a letter asking the EPA to extend its public comment period on the rule, which it did. Please voice your concerns over the proposed rule at the EPA's website [here](#).

Pursuing Solutions to Air Traffic Controller Challenges

Since the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) proposed new and unexpected hiring procedures that have jeopardized the careers of aspiring air traffic controllers and raised concerns of safety and transparency, I have been focused on making sure our skies are safe and our future controllers get answers. For decades, the FAA has relied on colleges and universities like Lewis University in Romeoville to prepare air traffic controllers through the collegiate training initiative (CTI). Without warning, the FAA changed its hiring practices with few details given about how the changes would be implemented and with little advance warning.

I met with air traffic control instructors, students, recent graduates and career retirees at Lewis University, which serves my constituents in the 14th District and the entire Chicago region, to hear from them about the challenges they face. I am still concerned at the adverse effects these new procedures have created.



(Rep. Hultgren meets with Lewis University instructors, students, recent graduates and retired air traffic controllers)

Previously, I led a bipartisan group of the Illinois delegation in pressing U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx for answers, but I have yet to receive a response. Until the FAA comes clean about these new procedures, I will be working closely with CTI accredited schools like Lewis University to ensure the sustainability of their academic programs, and ensure we have qualified air traffic controllers patrolling our skies. The letter is available [here](#).

Fighting for Religious Liberty Everywhere

Freedom to follow one's conscience, faith and deeply held moral convictions is at the heart of our country's identity.

I was pleased the Supreme Court held up America's deep tradition of religious liberty in the *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby* case. Americans don't give up their freedoms when they open a family business or enter the workplace, and the federal government should not force anyone to choose between violating their deeply held moral convictions or facing burdensome fines and potential bankruptcy. As the federal government hands down more and more mandates on Americans, protecting individual liberty becomes even more crucial to ensuring a free society. A victory for the religious liberty of some is a victory for all.

I also believe that everyone has the fundamental right to profess their faith and practice their religion wherever in the world they may live. No government can justly attack the fundamental right of belief.

That's why I supported the passage of **H.R. 4653, a bill which reauthorizes the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF)**, an independent, bipartisan federal commission dedicated to defending the universal right to freedom of religion or belief abroad. As Miriam Ibrahim, who has been persecuted for her faith, remains safe but in legal limbo at the U.S. Embassy in Sudan, it is imperative we maintain vigilance in protecting religious freedom at home and abroad.

Oswego Students Sweep Congressional Contests

There must be something good in the water in Oswego, Illinois!

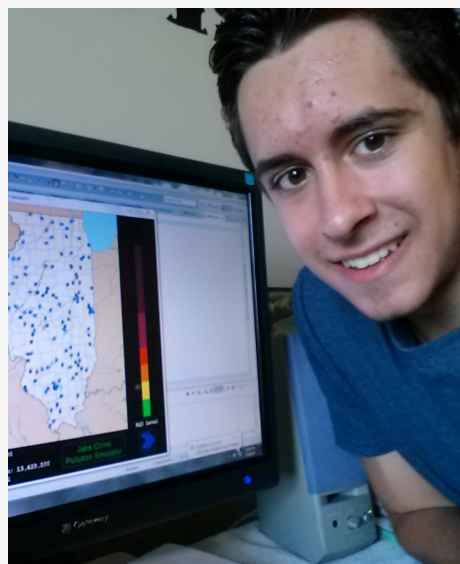
I was thrilled to meet with Ailysh Cooper of Oswego, the 14th District winner of the 2014 Congressional Art Competition, who traveled to Washington, D.C. to see her artwork on display in the U.S. Capitol where it will hang for an entire year.

All 36 students who participated submitted outstanding entries, and I'm excited Ailysh plans to use her talents to serve our community to teach art to high school students.



(Rep. Hultgren presents a certificate to Ailysh Cooper of Oswego)

I am further thrilled to announced that Jake Cirino, also of Oswego, has won the first-ever Congressional Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Academic Competition, the "House App Contest." Jake was selected by area judges from the computer science and technology fields for his app, "Pollution Simulator." A video demonstrating his app, available [here](#), will be featured on the House of Representatives' website, as well as on display in a U.S. Capitol exhibit.



(Jake Cirino with his app, "Pollution Simulator")

High school students in the 14th District demonstrated immense talent in coding and computer science, and I see a bright future ahead for Jake in a STEM career. Getting our students engaged in STEM fields is key to ensuring we cultivate a workforce dedicated to pursuing technological innovation—and it's just plain fun. I urge our high school students to start brainstorming now for next year's competition.

I am grateful to our judges who came from a diverse and impressive array of institutions and companies in Illinois, including Fermilab National Accelerator Laboratory, Argonne National Laboratory, Illinois Science and Technology Coalition (ISTC), 1871, Marketplaces LLC, DigitalGroundUp, Hot Emu Development, FoodTrace, Inc., GigScout, CivicWhitaker Inc., Elmspring Accelerator and PiMaster.

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

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Christian Broadcasting Network: [House OK's Renewal of Religious Freedom Commission](#)
Kane County Chronicle: [Hultgren cosponsors bill that incorporates his sunset regulatory review legislation](#)
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