

JOE DONNELLY

UNITED STATES SENATOR FOR INDIANA

ANNUAL REPORT 2013



DONNELLY ANNUAL REPORT: HOOSIER COMMON SENSE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A JOB FOR EVERY HOOSIER	4
Opportunity Agenda.....	4
Going All-In: ENERGY	4
Hitting the Ground Running: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING	5
Investing in the Crossroads of America: INFRASTRUCTURE	6
Keeping Indiana Competitive: EXPORTS & INNOVATIONS.....	7
Government Shutdown and Congress' Negative Impact on the Economy.....	9
Working Across the Aisle to Fix the Affordable Care Act for Employers and Employees... 	9
40 Hours is Full Time.....	9
ACA Transition Relief	10
Medical Device Tax Repeal.....	11
Farm Bill.....	12
SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE US.....	13
Preventing Military Suicide.....	13
Promoting Hiring of Reserve and Guard Members.....	14
Addressing National Guard Canceled Deployments.....	15
Leading a Congressional Delegation to Meet with Military Abroad	16
Supporting our Nation's Veterans	17
JUST ASK JOE.....	19
Correspondence	19
Casework	19
Tours.....	20
Flags	20
Service Academy Nominations.....	20
Grants	21
Grant Accomplishments	21
Other Accomplishments & Ongoing Efforts.....	22
Engaging with Hoosiers on Social Media.....	23
MORE WISDOM IN INDIANA	24
In-State Travel.....	24
Traveling Indiana.....	24
Hosting Hoosiers in Washington.....	29
BEST IDEAS FROM BOTH PARTIES.....	31
Bipartisan Legislative Efforts in 2013	31
Working as a Member of the Group of 14 to Help End the Government Shutdown	33



“He knows his constituency and aims to know them better. More importantly, he aims to serve them better. Such pragmatism and placing voters first is refreshing from a senator in Washington. If Donnelly keeps his goals and ideology intact, he’ll be a fine senator for Indiana and the nation.”
Anderson Herald Bulletin Editorial, 7/18/13

“Although things haven’t gotten any better since the 2012 elections, the good news is that the past 12 months have made clear that Indiana got it right when it elected Sen. Joe Donnelly as its junior senator. If you’re fed up with Washington’s mess, that’s understandable. If you think Congress is one of the nation’s biggest sources of trouble, you’re in the majority. But Joe Donnelly, it should be noted, isn’t part of the problem.”
Matt Tully, Indianapolis Star column, 10/29/13



“Donnelly’s positions might not always please members of either party or even all of his Hoosier constituents, but his record is a clear indicator that he is moderate in his political beliefs, pragmatic in his approach to governing, and will keep his common-sense bearings as he goes about his business.”
Terre Haute Tribune Star Editorial, 1/4/13

A JOB FOR EVERY HOOSIER

Opportunity Agenda

In Joe's maiden speech, he outlined an "Opportunity Agenda" to create more jobs and strengthen Indiana's economy. Throughout his first year in the Senate, he started working on this four-point agenda: going all-in on American energy, helping workers hit the ground running by improving workforce development and training, investing in Indiana's infrastructure, and keeping our state competitive through exports and innovations.

"U.S. Sen. Joe Donnelly called for an 'opportunity agenda' based on 'Hoosier common sense' to create American jobs during his maiden speech Wednesday afternoon on the Senate floor. In cities across Indiana, The message is the same everywhere: It's about jobs and the chance to go to work and take care of your family,' the first-year senator said in an 11-minute speech broadcast by C-SPAN. 'If we don't have a job, nothing else works,' said Donnelly, D-Ind." Fort Wayne Journal Gazette, 4/24/13

Going All-In: ENERGY

Joe thinks a strong domestic energy economy is at the foundation of our potential for economic success. Affordable, reliable energy allows families to heat their homes and travel to work and school. Affordable, reliable energy ensures businesses can manufacture products efficiently,

on time, and can compete in the global economy. And affordable, reliable American energy ensures that we are investing our money here at home rather than, each year, sending hundreds of billions of dollars overseas to buy energy that's already here in the United States. The production of affordable, reliable American energy here at home creates jobs here at home—not overseas.

In January, Joe and a bipartisan coalition of senators wrote to President Obama advocating for the quick approval of the Keystone XL oil pipeline. Joe noted that he is a strong supporter of the Keystone XL oil pipeline, saying, "My work will not be done until every Hoosier who wants a job has a job, and the Keystone XL pipeline means jobs for American families and energy security for our country. The concerns President Obama cited when he originally denied a permit for the Keystone pipeline have been met, and he should allow the project to move forward."

In May, Senator Donnelly and Senator Pat Roberts (R-KS) successfully passed an amendment to the 2013 Farm Bill that would address the increasing use of crops for biofuels by providing a base

My Opportunity Agenda is a blueprint of common sense policies designed to expand economic opportunities for Hoosier businesses, workers, and their families in four critical areas that will help create more good jobs. With more good jobs, Hoosier families are stronger. -Joe

level of risk management. Joe said, "...as many of Indiana's farmers continue to contribute to our domestic energy security, I introduced an amendment to give the next generation of bioenergy crops access to base levels of risk management so that a logical safety net will be in place for producers."

Their bipartisan amendment would amend the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program to offer coverage for crops producing feedstock for energy purposes. Further, the amendment would direct USDA to research and develop risk management tools for promising new sorghum crops. Joe's efforts were supported by the Advanced Biofuels Association, Agriculture Energy Coalition, Advanced

Ethanol Council, BIO, Growth Energy, National Sorghum Producers, and the Renewable Fuels Association.

In September, Senator Donnelly and Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO) introduced an amendment to S. 1392, the *Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act of 2013*, that would ensure that efforts to regulate carbon dioxide emissions are realistic about existing technology and do not negatively impact our economy. Joe said, "If we don't address these standards in a common sense way, the affordable, reliable energy that Hoosier families and businesses depend on is in doubt. It is absolutely critical that the EPA understand the impact of these standards and the price their proposed regulation would ask Hoosiers to pay. I urge the EPA to make sure that any NSPS regulation is something that reflects existing technology. We can establish standards that protect our environment without hurting our economy."

In November, Joe responded to the EPA's announcement that they will reduce the requirements under the Renewable Fuel Standard for 2014, which is the law requiring a certain volume of renewable fuel in the overall fuel supply sold in the United States. Renewable fuels include ethanol, cellulosic biofuel, biomass biodiesel, and other advanced biodiesels. Joe said the production and use of biofuels that are grown and developed right here at home helps our economy and increases our national security by lessening our dependence on foreign oil. He noted his frustration and disappointment that the EPA lowered the volume of renewable fuels required in our overall fuel supply. He said that cutting the volume of renewable fuels required in our transportation fuel will hurt Indiana workers and hurt Indiana's economy.



Joe brought EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy to Indiana in November so she could hear directly from members of the Hoosier ag community on the importance of the RFS to the ag community and our state's economy.

Hitting the Ground Running: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING

LOUISVILLE, KY: "Indiana U.S. Senator Joe Donnelly was in southern Indiana Tuesday touring Jeffboat. It's part of his Closing the Skills Gap Tour. There are an estimated 600,000 high-skill jobs that are vacant across the country such as those at Jeffboat. Donnelly is working in Congress to pass an act to create more effective training and educational programs to fill those types of jobs. 'What it does,' he explains, 'it targets federal dollars. It doesn't increase the use of any federal dollars so it doesn't mean any more spending, but federal dollars used for education go right toward making sure people have the skills and talents to be able to contribute from day one here at a workplace like this.' Donnelly says it not only helps workers land a job, but helps Indiana attract additional employers." WDRB Louisville, 2/19/13

Joe thinks it is very important that we help our workforce hit the ground running by improving workforce development and training. The Department of Labor estimates that there are 3.9 million job openings in the United States right now, despite a national unemployment rate of 7% and millions of Americans looking for work. Estimates by the Manufacturing Institute indicate there are as many as 600,000 job openings in our country that remain unfilled because employers

are not able to find workers with the necessary skills to do that job.

Joe thinks we must make a better effort to close this “skills gap,” as he often hears from Hoosier business owners, educators, and workers about the pressing need to have training available to match the needs of employers and help workers more quickly find good jobs.

In March, Senator Donnelly joined Senators Kay Hagan (D-NC) and Dean Heller (R-NV) to introduce the *AMERICA Works Act*, which would modify existing federal training programs so that they place a priority on programs and certifications that are recognized and demanded by industry. To help close the skills gap while not increasing federal spending, the *AMERICA Works Act* would modify the Workforce Investment Act, Perkins Career and Technical Education, and Trade Adjustment Assistance to prioritize the credentials that employers need now.

Joe noted that the improvements made in the *AMERICA Works Act* would be a benefit for both workers and employers, as workers would know that the time they spend training is more likely to lead to employment in a good-paying job, and employers would be more likely to hire people whom they know have the training they need to be productive on day one.

