

Congressman Larson's First Congressional District Accomplishments

2010

CONSTITUENT SERVICE

Over the past two years Congressman Larson's office has helped over 3000 constituents address their personal casework issues with Federal Departments and Agencies. These issues include: Immigration, Medicare, Social Security, Veterans Affairs, IRS, Postal Service, Housing and Foreclosure Assistance, federal grants and many more

SENIORS AND HEALTH CARE

Congressman Larson traveled on a listening tour to every senior center in the First congressional district. He mainly answered questions about health care reform, helped seniors with Medicare and Social Security Issues and heard their concerns which he brought back to Washington on how to best move forward with implementing the Affordable Care Act.

EDUCATION FUNDING FOR HARTFORD

Hartford Public Schools received approximately \$13.3 million over the next five years, including \$2.7 million this year, to create Student Success Centers at Hartford Public High School, Weaver High School, and Bulkeley High School to help continue the decline of Hartford's High School drop out rate.

CHAIR OF THE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

U.S. Congressman John B. Larson (CT-01) was re-elected by his House Democratic colleagues to serve as Chairman of the House Democratic Caucus for a second term. Congressman Larson, who will serve as the 4th ranking member in the House Democratic leadership, was unopposed and elected by a unanimous vote.

JOBS CREATED BY THE RECOVERY ACT

Recovery Act has created or saved over 3 million jobs nationwide, including more than 33,000 jobs in Connecticut. The latest quarterly report from the Council on Economic Advisers also shows that our economy is on track to create an additional 500,000 jobs nationwide by the end of the year.

IMPROVING CONNECTICUT'S INTERNET ACCESS

Connecticut's Congressional delegation announced a \$93 million Recovery Act investment that will help improve broadband internet access to improve the state's education system and public safety capabilities. The funding was announced at two events, one this morning in Hartford and the second this afternoon in Stamford, where Congressional delegation members were joined by Lawrence E. Strickling, Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information at the U.S. Department of Commerce.

MOVING CONNECTICUT'S FUEL CELL INDUSTRY FORWARD

Congressman Larson joined Bernie Sweeney, Connecticut Director of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), in announcing that the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technologies (CCAT) was one of 10 national winners of competitive grants to support the growth of the fuel

cell industry. CCAT will receive \$566,573 in federal funding as part of the SBA's Regional Clusters Initiative to expand the existing Northeast Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Cluster in Connecticut and throughout the Northeast.

SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS

Congressman Larson joined Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki in announcing that the State of Connecticut will receive \$5.95 million dollars to renovate the State Veterans Home in Rocky Hill

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Congressman Larson hosted an open forum to promote livable communities with special guest U.S. Congressman Earl Blumenauer of Oregon, Chairman of the House Livable Communities Task Force. In addition, the Congressman brought the Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development as well as the Secretary of Transportation to Hartford to discuss the importance of our regional plan and the significance of our local assets highlight by Hartford's I-Quilt Project. Congressman Larson also joined with Senator Dodd and Hartford Mayor Pedro Segarra to announce millions in federal aid to help plan, create and promote sustainable communities in Hartford and the region.

2009

HEARING FROM OUR REGION'S YOUTH

First Congressional District Youth Cabinet is established comprised of high school seniors representing each school in the district. The Cabinet meets monthly and keeps the Congressman informed of issues that are most important to Youth in the district. The Cabinet has served as a model for other office around the country to best communicate with youth in their districts.

NEW FIREHOUSE IN EAST HARTFORD

The East Hartford Fire Department received \$3,394,679 in Recovery Act funding to support the construction of a new fire station. The funding was provided under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's Assistance to Firefighters Fire Station Construction Grants (SCG) program and Vice President Biden attended an announcement in East Hartford.

CREATING JOBS AND INCREASING ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTH CARE

Charter Oak Health Center and Community Health Services received 10 million dollars and 6.1 million dollars respectively from the Recovery Act to support new construction at the health centers. This funding was the most given per capita to any city in the country to help improve health care access to the uninsured and under insured. The funding also helped create 300 jobs in 2010.

