

Dear Friend,

This past week was dominated by news about the terrorist group ISIS and talks of what the United States is prepared to do to combat this growing threat. Last week we heard the President finally address this issue, as he spoke to the American people, but there still seems to be more questions than answers about our strategy moving forward. As the House of Representatives held a vote to authorize the President to arm Syrian rebels in the fight against ISIS, I heard from countless constituents expressing their views and opinions about what action we should take as a country. Your comments are an invaluable asset for me as I make my voting decisions on this and other important issues.

### **Defeating ISIS by arming Syrian Rebels?**

Ultimately, I voted against authorizing President Obama to grant military aid to Syrian rebels. One year ago, the American people adamantly opposed any military action during the Syrian civil war because it was unclear who our allies were. I see no change today and cannot support arming rebels that could potentially be our enemy tomorrow. The Syrian rebels are known to be violent death squads that have no loyalty to the United States or our values. We have no allies in Syria. We should not be spending precious taxpayer money and jeopardizing the lives of our soldiers to help one terrorist group fight another terrorist group. Further, Congress has not declared war, as is required under the Constitution. We cannot fund a war that we have not officially declared.

Several generals and foreign policy experts have stated that it will take American boots on the ground to finish the job and dismantle ISIS. The President continues to make clear this is not an option, even contradicting military advisors within his own administration. I have serious concerns about the President's plan or lack thereof. As such, I could not support this panicked reaction to "do something" that is not thought out and lacks a winnable strategy.



(Picture courtesy of news.vice.com)

### **Stopping the Cycle of the Status Quo**

Additionally, this past week I voted against a Continuing Resolution (CR) Spending bill which temporarily funds the government through the end of this calendar year. This CR is due to the fact that the Senate has not taken up a single one of the House passed appropriations bills. This is another admission that the Senate has again failed to pass a budget for the fourth time in five years. I voted against the CR because of the inappropriate time line that punts the budgeting

issue to a chaotic lame duck Congress. I also opposed this stopgap measure because it contains no spending reforms which we desperately need. This flawed legislation also reauthorizes the Ex-IM Bank, a form of crony capitalism we need to phase out. I was not sent to DC to continue business as usual, and I will continue to fight against it.

As one of the leading members on this issue, the House has made an honest effort to return to a normal order of creating and appropriating a budget in an open manner that encourages a dialogue with the American people. In fact, the House passed 7 different appropriations bills in 2014. For my part, I introduced 27 amendments, with 21 of them successfully passing the House and positively affected almost one billion dollars in federal spending. This short term punt of the CR undermines the work done to root out federal waste, fraud and abuse in federal spending. A list of my amendments for the FY 15 Appropriations bill can be found [HERE](#).

### **House Votes Again to Enact My Wildfire Prevention Legislation**

On Thursday the House gave the Senate another chance to take up legislation titled the Jobs for America Act that will promote job creation and economic growth for Americans across the country. This legislation contains some of the 383 bills stuck in the Senate awaiting action, including important provisions of my Catastrophic Wildfire Prevention Act. Unfortunately, this legislation has lingered in the Senate for nearly a year.

As a medical professional for over 25 years, I know firsthand that preventative care is a much cheaper and effective treatment as opposed to dealing with an illness or disease after it has already been diagnosed. This must be the same approach we take to forest health and wildfire prevention. Unfortunately, President Obama and his administration continue to play games and waste billions of dollars on the backend on suppression.

There is absolutely no room for politics when it comes to wildfires—the Senate must join the House and adopt policies that allow for active management of our forests. It's time for Harry Reid's do-nothing Senate to take action and pass the Jobs for America Act. I'm sick of being a victim of catastrophic wildfires and suffering from the consequences of bad policies.



(Rep. Gosar examining the Arizona Wallow fire - June 2011)

### **Introducing the TRAILS Act - Ensuring Access to Public Lands**

On Friday I introduced the Travel and Resource Access Including Local Stakeholders (TRAILS) Act. This legislation puts local communities and stakeholders in the driver seat for developing travel management plans that affect their livelihoods on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) acreage.