TERRE HAUTE, IND.: “Donnelly toured the College of Technology at Indiana State University on Tuesday afternoon to see some of the hands-on training students receive in aeronautics, unmanned aircraft piloting, welding and high-technology parts manufacturing. ‘At ISU, they are doing work for the most advanced engineering areas, as they are at Rose-Hulman,’ Donnelly said. ‘The areas being delved into here academically are areas where we’re going to find more and more jobs for Hoosiers.’ Donnelly visited with students in several different areas of the John T. Myers Technology Building, including the aerospace simulator room where he chatted briefly with three professional aviation/flight technology students, Joe Haddad, J.J. Dover and Dan Nicolosi. This is awesome,’ Donnelly said as he spoke with the students, who were sitting in a simulated aircraft cockpit. Earlier Tuesday, Donnelly, a first-term senator from South Bend, visited Jeffersonville and Evansville, where he met with employers and educators. He arrived at ISU – his first visit to the university since being elected to the senate—in the late afternoon and was escorted around campus by university officials, including President Dan Bradley.”
Terre Haute Tribune Star, 2/20/13

In October, Senator Donnelly and Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) introduced the *Skills Gap Strategy Act*, which would direct the Secretary of Labor to develop a strategy to help close the “skills gap” by increasing on-the-job training and apprenticeship opportunities. It would encourage the Department of Labor to develop plans in consultation with the Departments of Commerce and Education to increase employer participation in education and workforce training. The bill asks the Department of Labor to focus on solutions that utilize existing resources, programs, and personnel.

Investing in the Crossroads of America: INFRASTRUCTURE

In order to live up to Indiana’s “Crossroads of America” name, Joe thinks we need the best roads, the best rail, the best airports, and the best waterways—so we can continue to expand our logistics and other transportation industries. Today, 22 percent of Indiana’s bridges are structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. Seventeen percent of Indiana’s roads are in poor or mediocre condition.

In July, Senator Donnelly joined Senators Rob Portman (R-OH) and Claire McCaskill (D-MO) in introducing the *Federal Permitting Improvement Act of 2013*. The bill, also supported by Senators

John Barrasso (R-WY) and Mike Enzi (R-WY), would cut red tape to improve the permitting process for big infrastructure projects, helping private industry create jobs in Indiana and across the country.

Joe said, “My number one priority is to help create jobs, and I think one of the best ways to create jobs is to establish the right conditions for the private sector to invest in our country’s infrastructure. This bipartisan legislation would encourage investment by requiring government agencies to work together to cut red tape, set deadlines, and increase transparency. We should be building things in this country, and that means expediting the transportation, energy, and other infrastructure projects that strengthen our economy.”

FORT WAYNE, IND.: “He said ‘one of the best things’ the federal government can do for small businesses is consider their regulatory burdens. ‘My goal is to try to make it so that we’re out of your way in creating trouble but there is a partner (in the government) to try to help,’ he told the group, which included people from steel and plastic manufacturing, retailing, consulting, a computer software developer and a beer wholesaler.” Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette 3/27/13

The *Federal Permitting Improvement Act* would improve the permitting process for major capital projects by improving coordination among agencies and deadline-setting for permitting decisions, enhancing transparency, and reducing litigation delays. It would apply to construction activities with an investment of more than \$25 million that require review by a federal agency. It would not alter substantive standards or safeguards, but rather seeks to create a smarter, more transparent, and better-managed process for government review and approval of major capital projects. The legislation is endorsed by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, AFL-CIO Building & Construction Trades, and Business Roundtable.

In November, Joe joined other Great Lakes senators in an effort to improve navigation infrastructure in the Water Resources Development Act by sending a letter to conference committee leaders thanking them for their efforts and for advancing positions that will improve navigation infrastructure. The senators urged that the following priorities be included in the final conference report: dedicated harbor maintenance funding for the Great Lakes Navigation System (GLNS), authorization of the GLNS, and expanded uses of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund.

Earlier in the year, Joe explained, “Indiana’s waterways are essential parts of our state’s infrastructure, and I have heard from many in Indiana about the need to fully fund the dredging and maintenance of our navigable waterway systems in order to support continued economic growth in our state. I hope to see a Water Resources Development Act that funds harbor maintenance operations at levels equal to revenues generated by the Harbor Maintenance Tax. This tax is paid by those who ship goods into our harbors and is intended to fund the maintenance of our waterways. Congress should not be using these funds for other purposes.”

Keeping Indiana Competitive: EXPORTS & INNOVATIONS

Joe thinks it is important that we keep Hoosier—and all American—businesses and industries competitive through the promotion of exports and innovation. Indiana produces some of the best quality products in the world—from automobiles to agricultural products to medical devices—and we should continue to look for opportunities to sell these products to the world.

Manufacturing accounts for more than 98% of Indiana’s exports, and manufactured goods exports support nearly 23% of Indiana’s manufacturing jobs, which is higher than the national

average. Small businesses account for nearly 17% of Indiana’s exports. Joe thinks we need to do more to promote the good work of these Hoosier businesses, which includes promoting a global economy that is built on responsible and fair trade policies.

Joe is a longtime supporter of cracking down on currency manipulation by foreign governments, which results in an unfair playing field for American manufacturers. To address this issue, in June, Joe cosponsored S. 1114, the *Currency Exchange Rate Oversight Reform Act*, which

Donnelly vows ‘heart’ for small biz
FORT WAYNE, IND.: “U.S. Sen. Joe Donnelly pledged Tuesday to be an advocate for small businesses. ‘You are the heart and soul of our country and our economy,’ Donnelly, D-Ind., told a roundtable discussion group of nearly 20 people at the Greater Fort Wayne Chamber of Commerce. ‘I’m a small-business guy. That’s where my heart is,’ said Donnelly, a lawyer and printing shop owner in St. Joseph County before his election to a U.S. House seat in 2006.”
Fort Wayne Journal Gazette, 3/27/13

would reform and enhance oversight of currency exchange rates, including new requirements that the Commerce Department investigate claims of undervalued foreign currency at the request of a U.S. industry. The bill would also use U.S. trade law to counter the economic harm to U.S. manufacturers caused by currency manipulation and includes tools to address the impact of currency misalignment on U.S. industries.

In September, Joe joined Senators Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and others in sending a letter to Treasury Secretary Jack Lew and United States Trade Representative Michael Froman regarding foreign currency manipulation. The letter urged them to address foreign currency manipulation in the current Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations.

In late October, Donnelly led a letter with Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL) and then testified before the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) regarding the importance of maintaining existing antidumping and countervailing duty orders against unfairly traded imports of hot-rolled steel. These trade orders help maintain a level playing field for an already vulnerable domestic steel industry.

Joe said, “Despite the past impacts of unfair trade, the steel industry’s presence in Indiana today supports over 150,000 jobs. I have seen first-hand the resilience of the American worker. They are not asking for preferential treatment under the laws, but fair and equal treatment. We all know that good trade policies create jobs, fuel economic growth, and benefit consumers both at home and abroad. And yet we must remember that trade only works when everyone plays by the same rules.”

In December, Joe welcomed the ITC announcement that it will maintain the existing orders against unfairly traded imports of hot-rolled steel.

Also in December, Senator Donnelly and Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA) led a group of senators in an effort to note the importance of addressing barriers to market access for American pork producers in the TPP. The bipartisan group of senators wrote to United States Trade Representative Michael Froman and U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack outlining the importance of exports to the economic well-being of U.S. pork producers and the U.S. economy as a whole. They asked Ambassador Froman and Secretary Vilsack that, as part of the TPP agreement, all tariffs and non-tariff barriers on pork in TPP partner nations be eliminated.

Government Shutdown and Congress' Negative Impact on the Economy

The federal government shutdown lasted 16 days, cost an estimated \$24 billion to our economy, and caused economic confidence to plummet. Gallup reported (10/9) that Americans were most likely to name dysfunctional government when asked what is the most important problem facing our country.

Joe gave a speech during the shutdown, saying, "It is embarrassing that the actions of some in Congress these days are now the greatest obstacle to future job creation in our

country...At a time when Hoosiers are trying to get back to work and take care of our families, Congress' inability to work together is making it so much more difficult. Congress is not helping and is actually hindering job creation and economic growth...this is no way to run a country. I stand ready to work with anyone in a common sense way out of this train wreck. We must find a way to stop hurting the economy and to actually help the people who have made this country such a great place. "

"Every day we spent working on this was one day we couldn't be working on putting more Hoosiers into additional employment. This country works best when every mom and dad is working and has a chance to take care of their kids and their families. And that's my focus, and I think that's what everybody back home wants. Look: run the shop, run it right, keep the spending down, create more jobs."
-Joe, 10/16/13



Recognizing that the government shutdown was not only hurting our economy but an irresponsible way to govern, Joe was a part of a group of 14 senators (six Democrats, one Independent, and seven Republicans) that met several times over the course of the shutdown to discuss and put together a bipartisan framework to get the government operating and ensure we continued to pay our bills. Following the shutdown, Joe said, "This is about the jobs in Indiana, making sure we don't have any interruptions in creating more jobs, about our families making ends meet. It's about our economy. It's about our nation's reputation."

Working Across the Aisle to Fix the Affordable Care Act for Employers and Employees

Unlike those on the far left who don't think the law needs to be changed and those on the far right who only want the law repealed, Joe has long-said that the health care law should be improved to make it work better for Hoosier families. In order for Hoosiers to have access to quality, affordable health care, he thinks Congress, the Obama Administration, and the State of Indiana will have to work in a bipartisan, constructive way to address any challenges.

40 Hours is Full Time

In June, Joe joined Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) in introducing the *Forty Hours is Full Time Act of 2013*, S. 1188, which would change the definition of "full time" in the ACA to 40 hours per week and

the number of hours counted toward a “full-time equivalent” employee to 174 hours per month.



Joe said, “Most Hoosiers I know think forty hours is full time. We need to change the definition of a ‘full-time employee’ in the Affordable Care Act to bring it in line with what most Americans have traditionally recognized as full time. We also need to provide clarity to employers so they have the information they need to run their businesses and plan for the future. Many employers have to make decisions because of this definition, and some have chosen to cut current part-time employees’ hours. This leaves too many Indiana families struggling to make ends meet. I’m pleased to join my friend, Senator Collins, in introducing both a legislative and administrative approach to addressing this problem. These are straightforward, common sense improvements that would benefit both employers and employees.”

“With the first six months of a six-year term just completed, Sen. Donnelly has stayed true to his ideals and has not disappointed. At a time when far too many elected reps in Congress stake themselves to one side or the other of the wide partisan divide, Donnelly keeps plugging along, meeting with constituents and reaching across the political aisle to find real solutions to tough problems rather than settling for rabid sound bites that appeal to a targeted ideological base.

“A most sparkling example came in the last two weeks when he teamed with Maine’s Republican Sen. Susan Collins to author a bill changing a controversial provision in the Affordable Care Act. The bill proposed to change the ACA’s definition of a full-time worker from 30 hours per week to 40, thereby easing concerns over the impact of the ACA. The bill made so much sense that the Obama administration stepped in and delayed implementation of that provision for another year while problems are ironed out. Donnelly was a supporter of the health care law while in the House, but showed political courage by identifying a problem and taking positive steps to resolve it rather than simply complaining about it. His explanation to CNHI News Service reporter Maureen Hayden in a story published Monday: ‘You’ve had some folks on one side saying: “We don’t like the health care law so we’re not going to do anything to try to improve it.” And on the Democrat side, you had people say: “There are problems with it, but we don’t want to talk about them and we don’t want to fix them, we’ve just got to keep the wagons circled and plow forward.” And I thought to myself, both of those positions are completely unreflective of reality.’ If Donnelly holds on to that philosophy, Hoosiers will continue to be well-served.” -Terre Haute Tribune Star Editorial, 7/10/13

ACA Transition Relief

When Sens. Collins and Donnelly introduced their *Forty Hours is Full Time Act*, they also sought a near-term administrative fix, co-authoring a letter to the President strongly urging his Administration to work with the employer community to provide transition flexibility beyond January 1, 2014, free from the threat of penalty.

In July, Joe visited school systems and businesses concerned about the definition of “full-time” under the ACA. During the tour, the U.S. Treasury announced that it would implement a year of transition relief for businesses, free from penalty, as they implement, better understand, and lawmakers improve the ACA. Joe said, "I am pleased that the Treasury announced they will be implementing what Senator Collins and I asked for: transition relief, free of penalty, for employers as they work to understand what health care reform means for their businesses and as we work to make common sense improvements. A year of transition allows us to work on improving the law to make it work better, such as the proposal Senator Collins and I introduced to redefine 'full-time' as 40 hours a week."

Donnelly played key role in Obamacare delay
An Obamacare requirement affecting small businessmen is on hold. Those who employ 50 people or more won't have to provide health insurance until 2015 instead of 2014, and an Indiana Senator played a key role in the change. Democratic Senator Joe Donnelly recently joined with Maine Republican Susan Collins to introduce a bill that would exempt small businesses from the insurance requirement. He didn't expect such a quick reaction.
WISH Indianapolis, 7/3/13

In November, Senators Collins and Donnelly again advocated for the *Forty Hours is Full Time Act of 2013*. With Senators Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Joe Manchin (D-WV), they sent a letter to the Senate Budget Committee leaders asking them to address their legislation in their budget conference.

Joe's efforts received the support of many Hoosier businesses and associations with Indiana members, including the National Restaurant Association, the International Franchise Association, the National Council of Chain Restaurants, and the National Federation of Independent Business.

Medical Device Tax Repeal

Joe is a longtime supporter of repealing the medical device tax because of the thousands of jobs in the Hoosier state dependent upon the success of this industry. He is an original cosponsor of S. 232, the *Medical Device Access and Innovation Act*, which would repeal the medical device tax. In March, the Senate took a vote on repealing the medical device tax during the debate on the budget, and it received a 79-20 bipartisan vote of approval.

Joe said, "We need to make every effort to encourage, not stifle, continued growth in our manufacturing sector, including the medical device industry. Indiana is home to many innovative medical device companies, and I support repealing the medical device excise tax because it makes sense for Hoosier businesses, workers, and the patients who use their products. I was proud to co-sponsor the amendment to repeal the tax, and I am pleased that it passed with bipartisan support."

While Joe was pleased that a bipartisan majority of the Senate supported repeal of the medical device tax during the budget debate, he continued discussions with colleagues throughout the year to help garner support for repeal and knows there is more work to be done.

Farm Bill

Approximately 150,000 Hoosiers are employed in good-paying agricultural jobs and use their hard work and ingenuity to contribute over \$30 billion in economic activity to Indiana each year. For these hardworking individuals, Joe thinks it is past time for Congress to pass a five-year farm bill.

In June, Joe, a member of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, voted in favor of a five-year farm bill, the *Agriculture Reform, Food and Jobs Act of 2013*. The bipartisan legislation passed the Senate by a vote of 66 to 27.

The Senate Farm Bill included an amendment introduced by Senator Donnelly and Senator Pat Roberts (R-KS) to improve insurance programs for crops grown to produce advanced biofuels. This bipartisan amendment would amend the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program to offer coverage for crops grown as a feedstock for energy purposes. Further, the amendment would direct USDA to research and develop risk management tools for promising new sorghum crops.



Joe also helped introduce an amendment that would put the USDA in charge of conservation program technical assistance funding levels, taking the Office of Management and Budget out of the process. This gives USDA the authority to make sure the technical assistance reflects the needs of producers in the field and the stakeholder community while allowing conservation practices to be adopted on a broader scale.

Versions of the farm bill have now passed the House and Senate and will be combined by a conference committee into the final bill. In October, Joe sent a letter outlining his priorities in the 2013 farm bill conference to leaders of the conference committee, emphasizing issues of importance to Hoosiers.

Joe wrote, “My top priorities have always been to strengthen Indiana’s economy and help create Hoosier jobs. The importance of agriculture to those priorities is nearly impossible to overstate. In my home state of Indiana, around 150,000 people are employed in well-paying agricultural jobs and use their hard work and ingenuity to contribute over \$30 billion in economic activity each year... For these hardworking individuals, it is past time for Congress to pass a five-year farm bill.”

SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE US

Preventing Military Suicide

In 2012, approximately 349 members of the United States Military, including active duty, Guard, and Reserve, committed suicide, more than the total number of servicemembers who died in combat operations (295). This number does not even include the more than 6,000 veterans who committed suicide in 2012.



Senator Donnelly is deeply troubled by the number of servicemembers and veterans who take their own lives. In April, Senator Donnelly introduced his first bill as a U.S. Senator, S. 810, the *Jacob Sexton Military Suicide Prevention Act of 2013*. The bill would establish a pilot program in each of the military services and reserve components to integrate annual mental health assessments into a servicemember's Periodic Health Assessment (PHA) and identify risk factors for mental illness so that servicemembers can access preventative care.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.: "Last year alone the U.S. lost more service members to suicide than in Afghanistan. Donnelly went to the IU School of Health Thursday, where they're doing research to try to put an end to the epidemic. Professors are doing research into how to change the way the brain thinks about suicide. Donnelly encourages any veteran who's having problems to call his office directly or talk to the VA to get help." WISH Indianapolis, 5/30/13

Joe said, "I named this bill after a member of the Indiana National Guard, Jacob Sexton, a native of Farmland, Indiana, who tragically took his own life in 2009 while home on a 15-day leave from Afghanistan...My hope is that we can help men and women like Jacob who are struggling with mental health issues, to get them the help they need before they resort to taking their own life."



SPC. JACOB SEXTON
1987-2009



COLLAGE MADE IN HONOR OF SPC. SEXTON
BY HIS MOTHER, BARBARA

The *Jacob Sexton Military Suicide Prevention Act of 2013* would establish a pilot program in each of the military services and reserve components to integrate annual mental health assessments into a servicemember's PHA. The PHA is an annual review designed to track whether a servicemember is "fit" to serve. Currently, the mental health systems for both active and retired military rely on a servicemember's or a veteran's willingness to self-report suicidal thoughts and seek out assistance.

