

July/August 2015

CONGRESSWOMAN TERRI SEWELL

REPRESENTING ALABAMA'S 7TH DISTRICT

Friend,

It is an honor to serve you in Congress! One of the most important responsibilities I have as your Representative is to update you on the work we are doing on your behalf. This newsletter serves as an update on the progress we have made both in Washington and in Alabama's 7th Congressional District in July and August.

For more information on recent developments in our office, please visit our website at <http://sewell.house.gov/>.

Sincerely,



4th Annual Congressional Job Fair Welcomes Nearly 700 Job Seekers!



We welcomed more than 50 employers and 700 job seekers to our 2015 Congressional Job Fair in Demopolis on August 6. This is the second year we hosted the event in the Black Belt.

Each year, we bring top employers from a variety of industries to underserved areas to meet constituents and to discuss a wide range of employment opportunities. We received an overwhelming response from constituents in our rural counties.

We are thankful for all of our partners who have continued to support our efforts to put Alabamians back to work. My office is committed to hosting the event each year as a proactive measure to address systematic unemployment which has plagued the 7th District for decades. Our next job fair will be held in August 2016 in Birmingham.



Secretary Vilsack Announces \$1.6 Million in Investments for 7th Congressional District



U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack joined me for an agricultural tour of the 7th Congressional District on August 12. During his visit, Secretary Vilsack announced that the USDA is investing \$1.6 million in various projects within the District.

The tour began with a groundbreaking ceremony in Whitehall to launch a waste water treatment plant that received a \$1.02 million grant and a \$112,000 USDA loan. We also hosted a town hall meeting with Secretary Vilsack in Linden, before heading to a tour of the Kyser Catfish Farm in Greensboro for a roundtable with catfish farmers in Hale County.

Marion Added to Historic Trail



I recently joined National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis for a ceremony at Zion Methodist Church to announce that the City of Marion, Alabama has been added to the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail.

Constituent Success Story

A disabled veteran from Greene County Alabama contacted our Tuscaloosa office for assistance with a VA grant he received to modify his bathroom to accommodate his disability. The contractor assigned by the VA said he wouldn't install a sink and charged the veteran \$7,700 -- even though the VA grant was only for \$6,800.

Our office contacted the Veterans Administration Medical Center and VA Prosthetics department to identify the delays and resolve the situation. Thanks to our intervention, we were able to work with the contractor and the VA so that the veteran's bathroom could be completed on budget.

Connect With Us

Please be sure to "like" us on [Facebook](#), and follow us on [YouTube](#) and [Twitter](#) to receive Congressional updates and keep abreast of office events!

It is an honor to serve the 7th District in Congress. I'll be back in touch again soon!



A Legend Lost



On August 26, we mourned the passing of Amelia Boynton Robinson, a civil rights legend who personified the essence of an American hero through her courageous and passionate fight for voting rights.

I cherish the time we spent together when she honored me as my special guest for the State of the Union on January 20th, and I am blessed to call her a beloved mentor and friend.

Let us be inspired by the extraordinary life of Mrs. Amelia Boynton Robinson to keep striving and working towards a more perfect union. May we honor her memory by continuing her life's work.

America's Journey to Justice



I joined the NAACP on August 1 to kick off the 860 mile America's Journey to Justice march in Selma.

The march began just days before we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the landmark Voting Rights Act on August 6, and ends in D.C. on September 16.

Rep. Sewell Introduces the Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2015

I introduced the Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2015 in the House along with Reps. Judy Chu and Linda Sanchez on June 24. The Voting Rights Advancement Act restores and advances the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by providing a modern day coverage test that will extend federal oversight to jurisdictions which have a history of voter suppression and protects vulnerable communities from discriminatory voting practices.

The updated coverage formula in this bill will ensure that states, like Alabama, are required to obtain federal preclearance for changes to voting practices and procedures that could have a discriminatory impact.

