



# The 47th Flyer

News for California's 47<sup>th</sup> Congressional District  
from Congressman Alan Lowenthal



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February 18, 2015

## The President's Request To Battle ISIS

Last week, President Obama put forward a [draft Authorization of the Use of Military Force](#) (AUMF) resolution asking Congress to formally authorize U.S. military action, including limited ground troops, in the already six-month old fight against the terrorist group, ISIS.

I was pleased to see the President make the request; however, I wanted you to know where I stand on the issue.

First, my hope is that the House leadership will allow this proposal to move through the House in what is called "regular order." This means that the proposal will go through committees. It will be discussed. It will be debated. And, hopefully it will be amended to address concerns that I have with it in its current form.

One issue is how a new AUMF would affect the two existing AUMFs. The first AUMF currently in effect is broad and open-ended, directed at terrorist groups and sponsors approved in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, and the second AUMF in effect is an Iraq-specific AUMF approved in 2002 to go after Saddam Hussein. I believe that if this third and newly proposed AUMF, if authorized by Congress, should include language that repeals the 2001 AUMF since we should not provide a "blank check" to the Administration should this third AUMF's authorities prove insufficient to meet our objective. In addition, I also believe that the 2002 AUMF should be repealed.

I also believe that the language in the President's proposal needs to be more specific to eliminate the possibility that U.S. boots-on-the-ground will be used to directly engage ISIS and its "associated persons or forces" [as indicated in the draft text].

ISIS is a horrible enemy that has committed despicable acts of violence and mass executions. However, I believe the way to do this is through cooperation with the regional partners. We can provide materiel support. We can provide air support. We can provide leadership. We can provide technology. But I believe the regional partners should lead from the front to resolve this unfortunate impact on humanity.

Over the coming weeks, I look forward to discussing and debating the President's proposal with my colleagues on the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

## On The Hill

### Safe Climate Caucus

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**Should companies that mine hardrock minerals on public lands be required to pay royalties to the American people for the minerals they mine?**

Yes - Hardrock mining companies should pay for extracting publicly-owned resources.

Maybe - But only new mining claims; old mines should continue to extract minerals without paying the American public.

No - Mining companies already expend funds to extract the resources.

[If you have a problem, click here to open survey in a new window](#)

Climate change is a major threat to our health and security that only grows the longer we wait. It is Congress's job to do what we can to ensure the health, well-being, and security of the American public. Unfortunately, many in Congress refuse to even acknowledge that climate change is occurring, or that humans have an impact, or that actions need to be taken.

That is why I am proud to lead the 38-Member-strong House Safe Climate Caucus as the new chairman.

The goal of the Safe Climate Caucus is to raise awareness both within Congress and with the public about the many ways climate change is affecting the world around us. Our caucus will speak the truth about climate change, even in the face of denial. And our members will speak the truth--every week--on the House floor, in print, and through social media.

It was a distinct honor to have recently-retired Congressman Henry Waxman ask me to take over as the House Safe Climate Caucus chair, a caucus that he originally started when the House came under Republican control and the new House Majority stopped trying to tackle climate change.

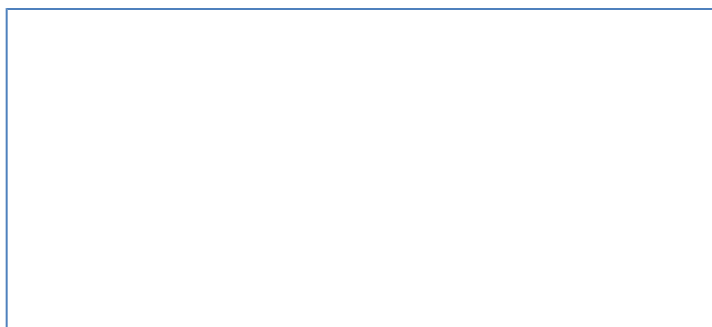
Congress needs to act now to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, encourage new innovation for clean energy, and increase the resilience of our communities. I look forward to working with all the members of the Caucus to keep that message alive in the House.



Click the image above to see a video with former Congressman Waxman and me talking about the Caucus, or [click here](#).

### **UN Poly Students**

Students from Long Beach Polytechnic High School's Model United Nations stopped by for a visit last week and I was glad to spend some time listening to them talk about the program. The Model UN is an academic program in which students learn about diplomacy, international relations, and the United Nations. It was great to meet with the Poly team and great to see how this program has shaped their interest in civic engagement.





### **A Visit From Adjutant General Baldwin**

It was a pleasure to meet with Adjutant General David Baldwin, head of the California National Guard. I am proud to represent a district with such an amazing National Guard facility--the Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base (JFTB). In addition to being home to many key California National Guard units, the JFTB is also a key facility in the state's emergency response system, and serves our youth through the Sunburst Academy Youth Challenge Program and the STARBASE STEM Education Program. This is why it is a critical priority for me to ensure that our outstanding service members at the JFTB have all the resources they need to get their job done.