Unfortunately, access to public lands has been hampered by decisions from bureaucrats within the BLM and has a detrimental impact to local communities across the country. I heard about this issue first hand from my constituents when the BLM Yuma office proposed to close nearly 50% of the trails in the area with the release of the draft La Posa Travel Management Plan.

OHV recreation contributes nearly \$4 billion annually to Arizona's economy, supports 40,000 jobs and generates nearly \$200 million in sales taxes. Local communities are the first to be affected by changes in travel and access management decisions, yet, are routinely left out of the development discussion. The BLM shouldn't be harming local communities and limiting access to public lands all in the name of pursuing a misguided agenda. I will continue to fight this overreach. An article from the Parker Pioneer about the town hall I held on this issue back in April can be found [HERE](#).



### **GAO Report: Tax Dollars Used for Obamacare Abortion Coverage**

This past week the Government Accountability Office released a deeply disturbing report showing that taxpayer dollars have been used to fund abortion coverage by many insurance providers around the country despite the President's promise that "no federal dollars will be used to fund abortions, and federal conscience laws will remain in place".

This latest broken promise from the Obama Administration is without a doubt the most shameful discovery yet as we are still 'finding out what is in the bill'. For decades members of Congress on both sides of the aisle and of all faiths have come to the common understanding that taxpayer dollars should never be used to fund abortion procedures.

This utterly failed healthcare law, as well as the administration that jammed it through Congress, has no more credibility with the American people. This violation of the law must not stand and I will continue to work with my colleagues in the House to replace this unlawful legislation with a patient-centered, free market healthcare alternative that does not violate the trust of the American people. The full GAO report can be found [HERE](#).

### **Helping an Arizona Hero**

It was my great honor to help an Arizona family restore the cherished memory and military medals of an American hero, Thomas L. Cullon. My office had been working with Thomas Cullon's family to replace his World War II medals that were stolen during a burglary in 1974.

Thomas courageously served in the U.S. Air Force and passed away in 1971. Last month, I was able to present the replaced medals to Thomas's daughter, Crystal Koons. His medals included; the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal, the Good Conduct Medal (Army), the Honorable Service Lapel Button WWII, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal and the World War II Victory Medal.

These medals were valiantly earned and represent the sacrifice and patriotism of Thomas Cullon. His family rightly deserves the honor and pride accompanied with these medals so that none may forget his military service. You can read more about this from the Prescott Daily Courier [HERE](#).



(Rep. Gosar presenting the replacement medals of Thomas Cullon to his daughter Crystal Koons)

**Picture Highlights from the Week:**



Last Saturday I had a great meeting with the Arizona Automatic Merchandising Council yearly convention.

NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2014



This past Friday was National POW/MIA Recognition Day in the United States. We must all do our part and never forget our POW's and MIA's and honor their sacrifice by working to return every soldier back to the land of the free and the home of the brave.



Last week I met with the Fresh Produce Association of the Americas and they presented my office with a painting done by an Arizona artist. I'm sure it will definitely brighten up the place!



I was honored to be recognized today by the National Federation of Independent Businesses and their CEO Dan Danner with their Guardian of Small Business Award.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:**

WHEN: Thursday September 25th

EVENT: Invasive Species Round Table

TIME: 5:30-7:00 PM

LOCATION: Aquatic Center (100 Park Avenue) Lake Havasu Room, Lake Havasu City

# Invasive Species Roundtable

Hosted By Congressman  
**Paul Gosar**

**Thursday September 25**  
**5:30-6:30 PM**

**Aquatic Center, 100 Park Ave.**  
**Lake Havasu City, AZ**

visit [GOSAR.house.gov](http://GOSAR.house.gov) or call 928-445-1683  
for more information

 @RepGosar

I will additionally be holding Meet and Greets throughout the district over the next few weeks so keep an eye on my Facebook and twitter pages where I will post more information.

As always, you can follow everything I am working on in Arizona and Washington, D.C. through my website (<http://gosar.house.gov>) on Twitter [@repgosar](https://twitter.com/repgosar), or through [Facebook](#) at Representative Paul Gosar.

Sincerely,



Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress