

CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION FACT FINDING TRIP TO GREENLAND

As a Member of the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming, I recently participated in a fact finding mission to Greenland, Germany, Belgium and the United Kingdom, where I had the opportunity to meet with Swiss scientists and

European officials who are working on global solutions to climate change. The experience reaffirmed my

belief in the science of global warming and the urgency with which we must act. It is critical that the United States take a leading role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and I am proud to be working to achieve that goal.



Solis meets with Chancellor Merkel of Germany (fourth from left), Speaker Pelosi, and members of the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming.



As a member of the Select Committee on Energy and Global Warming, Congresswoman Solis recently took part in a fact finding trip to Greenland, Germany, Belgium and the United Kingdom where she had the opportunity to see firsthand the adverse environmental and economic impacts of global warming.

ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION

Perchlorate

I introduced H.R. 1747 to ensure our drinking water is safe from rocket fuel. Known as perchlorate, this contaminant can risk the health of pregnant women and children by blocking the ability of the thyroid to absorb iodine, which is needed for normal human health and development. Since 1997, 456 drinking water sources in California have been found with perchlorate contamination, including more than 100 in Los Angeles County.

Marine Vessels Emission Reduction Act

Each year in California alone there are 9,000 premature deaths, 2,400 hospitalizations, 140,000 cases of asthma, and 980,000 lost days of work as a result of poor air quality. Despite efforts to clean our air, over half of such deaths will occur in the Los Angeles air basin. That is why I recently introduced the Marine Vessel Emission Reduction Act (H.R. 2548), which would require the EPA to reduce pollution from container ships and other vessels at our nation's ports. This legislation will ensure that as our economy grows our public health improves, our workers have a safer environment, and costs associated with public health are reduced.

Cesar Chavez

H.R. 359 legislation I introduced to honor the life of Cesar Chavez was passed by the full U.S. House of Representatives on July 9, 2007. This legislation allows the National Park Service to trace landmarks significant in Chavez's life and recommend ways to honor and recognize him in our nation's parks. There are currently no historical, geographic, or cultural designations recognizing the Latino community in the National Park Service. This legislation provides an outstanding opportunity to correct this injustice, by demonstrating and interpreting the history of Chavez through the National Park Service.

Green Jobs

The green economy is a billion dollar economic sector. I believe that as our nation invests heavily in innovation and new green technology, we must ensure both that workers are skilled on this new technology and that those unskilled and underserved workers have an opportunity to advance as our nation's economy advances. That is why I introduced H.R. 2847, the Green Jobs Act of 2007, legislation to invest in work force training programs for the green economy, such as energy efficiency and renewable electricity technologies. This legislation creates both a skilled work force and pathways out of poverty for many.

MY OFFICES ARE HERE TO HELP

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CONGRESSWOMAN HILDA L. SOLIS

Environment & Health Care Update

Summer 2007

Dear Friends:

I hope you are enjoying the summer of 2007!

I am working hard in Congress to ensure that the concerns of residents in East Los Angeles and the San Gabriel Valley are heard on important issues such as health care, the economy and the environment.

As a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which has jurisdiction over health and environmental issues, and as chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus's Task Force on Health and the Environment, I am working to provide residents with affordable health care options and a cleaner environment. This newsletter provides information about some of the work I am doing in Congress on these important issues. I hope you find it helpful.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if I may be of assistance to you or your family.

Sincerely,

Hilda L. Solis

HILDA L. SOLIS
Member of Congress
www.house.gov/solis



Congresswoman Solis nominated Wilson High School student Vanessa Payan of El Sereno as a Congressional Page. Payan, 16, is among the 72 congressional pages working and studying in Washington, D.C. this summer.

SAVE THE DATE!
CONGRESSWOMAN HILDA L. SOLIS
Invites you to attend her
2007 Los Angeles Global Warming
Forum: Local Challenges and
Opportunities
In Collaboration with California State
University, Los Angeles
Thursday, August 16th 9 am - 3 pm
Cal State Los Angeles
Golden Eagle Conference Center
5151 State University Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90032
For more information call
(626) 448-1271

CONGRESSWOMAN HILDA L. SOLIS
United States House of Representatives
Washington D.C., 20515

Official Business

Hilda L. Solis

M.C.
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STANDARD

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"I am working hard in Congress to improve the lives of people in our community," said Congresswoman Solis.



HEALTH LEGISLATION

COMBATING HEALTH CARE DISPARITIES



Congresswoman Solis speaks to a health care professional about health disparities among groups of color.

Despite improvements in life expectancy and overall health, communities of color continue to suffer from significant disparities. That is why I recently introduced H.R. 3014, comprehensive legislation to reduce racial and ethnic health disparities. This bi-partisan legislation addresses the importance of language access, health professions training, data collection, and health coverage for immigrants.

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

I recently introduced the Community Health Workers Act of 2007 (H.R. 1968), to support the efforts of community health workers, also known as promotoras de salud, making them eligible for grants through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Community health workers reach out to underserved communities in ways that the current health care system cannot. These non-traditional methods help improve the health status of uninsured populations.

HEALTHY PLACES BILL

Environmental hazards such as air pollution and lack of green space lead to poor health conditions, including asthma and obesity. The San Gabriel Valley has less than one-half an acre per 1,000 people – eight times less than the amount needed to positively impact health. We need to improve the air we breathe and the water we drink and to increase opportunities for green space. Legislation I introduced, the Healthy Places Act of 2007 (H.R. 398), will provide grants for communities to improve their environmental health. Also, a study I commissioned (Public Law 108-042) will help find ways to create more outdoor opportunities in our own neighborhoods. Together we can improve both our health and our environment.



Congresswoman Solis visits a park in the city of Baldwin Park to discuss the Healthy Places Act.

SCHIP REAUTHORIZATION

As the Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Task Force on Health and the Environment, and a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, one of my biggest priorities is for the reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). SCHIP will help provide health care coverage to millions of eligible low-income but uninsured children, protect Medicare beneficiaries' access to care by improving payments to doctors, and make Medicare more affordable for low-income seniors.

GAS PRICES

As the price at the gas pump rises above \$3.00 a gallon, California families are hurting – while oil companies continue to reap gigantic profits and oil executives receive astronomical paychecks. As a Member of the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming and the Committee on Energy and Commerce, I am committed to reducing emissions that cause climate change, obtaining the refunds California's consumers deserve, and promoting innovation and job investments.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Minority and low-income communities across our nation suffer disproportionately from environmental contaminants in their neighborhoods. I am

working hard to protect the health of all communities residing near industrial facilities, so that they can live and work in safe places. I introduced the Environmental Act of 2007 (H.R. 1103) to protect the right of communities to know what is being released in their neighborhood, and ensuring that federal agencies are protecting our nation's most vulnerable communities.



Congresswoman Solis discusses new green jobs opportunities with members of the Forest Service.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS/CAREER DAY



Congresswoman Solis speaks to students at the Baldwin Park High School Environmental Awareness/Career Day where she encouraged students to consider careers associated with the environment and natural resources.

I was proud to serve as the keynote speaker at the first annual Baldwin Park High School Environmental Awareness/Career Day on June 1st. The event, hosted by the National Hispanic Environmental Council gave students an opportunity to learn about topics and careers associated with the environmental and natural resources fields. It featured exhibits by Los Angeles area environmental agencies, as well as local green groups, corporations, and others. A major national investment in renewable energy could create 3 million green collar jobs over a 10 year period.

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