SUPPORT FOR CRITICAL PROGRAMS IN OUR CAPITAL CITY

\$10 million dollars in federal funding to support organizations and projects based in Hartford. **In all, 17 programs received a total of \$10,071,000 in federal funding to support Hartford based programs which includes:**

Boys and Girls Club - Establishment of a new site in SAND Community Center

Hartford Housing Authority- Renovation of the Nelton Court Project

Mercy Housing - Renovations of Homeless and Transitional Shelter

Hartford Police Department - Truancy Reduction Program

Hartford Behavioral Health - Stump the Violence Youth Leadership Program

Governors Prevention Partnership-Prevention Initiative for At-Risk Youth

Klingberg Family Centers -Child Abuse Programming

Bushnell Center for Performing Arts-The PARTNERS Arts and Education program

CT Children's Medical Center- Clinical Care Center for Cancer and Blood Disorder

Hartford Hospital -Stroke/Vascular Disease Care Initiative

St. Joseph's College - School of Pharmacy

Capital Workforce Partners -Young Parents Program

UCONN – School of Law -Energy/Environmental Law Program

Connecticut Science Center-Fuel Cell Installation and Educational Presentation

Harriet Beecher Stowe House- Archival Protection and Restoration

The City of Hartford - Hartford Public Safety Complex

Connecticut Department of Transportation - Springfield New Haven Rail Line

Congressional Accomplishments of the 111th Congress:

"This is probably the most productive session of Congress since at least the '60s."
Alan Brinkley, Columbia University historian 12/22/10

"The 111th Congress is going to go down as one of the most productive in terms of its legislative accomplishments, their sweep and scope and breadth, certainly in our lifetimes and probably within the 20th century."
Norman Ornstein, American Enterprise Institute, Financial Times 12/14/10

The 111th Congress, under Democratic leadership, produced landmark achievements for the middle class in job creation, small business tax cuts, health care, Wall Street reform, veterans' health care, and child nutrition.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND CREATING JOBS

AMERICAN RECOVERY & REINVESTMENT ACT, enacted in the first month of President Obama's term, to jumpstart our economy, create and save 3.5 million jobs, give a tax cut to small business and 95% of American workers, begin to rebuild America's road, rail, and water infrastructure, and make a historic commitment to education, clean energy, and science and technology, with unprecedented accountability. (Signed into Law)

SMALL BUSINESS JOBS ACT, landmark legislation providing \$12 billion in tax relief for small businesses by enacting 8 more small business tax cuts on top of the 8 already enacted by this Congress; creating up to 500,000 jobs, by leveraging up to \$300 billion in private sector lending for small businesses through a \$30 billion lending fund for community banks; fully paid for – doesn't add a dime to the deficit. (Signed into Law)

TEACHER JOBS/STATE AID/CLOSING TAX LOOPHOLES, creating and saving nearly 320,000 jobs; providing \$10 billion to save 161,000 teacher jobs and \$16 billion in Medicaid aid, with the effect of creating/saving 158,000 jobs, including police officers, firefighters, nurses & private sector workers; fully paid for by closing loopholes that encourage companies to ship American jobs overseas; cutting deficit by \$1.4 billion. (Signed into Law)

STUDENT AID & FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT, making the largest investment in college aid in history – increasing Pell Grants, making college loans more affordable, and strengthening community colleges – while reducing the federal deficit by ending wasteful student loan subsidies to banks. (Signed into Law)

HIRE ACT, creating up to 300,000 jobs, by providing a payroll tax holiday for businesses that hire unemployed workers and a tax credit for businesses that retain these workers. (Signed into Law)

CASH FOR CLUNKERS, jump-starting the U.S. auto industry, providing consumers with up to \$4,500 to trade in an old vehicle for one with higher fuel efficiency—spurring the sale of 700,000 vehicles. (Signed into Law)

WORKER, HOMEOWNERSHIP & BUSINESS ASSISTANCE ACT, boosting the economy and creating jobs with more unemployment benefits for Americans hit by the recession, an expanded 1st-time homebuyer tax credit, and enhanced small business tax relief—expanded to all struggling U.S. businesses. (Signed into Law)

AMERICA COMPETES REAUTHORIZATION, keeping America number one by investing in modernizing manufacturing, spurring American innovation through basic R&D and high risk/high reward clean energy research, and strengthening math and science education. (On Way to President's Desk)

U.S. MANUFACTURING ENHANCEMENT ACT, to help U.S. manufacturers compete at home and abroad by temporarily suspending or reducing duties on intermediate products or materials these companies use that are not made domestically. (Signed into Law)

KEEPING UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE IN PLACE, extending unemployment insurance for millions of American families through November 30, 2010 (Signed into Law), and through December 31, 2011 (Signed into Law). Every dollar of unemployment benefits creates about \$2.00 in economic activity.