In June, Senator Donnelly made strides toward passing the Jacob Sexton Act into law during the Senate Armed Services Committee markup of the Fiscal Year 2014 National Defense Authorization Act

(NDAA). Donnelly introduced a bipartisan amendment, cosponsored by Senators Roger Wicker (R-MS) and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), which would require a DOD assessment of new tools that could be implemented to better screen servicemembers for mental health needs and suicidal risk factors.

The report required by Joe's amendment directs that evaluation to be completed no later than February 14, 2014, in time for consideration of the Fiscal Year 2015 NDAA.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.: "A key portion of the bill will require an annual mental evaluation for all soldiers. There is also a portion to make sure superior officers know when a soldier is having problems. 'Nobody knows that soldier better than the person that they directly work for. We need to hear from them, and secondly, every year that the mental health assessment piece be done as well,' Donnelly said. Greg Keesling's son committed suicide in Baghdad in 2009 and he is thrilled about the possibility that the bill could become a law. 'My son would be alive today. I'm convinced if this type of bill was in place, he would have been able to talk about his previous suicide watch. They took away his firearm. He had no way to tell his commanders. Today, with the passage of this bill, they will be able to talk,' Keesling said. WRTV Indianapolis, 5/30/13

In September, Senator Donnelly and Senator Johnny Isakson (R-GA), along with five cosponsors, introduced a bipartisan resolution promoting Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. The resolution was passed unanimously by the Senate on September 27, 2013.

In December, Joe introduced an amendment to the FY14 NDAA to ensure that an existing mental health treatment program for members of the National Guard specifically includes suicide prevention as an area of assistance. This amendment was included in the NDAA that became law.

Promoting Hiring of Reserve and Guard Members

Senator Donnelly worked throughout the year to support jobs and educational opportunities for members of the National Guard and Reserves. In July, Senator Donnelly and Senators Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Ted Cruz (R-TX) introduced the *Military Reserve Jobs Act of 2013* in order to help promote the hiring of Reserve Component members into the federal workforce.



Joe said, "Members of our Reserve Components serve honorably, whether or not they are called for deployment. Yet currently, some members of the Reserve Components cannot qualify to access preference points when applying for federal employment. They have already demonstrated their commitment to public service by joining the Reserve Components, and it is important that we support their pursuit of federal employment

opportunities. This approach balances the respect for veterans who qualify for a 5-point preference with recognizing the contributions of Guard members and Reservists.”

In November, during consideration of the National Defense Authorization Act, Donnelly offered an amendment with Senators Cruz and Leahy to make many of the changes included in his Military Reserve Jobs Act. Unfortunately, the Senate only voted on the House-Senate compromise NDAA, so Joe’s amendment was not brought to the floor, though not for lack of support. The amendment had 17 cosponsors. Joe will continue to push for this legislation to be passed.

Addressing National Guard Canceled Deployments

In March, the Army announced plans to cancel the deployments of (or off-ramp) four Indiana National Guard Units scheduled to deploy in May and July of 2013, significantly impacting more than 1,000 Hoosier National Guard members.



After hearing the Army’s plans, Joe sent a letter to the Secretary and the Chief of Staff of the Army asking them to reconsider his decision. He wrote, “Prior to the announcement to off-ramp these soldiers, according to the Indiana National Guard, it has spent up to \$18 million dollars training and preparing to meet mission requirements. In addition to the American tax dollars invested in these units, our soldiers have enrolled their families in TRICARE, left their civilian jobs, terminated rental agreements, and suspended academic pursuits. Their

employers have made arrangements to adapt to their expected absence. With this abrupt decision, these common sense pre-deployment steps taken by our soldiers and the community that supports them are nullified. These dedicated soldiers, their families, and the state of Indiana will now have to bear the consequences.”

In response, the Army delayed the off-ramps by one month, giving Guard members and their families additional time on payroll and with health benefits, allowing them the transition time they had earned.

After Senator Donnelly questioned Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel and Acting Under Secretary of Defense Jessica Wright on the issue, he worked with Chairman Levin on the Senate markup of the FY14 NDAA to include language that would require the Secretary of Defense to personally approve any decision to cancel the deployment of a reserve component unit within 180 days of its scheduled deployment date and to notify Congress of the decision. He also introduced an amendment that detailed the experience of the 1,000 Indiana Guard members and their families affected by the off-ramping of the four Indiana National Guard Units, which was adopted unanimously into the Senate report accompanying the bill.

The final NDAA includes Senator Donnelly's language that prohibits off-ramps of Guard units in favor of active duty units within 180 days unless the Secretary of Defense approves the decision and notifies Congress.

Leading a Congressional Delegation to Meet with Military Abroad

In March, Joe led a 5-member congressional delegation (CODEL) to meet with U.S. military and diplomatic personnel as well as government leaders in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Turkey. The group assessed U.S. progress in transitioning our troops out of Afghanistan, discussed security challenges in Pakistan, and met with Syrian opposition working on humanitarian relief and visited a Syrian refugee camp on the border in Turkey.

Some of the highlights from the CODEL:



Afghanistan

- Meeting with U.S. Embassy and military officials, including Ambassador Cunningham, ISAF Commander GEN Dunford, RC-South Commander LTG Abrams and RC-Southwest Commander MG Miller
- Meeting with Minister of Defense Bismillah Khan
- Visiting members of the Indiana National Guard and other Indiana natives serving our country
- Touring the 254th Medical Detachment in Kandahar and suicide prevention programs



Pakistan

- Meetings with the Chief of the Pakistan Army Staff, Defense Secretary of the Ministry of Defense, and Foreign Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 - Discussing the upcoming election with the Pakistan Election Commission
 - Meeting with U.S. Embassy and military officials

Turkey

- Meeting with President Abdullah Gül
- Visiting U.S. Embassy and military officials, including U.S. troops manning the NATO Patriot Batteries along the Turkey-Syria border
- Meeting with the Syrian Opposition Council Assistance Coordination Unit
- Visiting U.S. personnel delivering humanitarian and non-lethal assistance to Syrian refugees and opposition
- Touring the Kilis refugee camp on the Syrian border and meeting with local officials

Supporting our Nation's Veterans

Joe is proud of Indiana's strong military tradition and is honored to serve the nearly 500,000 veterans in our state. He works on a daily basis to ensure that our veterans receive the proper respect and benefits earned by their service to the nation. He has repeatedly spoken out against the claims backlog at the Department of Veterans' Affairs and has supported efforts in the Senate to bring that backlog down. His office has returned over \$660,000 in benefits to Hoosier veterans and servicemembers.



Additionally, during his first year in service, he has assisted 11 veterans in receiving their hard-earned medals, including:

- Mr. Michael Hodgson of Carmel, who served in the U.S. Army from 1968-1969;
- Mr. James Horn of Winona Lake, who served in the U.S. Navy from 1968-1972;
- Mr. Julian Quarnstrom of Hobart, who served in the U.S. Army from 1967-1973;
- Mr. Conard Terhune of Mooresville, who served in the U.S. Navy from 1966-1970;
- Mr. Robert Eberlein of Granger, who served in the U.S. Navy Reserve from 1986-93;
- Cpl Ryan Hale of South Bend, who is serving the in the U.S. Marine Corps;
- Mr. Warren Korkhouse of South Bend, who served in the U.S. Navy from 1969-72;
- *Mr. Porter Haneline of Bluffton, who served in the U.S. Army from 1944-46;
- Mr. Steven Ratliff of New Albany, who served in the U.S. Army from 1969-70;
- *Mr. James Stonebraker of Wanatah, who served in the U.S. Army from 1944-46; and
- Mr. John Townsend of Granger, who served in the U.S. Navy from 1964-66.

**Indicates Joe sought medals on behalf of the veteran's child*



Joe also introduced two pieces of veterans-related legislation. The *Improving the Lives of Children with Spina Bifida Act of 2013*, S. 832, is aimed at improving case management and assisted living opportunities for more than 1,000 children suffering from spina bifida, a developmental congenital disorder, due to their parent's exposure to Agent Orange during the Vietnam War. The needs of this population were brought to Joe's attention by a constituent whose step-daughter suffers from this condition. Senator Donnelly is working with the Senate Veterans Affairs

Committee leadership on a Government Accountability Office (GAO) review of the VA's Spina Bifida Program to ensure that these children receive the care they deserve.

Additionally, this year Senator Donnelly worked with Senator Coats to introduce S. 1471, the *Alicia Dawn Koehl Respect for National Cemeteries Act*. The bill would give the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the U.S. Department of the Army the authority to disinter veterans buried in national cemeteries who committed a Federal or State capital crime. Current statute prohibits burying veterans who committed a Federal or State capital crime, but does not allow the VA or Army to correct a mistake that has been made. Under the legislation, the VA would have the authority it needs to exhume the remains of Michael LeShawn Anderson, a veteran who shot and killed Indianapolis resident Alicia Dawn Koehl last year before committing suicide. The Koehl family later discovered that Anderson was buried at Fort Custer National Cemetery in Michigan. S. 1471 was passed and signed into law in December 2013.



