

News from Representative Randy Hultgren

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Cars and Trucks and Things That Go...

In Illinois, how we get from point A to point B matters. Without a strong and sustainable infrastructure of roads, bridges and highways, we will continue to lose ground as our population continues to grow and businesses look for cost-effective and reliable modes of transport.

Last month, I updated you about my work in Congress pushing forward the transportation priorities of the 14th District and the state, ensuring our cars and trucks have safe and efficient means of getting goods and people to their destinations.

I am pleased to let you know that both chambers came to a conference agreement on a five-year highway bill which passed and was signed into law by the President. The last time a highway bill lasting longer than two years made it to the President's desk was 2005!

This bicameral legislation puts the needs of our communities and our country's long-term competitiveness first. This bill will provide flexibility and certainty to our state and local governments, promote transportation technologies, and ensure fiscal responsibility—without raising taxes. **Illinois is a key beneficiary of this long-term bill which will allow our local communities to plan years down the road for much-needed projects.**

[Click here to read more about the bill's provisions.](#)

[Click here to learn how I actively pursued and received input from a variety of transportation officials and communities throughout the 14th District.](#)

...Grand Opening of Elburn Anderson Road Extension

I was pleased to join state and local officials on a foggy day to celebrate the opening of the Anderson Road extension in Elburn.



(Picture credit: Sandy Bressner)

The project features a new two mile roadway and overpass, direct access to the Elburn Metra Station and provides bike and pedestrian alternatives. It will help create jobs, spur economic development, improve response times for emergency vehicles and reduce congestion and fuel consumption.

[Click here to read local coverage of the event from the Kane County Chronicle.](#)

[For more information and a map of the extension from Kane County, click here.](#)

Talking to Astronauts

Every once in a while we get to do something really cool on the House Science, Space and Technology Committee. This past week, it was talking live to NASA astronauts CAPT Scott Kelly and Dr. Kjell Lindgren, both of whom are working and living on the International Space Station. (That's the one in orbit 260 miles above the Earth and traveling at 17,000 miles per hour.)

I asked them about their current orbit and scientific research projects. Click the picture below to watch the exchange.



(Click picture to watch video)

Audit the Fed

On the House Financial Services Committee I have worked to hold our regulators accountable and to ensure the nation's financial institutions are able to offer responsible access to credit to those in the market for an affordable car or their family's first home. I was pleased the House passed four bills I cosponsored to help hold those regulators accountable, including a bill to audit the Fed.

[Click here for more information on each bill.](#)

Hero of Main Street



The retail industry in Illinois is a key driver of our economy and supplies more than a million jobs to our citizens.

I was honored to accept the National Retail Federation's "Hero of Main Street" Award given to Members of Congress who "have shown through their voting records that they care about retailers, big and small, and value the role these businesses play in communities around the country," as stated by NRF's President and CEO.

Talking Trafficking with Aurora University



In November, I had a fantastic discussion over pizza with engaged students at Aurora University about fighting human trafficking.

Hosted by the Criminology Department and the Wackerlin Center for Faith and Action, we talked about ways to toughen up existing laws, the connections to drug use, homelessness and sporting events and how this fight needs to be waged at all levels—global, federal, state and community. I

am encouraged the students are working on a strategy of their own to combat this horrific plague, and I look forward to discussing their ideas.

[Click to read more about our discussion.](#)

Human Rights Victory

On June 18, 2015 I joined colleagues on the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission in [sending a letter to Secretary Kerry](#) urging him to raise the issue of imprisoned Papuan activists in his meetings with Indonesian President Joko Widodo.

On November 20, it was announced that pro-democracy activist Filep Karma, who was unjustly imprisoned simply for exercising basic democratic rights, was released!

The rights of conscience and belief are foundational to free, functioning societies, and I urge Indonesia to act immediately to release others similarly imprisoned. No one should be punished for practicing their basic right to express their beliefs.

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

[Op-ed: Children Deserve a Targeted, Compassionate Approach to Health Care](#) (WLS 890 AM)

[Hultgren honored as 'Hero of Main Street'](#) (Kendall County Now)
[Kane County gets more than \\$1.7M in federal housing funds](#) (Kane County

Chronicle)

[Letter: Improving Alzheimer's care](#) (Northwest Herald)

[Rauner halts Syrian refugees in Illinois, joins wave of governors](#) (Chicago Tribune)

[Republican lawmakers: Halt Syrian refugees for now](#) (Daily Herald)

Washington, DC Office

2455 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: 202-225-2976
Fax: 202-225-0697

14th District Office

40W310 Lafox Road, Suite F2
Campton Hills, IL 60175
Phone: 630-584-2734
Fax: 630-584-2746

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