

CAPITOL HILL UPDATE

REP. JIM GERLACH (PA-06)

Friday, April 15, 2005

www.gerlach.house.gov

GERLACH OPEN SPACE BILL INTRODUCED

Hoping to bolster open space preservation efforts already underway in communities throughout Southeastern Pennsylvania, Rep. Jim Gerlach recently introduced **H.R. 1514, the Farmland Protection Program Challenge Grant Act.**

“Pennsylvania leads the nation in the number of acres preserved from development through the purchase of conservation easements. Monies for purchase of development rights can come from federal, state, county and local sources,” Rep. Gerlach said. “In Southeastern Pennsylvania, a number of municipalities have enacted their own farmland preservation initiatives using their taxing indebtedness powers to acquire monies for farmland preservation.”

see Farmland



Rep. Gerlach visited the Rajant Corp. in Chester County and spoke with the employees about legislative issues and any concerns they had. The company produces wireless broadband systems associated with homeland security and public safety.

Washington News in Brief

The following are some of the more relevant votes cast by Rep. Jim Gerlach during the week ending April 15:

On Tuesday, April 12, he voted for H.R. 135, legislation establishing the “Twenty-First Century Water Commission” to study and develop recommendations for a comprehensive water strategy to address future water needs.

On Wednesday, April 13, he voted for H.R. 8, legislation permanently repealing the federal estate tax also called the Death Tax.

Rep. Gerlach’s statement on the vote:

“The Death Tax unfairly targets our small business and family farm owners. Taxes have already been paid on the assets subject to taxation under the Death Tax during the lifetime of the original owner. So the Death Tax amounts to a second bite out of the apple for the federal government. The Death Tax often forces the family farmer to sell his land to a developer to afford paying the government again on the same property, while the small business owner is often forced to liquidate her inventory to cover the tax. **More than 70 percent of all family farms and businesses do not survive through the second generation and 87 percent don’t make it to a third generation.** Individuals and families shouldn’t be taxed twice for being successful entrepreneurs.”

On Thursday, April 14, he joined a bipartisan majority in voting for S. 256, the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005.

Please visit the Legislation Section of Rep. Gerlach’s Web site (www.gerlach.house.gov) for more information regarding his voting record including a complete list of the legislation he’s introduced and sponsored.

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WASHINGTON VISITORS

Rep. Jim Gerlach met with 6th District high school students on Wednesday April 13 who are participating in The Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values seminar in Washington.



The program is designed to increase Jewish high school students' understanding of current public policy issues and some of the solutions recommended by various leaders.



The students, who were mainly from high schools in Lower Merion, visited Congressman Gerlach's office on Wednesday, April 13 and discussed issues ranging from the budget to the challenges facing the nation's large number of homeless people.

CAPITOL UPDATE -- TV SCHEDULE

Be sure not to miss any episodes of Rep. Gerlach's monthly cable TV show, Capitol Update. For April, Congressman Gerlach discusses with Georgia Congressman John Linder his FairTax legislation. Chester County veteran Garfield McCoy shares his tales of being a Prisoner of War during World War II. The show airs at the following times:

Lower Merion Channel 7: M/W/F: 12:30AM, 8:30AM and 8:30 PM and at 12:30 PM on T/TH/Sat/Sun.

PCTV Channel 54: Saturdays at 8:30 PM

BCTV (Berks County): Saturdays at 5 PM

GERLACH INTRODUCES OPEN SPACE LEGISLATION

Farmland from Pg. 1

"In order to encourage more municipalities to preserve farmland through purchase of development rights, I have introduced this legislation which would reserve 15 percent of existing Farmland Protection Program funds for conservation efforts," Rep. Gerlach continued.

"This initiative would not authorize any new funding; it would simply allocate a portion of the existing federal farmland preservation funds to encourage municipalities to establish their own local farmland preservation initiatives. So for every dollar spent by the

local, state, and county authorities to preserve farmland, the federal government, under my legislation, would add another dollar."



HR 1514 is the latest in a series of initiatives championed by Rep. Gerlach since arriving in Congress that aims to protect the environment and preserve the quality of life all 6th District residents enjoy. For more information, visit the Environmental Issue section of the Congressman's Web site, www.gerlach.house.gov.