JUST ASK JOE

Joe is committed to a constituents-first approach in which Hoosiers should feel comfortable to “Just Ask Joe” when they have a question, opinion, or problem with the federal government they need help solving. Joe makes sure his office does all that it can to help Hoosiers, whether by responding to their thoughts on a legislative issue, assisting with a problem with a federal agency, giving tours of the U.S. Capitol, ordering a flag flown over the U.S. Capitol, or helping to identify and apply for a federal grant.



Correspondence

In 2013, Joe heard from constituents from all of Indiana’s 92 counties. Overall, the office logged a total of 333,744 constituent contacts; 91% of which were received via email, 6% by phone call, and 3% from postal mail and fax. Correspondence was heaviest in Indiana’s metropolitan areas of Indianapolis and Fort Wayne. The average turnaround time from logging a constituent’s concerns to responding was 11 days.

Casework

This year, Joe’s office worked on 1,563 cases for Hoosiers seeking assistance for a problem or issue with a federal agency. Of that number, 1,338 cases have been closed. The top five most prevalent areas of casework are with the Veterans Administration, State Department, U.S. Customs and Immigration, Social Security Administration and the Defense Department. The cities with the most casework are Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, South Bend, Mishawaka and Elkhart.

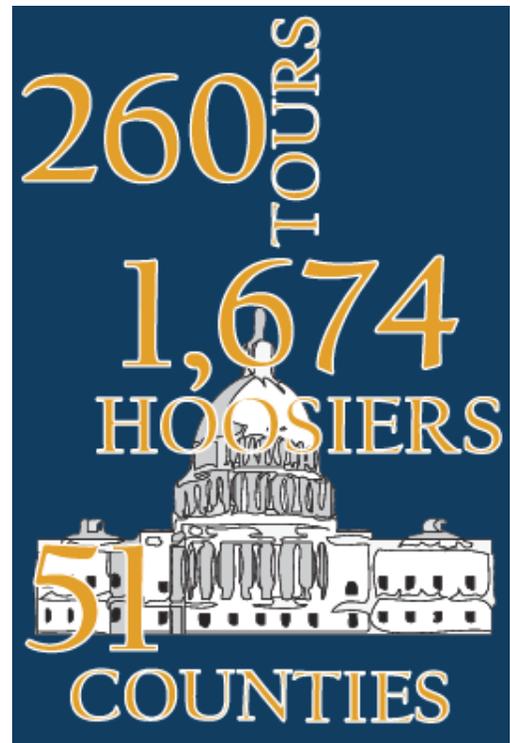
“To his credit, Donnelly has made weekly trips back to Indiana to visit with constituents in formal settings and chance encounters in supermarkets. One of his primary goals is to help Hoosiers who are dealing with the federal government, be it veterans affairs, Medicare, Social Security or numerous other government programs. It’s important for Hoosiers to know that their senators are working for them and not the special interests that swarm the halls of Congress.” Anderson Herald Bulletin Editorial, 7/18/13

Joe and his office have assisted Hoosiers from every part of the state regarding issues with federal agencies. The following stories are a few specific examples of Hoosiers “Just Asking Joe” to get the services they needed:

- Mary Andrews of South Bend contacted Senator Donnelly’s office to help her navigate the process of obtaining a deceased family member’s federal benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. After speaking with a staff member from Senator Donnelly’s office, Ms. Andrews had her questions answered and was able to provide the correct information needed to collect the benefits her family member had earned.
- Dr. James Anthony, who practices pulmonary and critical care in Porter County, needed assistance with a work authorization visa. He had submitted his application but had not received approval from U.S. Customs and Immigration. He and his employer contacted Senator Donnelly’s office, and a member of Senator Donnelly’s staff contacted USCIS to inquire as to the status of his application. Once USCIS received additional information from Dr. Anthony and his employer, his application was approved and he continued serving patients in Porter County.
- In March 2013, Maxine Miller reached out to Senator Donnelly’s office on behalf of her mother, Ms. Phyllis Eldridge of Brazil, Indiana. Ms. Eldridge asked for Sen. Donnelly’s help regarding her claim for VA death pension benefits. His office contacted the VA for an update, and Ms. Eldridge has since started to receive the more than \$25,000 in retroactive pay her husband earned.

Tours

When Hoosiers come to visit the nation’s capital, Joe wants to make sure their visit is as enjoyable as possible, as his office is their office. In 2013, his office scheduled or had a staff member lead a total of 260 U.S. Capitol tours to 1,674 constituents from 51 counties.



Flags

Hoosiers can submit orders to Senator Donnelly for flags that have been flown over the U.S. Capitol. In 2013, Joe’s office processed a total of 253 flag requests for 348 flags for Hoosiers from 42 different communities.

Service Academy Nominations

As U.S. Senator, Joe has the privilege of nominating young Hoosiers hoping to attend one of our nation’s service academies. In 2013, Joe nominated 34 young men and women to the U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Air Force Academy, and U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. These

Hoosiers hail from Carmel, Newburgh, Columbus, Indianapolis, Valparaiso, Yorktown, Chesterton, Floyds Knobs, South Bend, Culver, Granger, Leo, Bargersville, Lawrenceburg, Mooresville, Bloomington, Crown Point, Zionsville, Nineveh, Shelbyville, Charlestown, Marion, Edinburgh, and Camby.

Grants

Joe is committed to helping Hoosiers understand the competitive federal grant process and to locate federal grants because if Hoosier organizations and communities are not receiving this funding, another state benefits from our tax dollars. Throughout the state of Indiana, businesses, non-profit organizations, and communities have benefitted from federal grants. In 2013, Joe supported 68 grant applications for projects in 35 counties across the state, and a total of \$14,523,787 was brought to the state. Below is a sampling of grant accomplishments, along with a few ongoing projects.

Grant Accomplishments

White River Bridge/INDOT: Because the condition of the strategic White River Bridge in Greene County threatened regional mobility, economic development, national defense, and public safety, Senator Donnelly supported the DOT TIGER grant application from INDOT. This bridge is critical to Naval Support Activity Crane as its DoD designated connection to the Strategic Rail Corridor Network. One of the largest Navy installations in the world, NSA Crane is a joint service facility responsible for storing 650,000 tons of ordnance from which it supports warfighters around the globe. High-capacity, reliable rail service is absolutely necessary for this base to meet its mobilization requirements. This bridge link is also used by public utilities including Duke Energy and Indianapolis Power & Light to supply their power stations, and it carries regional grain and manufactured goods traffic. **Award amount: \$8,245,220**

West Lafayette Fire Department: The fire department received funding for seven frontline firefighters through the FEMA SAFER grant. Their request was, in part, due to an annexation by the city (including the tax-exempt Purdue campus) that will double the size of West Lafayette but not significantly increase the taxes that pay for fire departments. SAFER funding will make the department NFPA 1710 compliant, allow them to move more safely and efficiently through every phase of an emergency response, and provide greater safety to the firefighters and community. **Award amount: \$1,155,000**

Fort Wayne-Allen County Airport Authority: The DOT's Small Community Air Service Development Program will support the effort to bring US Airways/American Airlines service to the Philadelphia International Airport with a non-stop route as part of a comprehensive economic development plan. Program grant funds will be matched with significant local dollars that will be used for airline incentives to reduce the risk of starting this service. **Award Amount: \$600,000**

Elkhart and Concord Community Schools in collaboration with ETHOS Science Center, Purdue Calumet University, and University of Notre Dame: The Indiana Department of Education's Math and Science Partnership Grants are awarded to facilitate partnerships between school corporations and institutes of higher education. The grant awarded to Elkhart and Concord Community Schools in collaboration with ETHOS Science Center will be used for a training program that will impact seventy-five teachers and hundreds of students. The teachers' new training will engage students in the learning process to a high degree, improving student achievement in science content and content area writing. **Award Amount: \$450,000**

East Central Indiana Regional Planning District: The Economic Development Administration's Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership Grant funding will be used in the cities of Anderson, Muncie and New Castle in order to foster an environment in which multiple abandoned automotive plants can be transformed into thriving manufacturing enterprises. **Award Amount: \$150,000**

Montgomery County Economic Development: Using Rural Business Enterprise funding from USDA Rural Development, the MCED plans to set up a revolving loan fund grant program to assist entrepreneurs in the establishment of their businesses. The MCED will make 5 to 6 loans totaling \$15,000 to \$20,000 each. The subsequent principal and interest payments will then be rolled over to create future loans. **Award Amount: \$99,000**

Other Accomplishments & Ongoing Efforts

Miami County Economic Development Authority: A years-long project from Senator Donnelly's time representing Hoosiers in the House of Representatives, this year, the Miami County Economic Development Authority (MCEDA) gathered five funding sources for a \$14.2 million project at the former Grissom Air Force Base in Peru. Dean Baldwin Painting opened an airplane painting facility, their only facility that can take a wide-body 747 commercial plane. With the assistance of Senator Donnelly, MCEDA received a \$7.1 million loan from the Department of Agriculture and a \$3.1 million Economic Development Administration grant. The result of Senator Donnelly's efforts with the MCEDA is 200 new jobs and the repurposing of an unused military facility. **Total funding: \$10.2 million**

Stepping Stones Shelter for Women in LaPorte: The Stepping Stones Shelter for Women in LaPorte had an issue with a delay in the release of their HUD grant award because of a clerical error made by HUD. Due to intervention from Senator Donnelly's office, the issue was resolved and the funding was released.