DREAM ACT, boosting our economy and military readiness with limited, targeted legislation – giving the best and brightest of immigrant children who came to the U.S. undocumented and grew up here a chance to contribute to our country by pursuing higher education or serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, with the ability to earn legal status after a rigorous and lengthy process of at least 10 years. (Passed by House)

CURRENCY REFORM/FAIR TRADE, to promote U.S. manufacturing jobs, by giving our government effective tools to address the unfair trade practice of currency manipulation by foreign countries, including China; their undervalued currency makes Chinese exports cheaper and America's exports to China more expensive, putting U.S. manufacturers at an unfair disadvantage; bill is WTO-compliant. (Passed by House)

AMERICAN JOBS AND CLOSING TAX LOOPHOLES ACT, to promote American jobs by restoring credit to small businesses, extending tax incentives for American R&D and tax relief for middle class American families, rebuilding American infrastructure, and expanding jobs for young people; and to close tax loopholes to make Wall Street billionaires pay their fair share of taxes. (Passed by House)

HOME STAR JOBS, to create 168,000 American jobs making energy efficiency products, by providing incentives for consumers to make their homes energy-efficient -- cutting energy bills for 3 million families and reducing our dangerous dependence on foreign oil and dirty fuels. (Passed by House)

RURAL STAR/HOME STAR LOANS, to create tens of thousands more U.S. jobs, by creating Rural Star loans for people in rural America to make their homes and farms more energy-efficient; and a Home Star Loan Program for no-interest loans for energy efficiency home upgrades in other areas. (Passed by House)

SMALL BUSINESS & INFRASTRUCTURE JOBS ACT, to extend Build America Bonds to help finance the rebuilding of schools, hospitals, roads and bridges; and target tax incentives to spur investment in small businesses and help entrepreneurs looking to start a new business. (Passed by House)

PROTECTING CONSUMERS

WALL STREET REFORM, historic reforms to end taxpayer-funded bailouts and the idea of ‘too big to fail’, and protect and empower consumers to make the best decisions on mortgages, credit cards, and their own financial future. Lack of accountability for Wall Street and big banks cost 8 million jobs. (Signed into Law)

CREDIT CARDHOLDERS’ BILL OF RIGHTS, providing tough new protections already saving consumers money—like banning unfair rate hikes, abusive fees, and penalties—and strengthening enforcement. (Signed into Law)

FOOD SAFETY, a sweeping, landmark overhaul of the nation’s food safety system in the wake of tainted food scandals; giving FDA new authorities and putting a new focus on prevention. (Signed into Law)

FRAUD ENFORCEMENT & RECOVERY ACT, providing tools to prosecute mortgage scams and corporate fraud that contributed to financial crisis; creating an outside commission to examine its causes. (Signed into Law)

LILLY LEDBETTER FAIR PAY ACT, restoring the rights of women and other workers to challenge unfair pay—to help close the wage gap where women earn 78 cents for every \$1 a man earns in America. (Signed into Law)

AIRLINE PASSENGER SAFETY, to improve airline passenger safety, by several steps including strengthening commercial pilot training requirements, requiring a minimum of 1,500 flight hours required for an airline pilot certificate. (Signed into Law)

HELPING HOMEOWNERS

HELPING FAMILIES SAVE THEIR HOMES ACT, building on the President’s initiative to stem the foreclosure crisis, with significant incentives to lenders, servicers, and homeowners to modify loans. (Signed into Law)

FHA REFORM, to shore up federal mortgage insurance in order to expand homeownership opportunities by making essential reforms to strengthen the financial footing of the Federal Housing Administration, saving taxpayers \$2.5 billion over 5 years. (Passed by House)

AFFORDABLE QUALITY HEALTH CARE

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT, landmark legislation that prohibits discrimination against Americans with pre-existing conditions and dropping coverage when you get sick and need it most; lowering costs for privately-insured middle class families and small businesses;

strengthening Medicare and lowering seniors' prescription drug costs; creating up to 4 million jobs; and reducing the deficit by the largest amount in almost two decades, while ensuring affordable coverage for 32 million more Americans. (Signed into Law)

CHILD NUTRITION, landmark legislation to fight both childhood obesity and childhood hunger; improving the nutritional quality of school lunches, expanding access for needy children to nutrition programs, and providing schools with first boost in reimbursement rate for school lunches in more than 30 years. (Signed into Law)

HEALTH CARE FOR 11 MILLION CHILDREN, to finally provide cost-effective health coverage for 4 million more children and preserve coverage for 7 million children already enrolled. (Signed into Law)

FDA REGULATION OF TOBACCO, granting the Food and Drug Administration authority to regulate advertising, marketing, and manufacturing of tobacco products, the #1 cause of preventable U.S. deaths, and to stop tobacco companies from targeting our children. (Signed into Law)

ENSURING SENIORS' ACCESS TO THEIR DOCTORS, by blocking a scheduled 25% cut in Medicare physician payments and extending current Medicare payment rates through December 31, 2011. (Signed into Law)

9/11 HEALTH AND COMPENSATION ACT, providing health care and compensation for first responders and others exposed to the toxins of Ground Zero. (On Way to President's Desk)

RYAN WHITE HIV/AIDS TREATMENT EXTENSION ACT, guaranteeing access to lifesaving medical services, primary care, and medications for low-income patients with AIDS and HIV. (Signed into Law)

