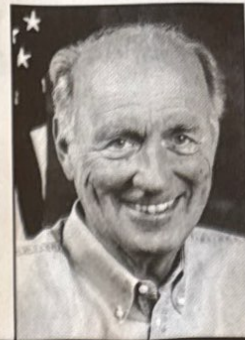




CONGRESSMAN
WALTER CAPPS
Keeping in Touch



July 1997

Dear Friends,

I am honored to be the new U.S. Representative of the 22nd District of California. Being the voice of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties in the United States Congress is a remarkable privilege and a profound challenge.

The enduring strength of our great democracy is the free and open relationship citizens can have with their Representatives. That will always be the case in my office. In this newsletter, I will let you know of my work on specific issues that are directly related to the quality of life on the Central Coast. I also seek your input on issues critical to you and our community. Included in this report is information about my district offices and constituent services operation. Please take a minute to fill out and return the constituent survey on page 4.

Americans have become more cynical about our national government in recent years. This has happened, in large part, because the relationship between the people and their elected Representatives has deteriorated. I will do everything in my power to help restore these bonds of trust and communication.

Sincerely,

Walter Capps
Your Representative

Constituent Service is My Top Priority

The most important—and often the most rewarding—task of a Member of Congress is the opportunity to make a difference in the daily lives of individuals.

I am pleased to announce the opening of three district offices, in San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Santa Maria. I welcome visits, phone calls and letters to these offices, as well as to my Washington office. Constituents are also encouraged to send e-mail to walter.capps@mail.house.gov.

Since the start of the year, thousands of Central Coast residents have contacted our offices, many requesting help with problems they are experiencing with various Federal agencies. While we can't promise a successful resolution to every case, we will work hard to cut through red tape and ensure that each individual is treated respectfully and fairly by the Federal government. The cases we are working on include Social Security, Medicare, Federal retirement benefits, immigration, small business matters, student loans, military issues, tax problems, and more. In addition, my Washington staff is happy to assist constituents who are planning to travel to the nation's capital, or who wish to order flags flown over the Capitol to commemorate special occasions.



Congressman Walter Capps has met with thousands of residents of Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties in his three district offices and out in the community. Here he discusses important Federal agriculture issues.



Working For You on the Central Coast

As Congress debates important national issues, it is critical to ensure our important local concerns are not lost in the shuffle. Here are a few specific initiatives critical to the Central Coast.

Funding for COPS

Of all the methods designed to fight crime and keep our cities and towns safe, the most effective Federal program is the Community Oriented Policing Service (COPS). By the end of this year, the COPS program will have placed more than 50 additional officers throughout the 22nd Congressional district.

My office has worked closely with several communities to secure vital COPS funding. Our efforts helped bring three police officers to Atascadero and an officer each to Guadalupe and to Pismo Beach.

In addition, I have successfully urged the Justice Department to fund other critical COPS programs. Recently, Morro Bay received funding for its police department's anti-robbery program. Lompoc received a grant to upgrade crime-fighting equipment. And I am very excited about a grant of more than \$300,000 to put sophisticated equipment into 30 patrol cars and free up 13 officers for community police work in Santa Maria.

Saving Morro Bay

Morro Bay is not only one of the crown jewels of our coastal scenery, but an economic lifeline for countless families and businesses. That's why it is imperative that the Army Corps of Engineers continue to dredge the Bay, and why I was very disturbed when this program was omitted from the President's budget prepared prior to my taking office.

I have written to and personally lobbied the leadership of the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee urging them to provide funds for Morro Bay. I am seeking \$3.2 million for dredging, \$2 million to repair the south jetty, and additional funding to help preserve the environmentally critical Morro Bay Estuary.

Fighting for Better Transportation

I strongly support the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) which gives local communities the opportunity to invest in projects that best serve their particular needs. In our district, ISTEA provides millions of dollars each year for such practical transportation systems as road improvements, buses, and bikeways. For example, I have just secured \$2.5 million for Santa Barbara's electric buses.

In addition, after consulting with San Luis Obispo County transportation officials, the Highway Patrol, and community organizations, I

launched an effort to obtain \$10 million in Federal funds to widen one terribly dangerous stretch of Highway 46, east of Paso Robles. My testimony before the Subcommittee on Surface Transportation pointed out that 48 people have died on this road since 1992 and that it must be widened to accommodate the dangerous mix of trucks, school buses, farm vehicles, and commuter traffic.