Area IV Head Start: Area IV Head Start was in the process of purchasing an old school in the Logansport area for use by Head Start. Their lending bank had requested a subordination agreement which allows the lender—rather than the Federal government—to assume the first position on the loan. Since Head Start is HHS funded, this required approval from the HHS DC office. After several calls from Joe's office, HHS approved the agreement. Former State Rep. Katie Wolfe and HS Director Jason Belt brought the matter to Senator Donnelly's attention.

Marshall County Flood Mitigation: Senator Donnelly provided assistance with the final phase of land acquisition for the flood plain remediation/city park project by initiating conversations between the Indiana Department of Homeland Security and the City of Plymouth. Funding from FEMA looks favorable. Those involved include Kevin Overmyer and Brent Martin, with the knowledge of Plymouth Mayor Senter. The next part of the process is development of the city park.

Jackson Street Commons in Kokomo: Jackson Street Commons, a Homeless Veterans Housing project in Kokomo, is being built by Family Service Association, with the help of the City of Kokomo and HUD. They have been working to make up for a \$500,000 shortfall in the budget. Senator Donnelly's office engaged HUD in Indianapolis to work on the project with FSA. The funding search is ongoing.

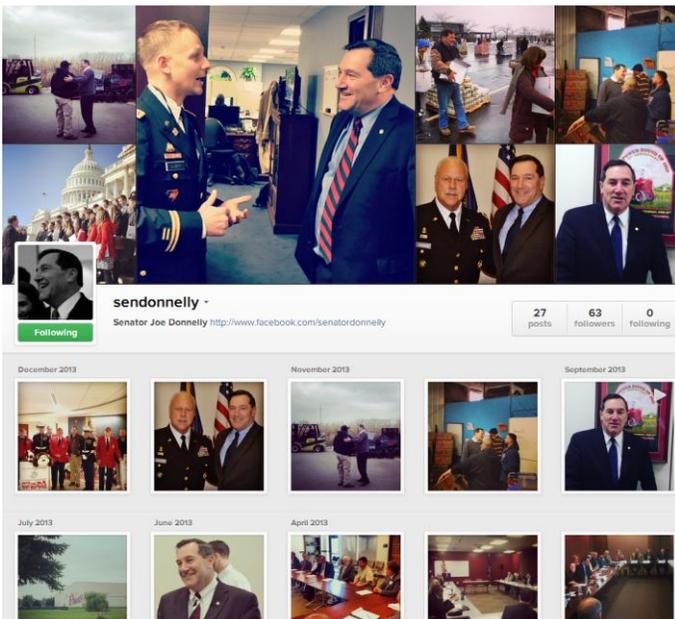
Engaging with Hoosiers on Social Media

Joe works for the people of Indiana, so he thinks it is important to keep Hoosiers updated on his efforts to represent their interests. In order to reach as many Hoosiers as possible, Joe and his staff take advantage of a wide range of online tools with which to stay connected with the folks back home.



# of Twitter Followers	10,289
# of Tweets	1,047
# of Tweets Favorited	699
# of Retweets	2,130
# of Replies	1,297

Since becoming Indiana's newest Senator, Joe has used a Facebook page, a Twitter feed, an Instagram account, and a Flickr account. The graphs included present a snapshot of the Hoosiers reached through two of these platforms.



City/Town	# of FB Likes
Indianapolis	903
South Bend	468
Fort Wayne	198
Bloomington	173
Mishawaka	161
Elkhart	147
Kokomo	134
Evansville	101
Michigan City	95
Lafayette	80
Muncie	80
LaPorte	79
Valparaiso	78
Goshen	72
Granger	68
Logansport	67
Terre Haute	66
Camel	61
Plymouth	53
Fishers	40
West Lafayette	38
Noblesville	37
Anderson	36
Warsaw	36
Knox	34
Columbus	33
Greenwood	33
Rochester	30
Portage	28
New Albany	27
Brownsburg	25
TOTAL LIKES	7,242



MORE WISDOM IN INDIANA

Joe knows the best ideas come from Hoosiers, so he gets back home at every opportunity. He puts in thousands of miles on the road listening to the concerns of Hoosiers and getting ideas to best represent them in Congress. Since coming to the Senate, Joe has spent countless hours touring the state and visiting with local officials, touring businesses, meeting with education leaders, having coffee with Hoosier families, and much more—so he can discuss in person the issues most important to Hoosiers: jobs and the economy.

In-State Travel

In 2013, Joe spent 162 days in Indiana, during which he visited 49 counties. He participated in or hosted 359 events in communities across Indiana and held open houses for five of his six regional offices.



Traveling Indiana

Joe has worked non-stop to make listening to the needs and concerns of Hoosiers a priority since taking office as Indiana’s U.S. Senator. To accomplish this over the past year, Joe hosted open houses and a coffee with Hoosiers; went on tours of businesses, factories, schools, and National Guard outposts, and much more. Below is a snapshot of some of these travels:

- From **January** 14-17, Joe conducted an “I Work for You” Tour, visiting Columbus, Lawrenceburg, Madison, Jeffersonville, Evansville, Jasper, Vincennes, Terre Haute, Indianapolis, Mooreland, Anderson, Muncie, Fort Wayne, Warsaw, South Bend, Valparaiso, Hammond, and West Lafayette. Joe spent the tour listening to Hoosier businesses, universities, and members of the ag community as to the issues most important to them. This was his first statewide tour since being sworn in as Indiana’s newest U.S. Senator.
- On **February** 18, Joe started a Closing the Skills Gap Tour, where he visited Indianapolis, Jeffersonville, Evansville, Terre Haute, and Fort



Wayne. Joe met with employers, educators, and workers to discuss how Indiana can meet the need for high-skill jobs currently going unfilled and to advocate for Congress to pass common sense legislation that would create more effective training and educational programs for workers to match the skills needed for these available jobs. This was Joe's second tour as Indiana's newest U.S. Senator. Joe completed the final stop of his Closing the Skills Gap Tour on **March 15**, after delaying a scheduled appearance in Fort Wayne to attend memorial services for two Indianapolis EMTs in February.



- Starting **March 25**, Joe began his “Hoosier JobsRoots” tour where he visited Gary, Lafayette, Fort Wayne, Noblesville, Lawrenceburg, New Albany, Evansville, and Terre Haute. In each community, Joe hosted roundtable discussions on how he can help business and community leaders with job creation in the Hoosier State. Joe asked business owners, educators and other community leaders on how he, on the federal level, can help local efforts to further improve Indiana’s economy and bring more jobs to our state. This was Joe’s third statewide tour since being sworn in as U.S. Senator. The tour concluded on **April 3rd**.

- On **May 10**, Joe spoke at a Purple Heart Ceremony for Deputy U.S. Marshall Timothy Fraley in Fort Wayne.



- On **May 17**, Joe visited Terre Haute as part of a day honoring the Bayh Family at Indiana State University. He then traveled to Noblesville to learn about local leaders planning for future natural disasters such as the recent flooding and the food pantry needs of Hamilton County. He ended his day in Kokomo, where he visited one of the SBA Disaster Centers established to assist families and businesses with

flood damage. On May 18, he spoke at the SeaPerch National Challenge, which is supported by Naval Surface Warfare Center Crane. In the speech he highlighted the good work of Hoosier students and the importance of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education to fill the manufacturing jobs of the future. And on May 19, he

visited the National Robotics League 2013 Competition and attended the Armed Forces Day Enlistment Ceremony at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

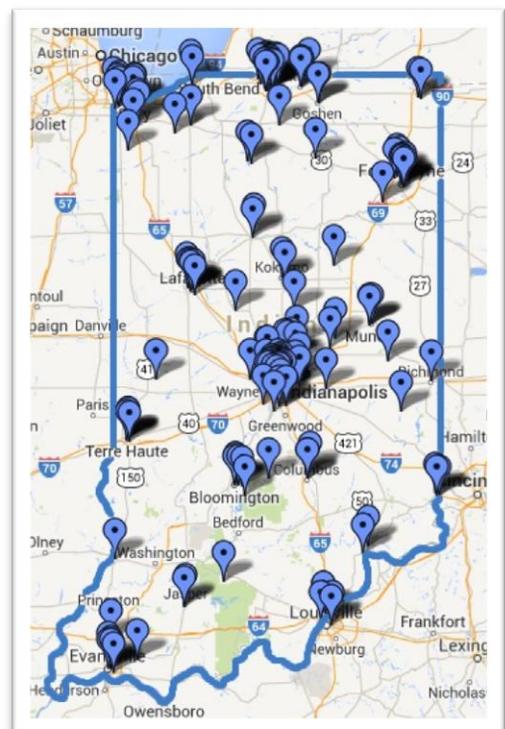
- On **May 27**, Joe traveled to Lafayette and Goshen where he participated in Memorial Day events honoring Hoosier soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice while protecting the freedoms of our nation.