CLEAN ENERGY JOBS & HOLDING BP ACCOUNTABLE

AMERICAN CLEAN ENERGY AND SECURITY ACT, historic legislation to create 1.7 million jobs (with the Recovery Act); help free us from funding terrorism with our dependence on foreign oil; reduce the carbon pollution causing climate change; keep costs low for Americans; will not increase the deficit. (Passed by House)

INCENTIVES FOR CLEAN ENERGY JOBS, to extend for one year the Section 1603 renewable energy grant program, which provides grants in lieu of existing tax credits, that could create up to 100,000 jobs in the solar and wind industries. (Signed into Law)

RESPONSE TO BP OIL SPILL, a bill providing a comprehensive response to BP oil spill – eliminating the \$75 million cap on the liability of oil companies, restoring the Gulf Coast and protecting local residents, imposing new safety requirements and strengthening oversight of

offshore drilling, and protecting whistleblowers in offshore drilling industry who report safety violations. (Passed by House)

SPILL ACT, to reform maritime liability laws to ensure that the families of those killed or injured in the BP Oil Spill and other such tragedies are justly compensated for their losses. (Passed by House)

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY & GOVERNMENT REFORM

STATUTORY PAY-AS-YOU-GO, to restore 1990s law that turned record deficits into surpluses, by forcing tough choices; Congress must offset new policies that reduce revenues or expand entitlements. (Signed into Law)

JUSTICE FOR BLACK FARMERS AND NATIVE AMERICANS, funding lawsuit settlements regarding discrimination against black farmers and Native American trust account holders by the government. (Signed into Law)

WEAPON SYSTEMS ACQUISITION REFORM, cracking down on DOD waste and cost overruns in the acquisition of weapon systems, increasing oversight and competition. (Signed into Law)

IMPROVE ACQUISITION ACT, overhauling DOD acquisition for the 80 percent of spending that is for services and other non-weapons items, saving taxpayers an estimated \$135 billion. (On Way to President's Desk)

DISCLOSE ACT, to fight a corporate takeover of our elections, requires them to disclose they are behind political ads; bans foreign-controlled corporations from putting money in U.S. elections. (Passed by House)

NATIONAL SECURITY/TROOPS AND VETERANS

FY 2010 DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION, authorizing 3.4% troop pay raise, strengthening military readiness and military families support, focusing our strategy in Afghanistan and redeployment from Iraq. (Signed into Law)

FY 2011 DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION, strengthening support for service members, military readiness, and counterterrorism efforts, including troop pay raise. (Signed into Law)

REPEAL OF DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL, to provide for the repeal of this outdated policy, contingent on the certification that military review completed and repeal will not impact

readiness. (Signed into Law)

VETERANS HEALTH CARE BUDGET REFORM ACT, authorizing Congress to approve VA appropriations one year in advance to ensure reliable and timely funding of VA health care funding. (Signed into Law)

FY 2010 MILITARY CONSTRUCTION-VA APPROPRIATIONS, strengthening quality health care for 5 million veterans by investing 11% more for medical care and benefits. (Signed into Law)

FY 2009 SUPPLEMENTAL, making retroactive stop loss payments to 185,000+ service members, and expanding New GI Bill benefits for college to all children of fallen U.S. service members. (Signed into Law)

CAREGIVERS AND VETERANS OMNIBUS HEALTH SERVICES, landmark legislation providing help to caregivers of disabled, ill or injured veterans, and improving VA health services for women veterans. (Signed into Law)

AGENT ORANGE BENEFITS, providing long overdue disability benefits to more than 150,000 Vietnam veterans and survivors for exposure to Agent Orange. (Signed into Law)

STRENGTHENING NEW GI BILL, making these veterans' education benefits for college easier to use; covering vocational, technical and on-the-job training, as well as more National Guardsmen. (Signed into Law)

SECURITY FOR AMERICA'S COMMUNITIES

FY 2010 HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS, strengthening security at our ports and borders and on commercial airlines, giving first responders tools to respond to terrorism. (Signed into Law)

HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT, giving law enforcement resources to prevent and prosecute hate crimes against Americans based on gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability. (Signed into Law)

BORDER SECURITY EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS, providing \$600 million to enhance security at the Southwest Border, including funding 1,200 additional Border Patrol agents, 500 additional CBP officers, and additional FBI, DEA, and ATF agents for the border region; paid for by visa fees. (Signed into Law)

COPS ON THE BEAT, putting an additional 50,000 cops on the street over the next 5 years. (Passed by House)

CHEMICAL & WATER SECURITY ACT, to increase security and safety of the nation's chemical plants and water facilities vulnerable to terrorist attacks and the millions of Americans that live nearby. (Passed by House)