Supporting Vandenberg AFB

Like all U.S. military personnel, the dedicated service families at Vandenberg Air Force Base deserve our full support. I am very proud to have helped secure \$44 million in the Department of Defense budget for two important Vandenberg projects.

The recently-passed DoD spending bill includes \$17.1 million that I requested to continue the vital housing renovations under way at the base. This project will replace over 100 family units with safe and modern facilities, improving the quality of life for our service personnel and their dependents and enhancing the community at large.

In addition, I successfully lobbied for \$26.9 million for a state-of-the-art Launch Operations Control Center. This new computer and communications system will allow Vandenberg to continue to serve its vital role as the premier facility for commercial space, missile testing, and space launch tracking.



Working For You in Washington

Rep. Capps Introduces Health Care Bill

Anyone who knows former Santa Barbara County Supervisor Tom Rogers can't help but respect the courage and dignity he has demonstrated in his battle against Lou Gehrig's Disease (ALS). Inspired by the experiences of Tom and others who suffer from this disease, I have introduced the ALS Research, Treatment and Assistance Act. My bipartisan bill would improve Medicare coverage for ALS and double Federal funding of research into the cause, treatment, and cure of this fatal disease.

Promoting Fiscal Responsibility

One of my highest priorities is reducing the Federal deficit. Lower deficits mean more jobs, lower interest rates on mortgages and car loans, and lower inflation. I was proud to cast my vote for the bipartisan plan that will balance the budget, provide sensible tax relief, and continue to fund critical programs.

Americans deserve tax relief. I have cosponsored legislation to reduce taxes on capital gains, which will benefit homeowners, small business owners, and families. I also voted to lessen the impact of the estate tax, particularly on family farmers.

Education is the Key

As a teacher and a Congressman, I am committed to strengthening the Federal commitment to education—from pre-school to graduate school.

More than 1,000 young children in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties participate in the Head Start program. But many more are waiting to get in. I strongly support the Administration's budget proposal that would bring over \$40 million a year to California in additional Head Start funds and help our kids get off to the educational start they deserve.

The budget plan makes historic investments in other key education programs, including the Title I program, which provides funding for schools that serve particularly needy

children. I am also pushing proposals to ensure reading skills by age 8 and to expand the computer literacy of American children.

The rising cost of higher education needs to be addressed, especially in an area like our's which is home to such outstanding universities and community colleges. I am fighting to enact the President's initiative to provide \$1,500 tax credits and \$10,000 tax deductions for higher education expenses.

Protecting Seniors

Our community is home to tens of thousands of retirees who depend on Social Security and their pensions. I'm proud to have played a lead role in killing a budget proposal that would have cut Social Security under the guise of adjusting inflation measurements.

I have also cosponsored the Retirement Security Act which will improve coverage, portability, and protection of pensions.

Cleaning Up Politics

Throughout the Central Coast, people are fed up with the amount of money spent on campaigns, the nasty ads, and the perception that Members of Congress listen only to special interest groups and wealthy contributors.

One of the first bills I cosponsored is the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act. This bill will take money out of the system and level the playing field for challengers. Specifically, the legislation imposes spending caps on Congressional races, slashes political action committee contributions, bans contributions from non-citizens, and restricts contributions from wealthy donors. In addition, this bill would end huge loopholes in campaign finance law by doing away with nearly unlimited "soft" money from political parties and undisclosed independent expenditures by outside groups.

I will continue my efforts to restore the bond of trust between Washington and the rest of the country by cleaning up our political system.



Congressman Walter Capps has helped secure funding for police departments throughout the Central Coast. He recently joined with, from left, Santa Maria Police Chief Dan Shiner, Mayor Abel Maldonado, Councilman Joe Centeno, and Sgt. Paul Bonaventure to announce a \$320,000 crime-fighting grant.



Congressman Walter Capps meets with many constituent groups—like these high school students from Santa Barbara—to discuss his work on the Science and International Relations Committees.