- On **July 12**, Joe spoke at the American Legion Department of Indiana Convention in Indianapolis to honor veterans from across the state and thank the American Legion for supporting and providing resources for service members, veterans, and their families.



- On **July 19**, Joe visited the Indiana Black Expo's Summer Celebration at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis. Joe met with convention participants and discussed issues of importance to the African-American community.
- From **August 12-16** Joe's office hosted Job Seeker Workshops in Gary, Sellersburg, and Indianapolis designed to help Hoosiers who are looking for work. The goal was to help attendees improve their job search and interview skills and their resume writing. The events included discussions led by community leaders and industry professionals on growing job opportunities in industries such as manufacturing and technology. Resources to assist Hoosier veterans with their entry or re-entry into the workforce after serving our country were also available.
- As a member of the Special Committee on Aging, Joe's office hosted two Senior Wise Seminars in Fort Wayne and Lafayette on **August 20 and 21**. The seminars provided information to seniors on options for meeting their healthcare needs at home and ways to obtain necessary equipment and services. At the seminars, seniors had the opportunity to meet with representatives from federal agencies and other community organizations to discuss general healthcare services and various in-home programs available to seniors.



- On **August 3**, Joe hosted a Coffee and Common Sense event in Indianapolis to listen to Hoosiers' concerns and discuss issues his office might be able to help with, such as federal casework. In addition to Joe talking to Hoosiers one-on-one, members of Joe's staff were on hand at the event to help people who had problems or concerns with a federal issue or agency, such as accessing Social Security payments or Medicare benefits, receiving veterans-related benefits or health care they have earned, or passport and travel visa issues.

- Joe traveled to Muscatatuck Urban Training Center in Butlerville, Indiana on **August 5**. Joe observed the Vibrant Response 13-2 Northern Command exercise, which is the largest homeland security exercise conducted annually. This exercise helps prepare United States military, homeland security personnel, and first responders for responding to a catastrophic event in an urban area.



- On **August 23**, Joe traveled to southern Indiana to meet with members of the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce from around the Monroe County community. In the afternoon, he traveled to Bedford, where he toured the East Gate Business and Technology Center.



- On **August 26**, Joe kicked off a "Serving Those Who Serve" Defense Jobs Tour. Joe visited Fort Wayne, West Lafayette, Evansville, New Albany, Terre Haute, and Merrillville over three days to highlight Indiana's sizable defense industry. The defense industry in Indiana employs Hoosiers in jobs that are critical to our national security. Along the way, Joe visited various defense contractors, a laboratory that trains students for future jobs in the defense industry, an Air National Guard base and a company with a strong record of hiring members of the Guard and reserves, as well as veterans.

- On **August 30**, Joe visited the VA Outpatient Clinic in Goshen to observe firsthand the services they provide to area veterans and to learn more about their efforts to provide high-quality and accessible healthcare to those who served our nation.





- On Veterans Day, **November 11**, Joe was in Indianapolis to visit with veterans in the VA Hospital, award four Hoosier veterans the medals they earned, and participate in the Veterans Day Ceremony on the steps of the Indiana War Memorial.

- On **November 14**, Joe hosted EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy at Kelsay Farms in Whiteland, Indiana, for a listening session with members of Indiana’s ag community. Administrator McCarthy heard directly from the Hoosier farmers, producers, and conservationists who are affected daily by the regulations put in place by the EPA.



- On **November 18**, Joe joined Governor Mike Pence and Kokomo Mayor Greg Goodnight to tour storm damage from the recent tornadoes and received a briefing from local officials in the Kokomo area.

- On **November 25 and 26** Joe visited Fort Wayne, Gary, Indianapolis, Lafayette, Muncie, and Richmond, where he made a donation of \$500 to a local food bank in each community. Earlier that week, Joe announced that he would be donating his take-home pay for the 16 days of the federal government shutdown, worth \$5,000, to ten food banks in Indiana. Joe refused to take the salary he received while partisan gridlock had shut down the government, hurting Hoosier families and businesses, as well as our entire country’s economy.



- From **December 4-6**, Joe visited auto manufacturing facilities around Indiana, including Princeton, Bedford, Greensburg, and Lafayette, to recognize the hard work of Hoosiers in this important sector of our economy.



- On **December 8**, Joe met with members of Girl Scout Troop 119 of Shelbyville to sign holiday cards for wounded Hoosier National Guard Members. The girls sent 72 cards to Fort Knox, Kentucky, where the soldiers were recovering.



- On the morning of **December 14**, Joe stopped by the American Legion Headquarters in Indianapolis to thank the members of his Service Academy Committee who were conducting interviews with Hoosier high school students interested in attending one of the academies. He then went to Fort Wayne where he spoke at the Indiana Farm Bureau Convention about the need for a bipartisan, five-year Farm Bill to give the Hoosier ag community the certainty it deserves.



- On **Christmas Eve**, Joe visited Beacon Health System's Memorial Hospital of South Bend to distribute Toys-for-Tots toys alongside U.S. Marines.

Hosting Hoosiers in Washington

Joe enjoys the opportunity to host Hoosiers visiting Washington, D.C., whether they are experiencing their nation's capital with their families, learning about our government on a school trip, or making the trip to meet with their representatives in Congress to voice their opinions on issues important to them.

Joe especially enjoys when he is able to meet with school groups from Indiana. In 2013, Joe had the chance to meet with school groups from across the state. These included the following colleges and universities, high schools, and middle schools:

- Oak Hill Junior High School (Converse)
- Notre Dame Catholic School (Michigan City)
- Eastern Greene Middle School (Bloomfield)
- Saint Simon Middle School (Indianapolis)
- Kesling and Boston Middle Schools (La Porte)
- Elkhart Central High School (Elkhart)

- Saint Maria Goretti (Westfield)
- Eastwood and Northview Middle Schools (Indianapolis)
- Rushville (Rushville)
- Montessori Academy at Edison Lakes (Mishawaka)
- Purdue North Central
- Marian University
- Purdue Politics and Media Class
- Ball State Sustainable Agriculture Documentary Students



Joe values the time he gets to spend meeting with Hoosier educators, veterans, local leaders and everyday men and women who volunteer their time to making Indiana and this country better. Below is just a sampling of the some of the people Joe was able to visit with in Washington:



- Northeast Indiana Honor Flight
- Lafayette Honor Flight
- Indiana Principals of the Year
- Suzanne Whitton, 2013 Indiana Teacher of the Year
 - A Hoosier veteran participating in the Wounded Warrior Soldier Ride
 - 4-H Students from East Chicago
 - Dan Schmidtendorff, SBA Indiana Small Business Person of the Year
 - Indiana FFA students
 - Indiana REMC Youth Tour participants
 - Indiana National Guard's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger
 - John Jacobson, Dean of Ball State

University Teachers College

- Indiana Agricultural Leadership Program Class 15

Over the course of 2013, Joe hosted 11 constituent coffees in his Senate office or other Senate meeting rooms to welcome Hoosiers visiting Washington. Joe took those opportunities to meet with Hoosiers from across the state, take photos, and discuss their concerns or travel plans while visiting our nation's capital.



BEST IDEAS FROM BOTH PARTIES

Bipartisan Legislative Efforts in 2013

Senator Donnelly has prioritized working with members of both parties because no one has it right 100% of the time. Below is Joe's work with his Republican colleagues on legislation, amendments, and other legislative efforts in 2013.

Donnelly gives maiden speech in Senate
"Donnelly, 57, a resident of Granger in St. Joseph County, was regarded as a political moderate or centrist during his six years in the U.S. House. He indicated he will continue to stake out that position in the Senate. 'And here's what I'm about--taking the best ideas from both parties, both sides of this chamber, and getting things done, starting with jobs,' he said."
Fort Wayne Journal Gazette, 4/24/13

Sen. Roy Blunt (R-MO): In September, Senator Donnelly and Senator Blunt introduced an amendment to the Energy Efficiency bill that would ensure that efforts to regulate carbon dioxide emissions are realistic about existing technology and do not negatively impact our economy.

Sen. John Boozman (R-AR): In May, Senator Donnelly and Senator Boozman introduced the *National Desert Storm and Desert Shield War Memorial Act*, which would authorize the National Desert Storm Memorial Association to establish the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial on federal lands within the District of Columbia. No federal funds would be spent to build this memorial, as all funds would be raised privately by the National Desert Storm War Memorial Association. This bill passed the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources in November.

Sen. Dan Coats (R-IN): In August, Senators Donnelly and Coats introduced the *Alicia Dawn Koehl Respect for National Cemeteries Act*, which would give the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the U.S. Department of the Army the authority to disinter veterans buried in national cemeteries who committed a Federal or State capital crime. Current statute prohibits burying veterans who committed a Federal or State capital crime, but does not allow the VA or Army to correct a mistake that has been made. This bill was signed into law by President Obama in December.