### **Asking Mining Companies To Pay Their Fair Share**

The federal government administers mineral resources found in over 700 million acres of federally-owned public lands, 57 million acres on Native American lands, and 1.8 billion acres below offshore waters.

Right now, if you hold an oil or gas lease on public lands in this country, you pay a royalty to the American people. If you hold a coal lease on public lands in this

country, you pay a royalty to the American people. If you mine sulfur on public lands in this country, you pay a royalty to the American people.

However, due to a law dating back to 1872, if you mine gold, silver, platinum, copper, or any number of other highly valuable metals on public lands, you don't owe one cent in royalties to the American people.

That is shameful and unfair to the American people. It also has to stop.

This is why on Friday, I joined with my colleagues Representatives Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.), Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.), and Paul Tonko (D-N.Y.) to introduce the Hardrock Mining Reform and Reclamation Act of 2015.

The bill would establish an 8 percent royalty on new mines and a 4 percent royalty on existing mines to bring a fair return to American taxpayers. Those royalties would be used to clean-up abandoned mine lands across the country. The bill would also end the antiquated system of allowing companies to buy mineral-rich public land for as little as \$2.50 per acre; establish strong standards to make sure taxpayers don't pay for clean-ups if a company skips town or goes bankrupt; and provide clear authority to federal land managers to reject a proposed mine if it would unduly degrade public lands or resources.

Finally, our legislation would protect wilderness study areas, roadless areas, and wild and scenic rivers from mining, while empowering state, local, and tribal governments to petition federal authorities to withdraw certain areas from mining in order to protect drinking water, wildlife habitat, and cultural and historic resources.

I hope that every Member of Congress will recognize that this is about fairness and fiscal responsibility, and throw their support behind this effort as well.

## In The 47th District

### Young Women's Empowerment

Last week, I mentioned that I will be joining California State University Long Beach President Dr. Jane Close Conoley on the CSULB campus Saturday, Feb. 21 for the 2015 Young Women's Empowerment Conference.

There is still time for any 9th to 12th grade student from the 47th District to sign up and participate in the conference.

The theme of this year's event is "Linking Learning to Life," and will feature workshops and panel discussions for young women about education, careers, and personal growth.

The goal of the event is to provide an opportunity for young women to learn more about the options open to them and encourage thinking about creating their pathway to success.

Representatives from numerous nonprofit organizations and colleges and universities have been invited to host information tables.

I encourage any young woman who would like to learn more about the opportunities and choices open to her to attend the Conference.

You can find more detail about the event by [clicking here](#).

## Congress U

### When Bills Reach The House Floor

Last week, Congress U looked at how a piece of proposed legislation moves through House committees before moving to the floor of the House.

After a bill is reported out of committee, it is ready for possible consideration on the House floor. However, most bills that are reported by committees never see the time of day on the House floor.

Consideration of proposed legislation by the full House can take place through different procedural mechanisms. Major legislation is usually considered under a "special rule". The special rule is itself a simple resolution that the House votes on in order to set the details of how the underlying legislation will be handled on the floor. For example, a rule can determine how much time will be allowed for debate, whether amendments can be offered, and who controls the debate time.

Debate time for a piece of proposed legislation is split between proponents and opponents of the measure, with each side yielding time to other House Members who want to speak on the bill. If amendments are offered, these are also first debated and then voted upon.

Once all debate is completed and all amendments decided upon, the House is ready to vote on "final passage" of the underlying bill. In many cases, a motion to "recommit" the bill "with instructions," or add one final amendment is requested by opponents of the measure. After the motion to recommit passes or fails, a vote on final passage is ordered.

The vote on final passage starts as a voice vote, with a simple majority of Yea or Nay votes being determined by the Speaker. However, once the determination is made, any Member can ask for a "roll call," or "recorded" vote, where each Member must record their votes through the House floor's electronic voting system which registers each individual Member's response.

Next week, we will look at what happens to a piece of proposed legislation once it passes the House.

### Last Week's Poll

#### Should the United States normalize trade, travel, and diplomatic relations with Cuba?

**56.9% Yes** - This is a direct way to support human rights improvements in Cuba  
**25.5% Maybe** - But it should be a careful, well-thought process over time  
**17.6% No** - Any normalization will only empower the repressive Cuban government

Thank you,



Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress

**Washington, D.C. Office**  
515 Cannon  
House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: 202-225-7924  
Hours: M-F 9-5:30pm

**Long Beach District Office**  
100 W. Broadway  
Long Beach, CA 90802  
West Tower Suite 600  
Phone: (562) 436-3828  
Fax: (562) 437-6434