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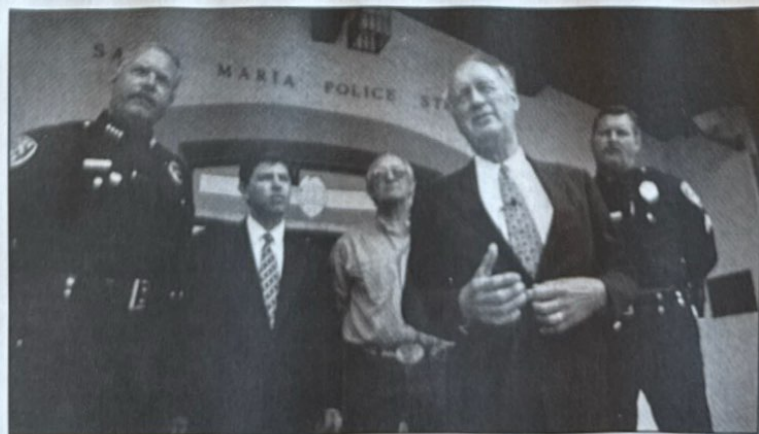
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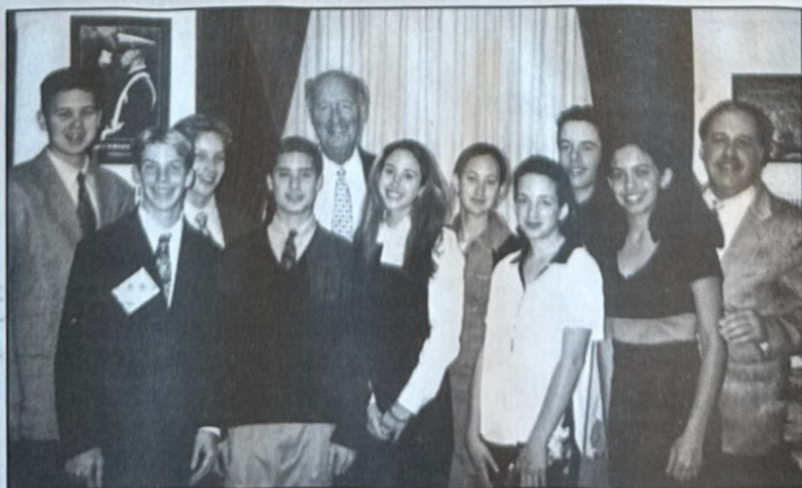
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In order to help me represent our district to the best of my ability, it would be very helpful if you would spend a few minutes filling out this questionnaire. Thank you.

1. Which of the following Federal issues is MOST important to you? (check one)
 - Investing in elementary and secondary school education
 - Fighting crime
 - Protecting the environment
 - Reducing the deficit
 - Providing health care to uninsured children
 - Preserving agriculture and the family farm
 - Making higher education more affordable
 - Protecting a woman's right to choose
 - Cutting taxes
 - Creating jobs and economic opportunity
 - Reforming our campaign finance system
 - Supporting our Veterans
 - Other _____
2. Do you support tougher regulations on clean water and clean air?
 - Yes No
3. Do you support special tax breaks for family farmers?
 - Yes No
4. Should NAFTA, the trade agreement with Mexico and Canada, be expanded to include additional countries like Chile?
 - Yes No
5. Which specific budget priority is most important to you? (check one)
 - Reducing the deficit
 - Cutting taxes
 - Funding education and environment protection programs
 - Keeping Medicare affordable
6. Do you favor free TV advertising time for Congressional candidates?
 - Yes No
7. Should legal immigrants who pay taxes but are not yet citizens be entitled to the same Federal benefits as other taxpayers?
 - Yes No
8. Which of the following Federal anti-crime initiatives do you support (check all that apply)
 - Background checks and five day waiting period to buy a handgun (the Brady Law)
 - Constructing more prisons
 - Putting more cops in our communities
 - Ban on assault weapons
 - Crime prevention programs for juveniles
 - Childproof trigger locks on guns
9. Do you support changing Medicare to a more managed care and HMO-based system?
 - Yes No
10. Please let me know what you think my top priority in Congress should be:
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____

Please tear out this entire page—making sure to include your address panel below—put it in a stamped envelope and mail it back to me. Please make any appropriate corrections to your name and address.

Please mail to: CONGRESSMAN WALTER CAPPS
 1118 Longworth Building
 Washington, DC 20515

NAME OF PERSON WHO FILLED OUT SURVEY _____

How to Contact Congressman Capps

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 Santa Barbara, CA 93101
 (805) 730-1710

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 Santa Maria, CA 93454
 (805) 349-9313

E-mail: walter.capps@mail.house.gov

Congress of the United States
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 Washington, D.C. 20515

OFFICIAL BUSINESS



Walter H. Capps

M.C.
Bulk Rate

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