Sen. Tom Coburn (R-OK): In December, Senators Donnelly and Coburn introduced the *Preserving Access to Manufactured Housing Act*, which would adjust the threshold for when loans on manufactured housing will be considered high-cost, and therefore subject to higher liabilities and disclosure. The bill also makes changes to the definition of points and fees payable (compensation) and to the definition of mortgage loan originator.

Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME): In June, Senators Collins and Donnelly introduced the *Forty Hours is Full Time Act of 2013*, which would change the definition of "full time" in the ACA to 40 hours per week. As they worked together on this bipartisan legislative solution to develop clear, workable guidelines necessary for American businesses and workers, Senators Collins and Donnelly simultaneously urged President Obama to provide transition relief for employers. They also co-authored a letter to the President strongly urging his Administration to work with the employer community to provide transition flexibility beyond January 1, 2014, free from the threat of penalty.

Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX): In July, Senators Donnelly and Cruz introduced the *Military Reserve Jobs Act of 2013*, which would provide federal employment hiring preference to members of the National Guard and Reserves (the Reserve Component), who do not already qualify for veterans' hiring preference. The National Guard Bureau estimates that approximately 159,400 Army National Guard soldiers (44 percent of the total force) and 73,700 Air National Guard airmen (70 percent of the total force) serve without having qualified for veterans' preference.

Sen. Deb Fischer (R-NE): Senator Donnelly and Senator Fischer introduced an amendment to the NDAA that would require the DOD to develop a strategy for collaboration across the Army, Air Force, and Navy strategic weapons programs, such as in the development of the Conventional Prompt Global Strike program.

Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA): In May, Senator Donnelly and Senator Grassley introduced an amendment that would prohibit the EPA from releasing personal information of livestock producers. In July, Senators Donnelly and Grassley introduced the Farmer Identity Protection Act, legislation that would protect farmers and ranchers by prohibiting the Environmental Protection Agency from disclosing their private and confidential information to the public.

Sen. Dean Heller (R-NV): In October, Senators Donnelly and Heller introduced the *Skills Gap Strategy Act*, which would direct the Secretary of Labor to develop a strategy to help close the "skills gap" by increasing on-the-job training and apprenticeship opportunities. It would encourage the Department of Labor to develop plans in consultation with the Departments of Commerce and Education to increase employer participation in education and workforce training. Recognizing current budgetary constraints, the bill asks the Department of Labor to focus on solutions that utilize existing resources, programs, and personnel. Closing the skills gap must be an employer-driven effort, but the federal government can help.

Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-OK): In December, Senators Donnelly and Inhofe introduced the *Public Power Risk Management Act*, which would require that a utility operation-related swap with a utility special entity be treated the same as a utility operations-related swap with any other entity.

Sen. Johnny Isakson (R-GA): In September, Senators Donnelly and Isakson introduced a resolution to promote Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. The resolution unanimously passed the Senate.

Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI): In May, Senator Donnelly and Senator Ron Johnson introduced an amendment to the Farm Bill that would allow all kinds of fruits and vegetables to participate in the free school snack program as long as they meet basic nutrition standards.

Sen. Mark Kirk (R-IL): In December, Senators Donnelly and Kirk wrote a letter to Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus and Ranking Member Orrin Hatch asking them to consider keeping in place expiring tax provisions that are important to the continued growth of the American manufacturing industry.

Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH): In July, Senator Donnelly joined Senators Portman (R-OH) and McCaskill (D-MO) in introducing the *Federal Permitting Improvement Act of 2013*. The legislation would expedite the federal permitting process and encourage private investment by requiring government agencies to work together to cut red tape, set deadlines, and increase transparency.

Sen. Pat Roberts (R-KS): In May, Senators Donnelly and Roberts successfully passed an amendment to address the increasing use of crops for biofuels. This bipartisan amendment would amend the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program to offer coverage for crops producing feedstock for energy purposes. Further, the amendment would direct USDA to research and develop risk management tools for promising new sorghum crops.

Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-AL): In October, Senators Donnelly and Sessions led a bipartisan group of 19 senators who wrote a letter to Chairman Williamson of the U.S. International Trade Commission asking that the Commission maintain the existing antidumping and countervailing duty orders against unfairly traded imports of hot-rolled steel. These trade orders help maintain a level playing field for an already vulnerable domestic steel industry. In December, the ITC announced that it will maintain the existing orders against unfairly traded imports of hot-rolled steel.

Sen. Roger Wicker (R-MS): In June, Senators Donnelly and Wicker introduced the *Jacob Sexton Military Suicide Prevention Act*, which would establish a pilot program in each of the military services and reserve components to integrate comprehensive annual mental health assessments into a service member's Periodic Health Assessment and identify risk factors for mental illness so that service members can access preventative care. Additionally, Senators Donnelly and Wicker successfully offered an amendment designed to address the growing problem of suicides in the US military. Their amendment was unanimously adopted by the Senate Armed Services Committee during the debate and passage of the FY2014 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). This amendment requires a Department of Defense report on the possible implementation of the pilot program required under the Jacob Sexton Act.

Working as a Member of the Group of 14 to Help End the Government Shutdown

Of note in Joe's work with senators from both parties was his participation in the bipartisan group of 14 senators that worked to help end the government shutdown. A sampling of press coverage of Joe's role follows:

Indianapolis Star

"Although things haven't gotten any better since the 2012 elections, the good news is that the past 12 months have made clear that Indiana got it right when it elected Sen. Joe Donnelly as its junior senator. If you're fed up with Washington's mess, that's understandable. If you think Congress is one of the nation's biggest sources of trouble, you're in the majority. But Joe Donnelly, it should be noted, isn't part of the problem.

...

"As we talked last week, the first-year senator said his work in the group of 14 Senate moderates, which advocated for a bipartisan and balanced deal to end the shutdown, one that would pave the way for long-term budget talks, 'showed that party had nothing to do with' his thinking. To conservative critics who say he supports his party too blindly, he said: 'I don't know what else I can do but continue to hit it straight down the middle.'" -[Matt Tully: Joe Donnelly tries to 'hit it straight down the middle'](#) ([Indianapolis Star](#)) 10/29/13

Detroit Free Press

"The good news is that the Senate group who hatched this plan shows wonderful promise. Fourteen senators from both parties worked day and night this week to figure a way forward, and it was their plan

— more than public frustration or even the efforts of President Barack Obama — that is expected to defuse the impasse in the House. As of Wednesday afternoon, nothing has been voted on, but predictions are that this will be the deal that sticks.

...

“The bipartisan Senate group retreated from the noise, worked together and came up with a plan that was acceptable to leadership on both sides. It corners Boehner and reasserts tea party rage as a minority concern: loud but subordinate to the primacy of governing and responsibly managing the nation’s debt payments.”- [Stephen Henderson: “The shutdown is over, but our crisis in government is not” \(Detroit Free Press\) 10/17/13](#)

Lafayette Journal and Courier

“There’s been a lot thrown at Donnelly and his Capitol Hill colleagues in recent weeks, too — mainly derision from a disgusted American public. But Donnelly emerged as one of the cooler heads, as one of 14 senators in the middle of a deal credited with helping to end the 16-day federal government shutdown and debt ceiling crisis.”-[Dave Bangert: Sen. Donnelly on shutdown chances, health care pain and a Purdue QB \(Lafayette Journal and Courier\) 10/23/13](#)

Terre Haute Tribune-Star

“After a couple of Hoosier members of the House tea party contingent uttered strange comments that became late night talk show punchlines in the past two weeks, it was refreshing to see a different Indiana congressman, Sen. Joe Donnelly, among those 14 lawmakers involved in those behind-the-scenes, bipartisan talks. Like other participants, Donnelly, a centrist Democrat and a freshman senator, had to compromise.

...

“The easiest thing in the world is to be the loudest person in the Senate, the loudest person in the House, the person getting the most attention. But that doesn’t get anything done,’ Donnelly told the media. ‘What gets things done is the relationships you have to work together to make our nation stronger. And you had 14 people in a room who trusted one another, who knew they could trust each other’s word, and who knew that their only goals were to try to make this nation stronger.’”-[Mark Bennett: Indiana’s Donnelly part of ‘The Middle’ that got deal done \(Terre Haute Tribune-Star\) 10/17/13](#)

NWI Times

Donnelly replaces Lugar in Senate, tries bipartisanship

“Democrat Joe Donnelly was sworn in as Indiana’s newest U.S. Senator on Jan. 3, replacing six-term Republican incumbent U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar. Following in his predecessor’s highly praised footsteps, Donnelly staked out a position as one of the few moderates willing to work across party lines in the sharply divided chamber. Throughout the 16-day federal government shutdown and debt crisis in October, Donnelly huddled with a bipartisan group of 14 senators to craft the framework of the temporary spending plan and debt-limit extension that reopened the government and prevented the United States from defaulting on its national debt. Donnelly later donated his pay from the shutdown period to food banks in Gary and nine other Indiana cities.”-[NWI Times Staff: 2013 sees new leadership for Indiana \(NWI Times\) 12/28/2013](#)

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