



Representative Josh Harder

A Congressional Report:

BRINGING FEDERAL INVESTMENTS BACK HOME TO THE CENTRAL VALLEY

The Central Valley has been left behind for too long. Cities like San Francisco and Los Angeles receive millions of dollars of federal funding while we get pennies on the dollar. Two decades ago, the federal government used to be a reliable partner, providing investments for up to 75 percent of the costs of our water projects. Today we're lucky to receive 5 percent.

As a result, our schools, roads, and water projects are falling behind and it's hurting our families and making it more difficult for our businesses to compete. This report outlines Rep. Josh Harder's top federal funding priorities for the Central Valley.

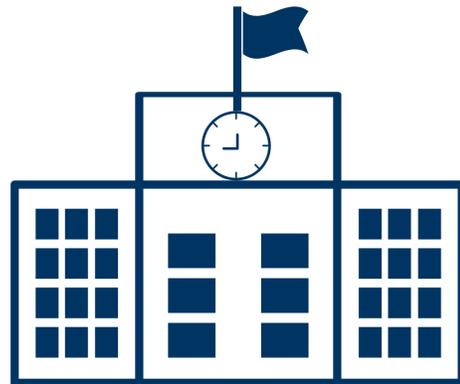


Education, Jobs & Economic Development

The Central Valley has an unemployment rate of 6.8 percent – *twice the national average*. Too many people are ready to work, but don't have the in-demand skills to get 21st century jobs. To get people back to work in the Valley, we must invest in workforce training programs and fight the \$8.5 billion proposed cuts to programs which support our students and small businesses.

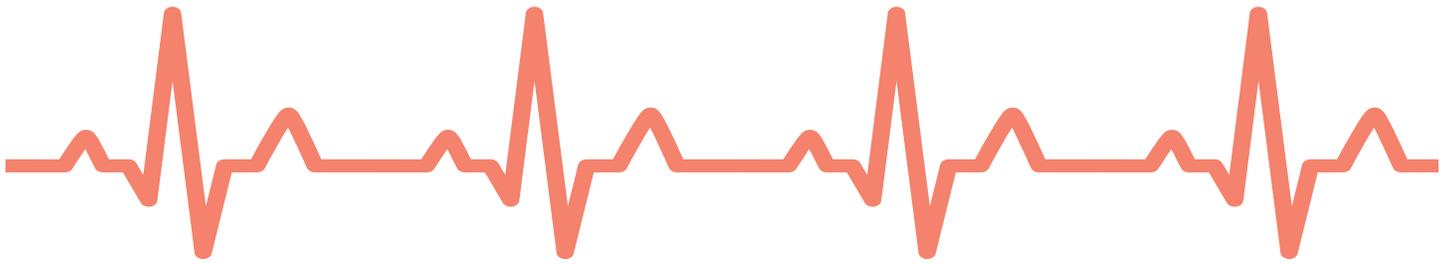
Examples of job training, economic development, and education programs Rep. Harder is fighting for:

- Economic Adjustment Assistance grants to support the Stanislaus Business Alliance
- 21st Century Community Learning Centers, which provide after-school programs
- Supporting Effective Educator Development, Teacher Quality Partnerships, and other teacher development training programs
- Programs that invest in small business like the Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program, Community Development Financial Institutions Program and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity
- Health Workforce Program which aims to attract skilled workers to the Valley
- Head Start and early education programs
- LEARN grants and the Innovative Approaches to learning program, which promote literacy and provide books to children in low-income areas.



Rep. Harder is sponsoring the bipartisan Investing in Main Street Act to cut red tape and spur investments in Central Valley small businesses.





Health Care

Thousands of families across the Central Valley still can't afford health insurance. Even those who can afford some coverage face skyrocketing premiums and uncertainty in the market. The administration's proposed budget strips funding from programs that help cover health costs like Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP, and an ongoing lawsuit against the Affordable Care Act threatens to leave 100,000 Central Valley residents without access to health care.

Examples of health programs Rep. Harder is fighting for:

- Health Workforce Program to attract more doctors and nurses to the Valley
- Title X, which provides funding for quality primary care and preventative health care for low-income patients
- Dedicated funds for the Asthma Control Program, which researches asthma—the single most common chronic condition among children in the U.S.
- Primary and Behavioral Health Care Integration Grants, which make mental health care more accessible. Full funding for Medicare. Rep. Harder will oppose efforts to cut benefits or reduce the program to a voucher system or block grants, including the administration's proposed \$845 million cut
- Full funding for Medicaid which helps thousands of working families, people with disabilities and those recovering from addictions. Local facilities like Aegis Treatment Center in Modesto, receive payments through Medicaid to provide addiction treatment and behavioral health services



Water

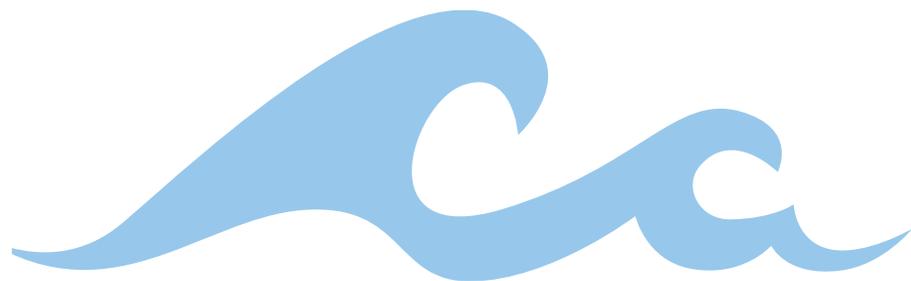
Water is the lifeblood of the Central Valley. Following the driest period in our state's 163 years of recorded rainfall, we need to make smart investments in water infrastructure solutions that grow and secure our water supply.

Examples of water projects Rep. Harder is fighting for:

- Renewed investments in the 2016 Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act
- San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge, which will provide water for 22,000 acres of farmland
- Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir which will provide an additional 85,000 acres of off-stream water storage for the Central Valley
- North Valley Water Recycling Program that will provide as much as 30,600 acre feet per year
- Sites, Los Vaqueros, and San Luis Reservoir water projects
- West Stanislaus Irrigation District Fish Screen project
- Projects to promote clean drinking water, flood control, and to address rural water need
- Categorical grants to assist state clean water programs



Harder is a sponsor of the bipartisan Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act, which invests \$23.5 Billion in direct water infrastructure and reauthorizes the Clean Water State Revolving Fund to finance local wastewater infrastructure needs



Agriculture

Agriculture is the backbone of our culture and our economy – contributing more than \$20.6 billion dollars in economic impact every year. After the most recent four-year drought, 70 percent of the state's agricultural losses were in San Joaquin County. But rather than support our farmers, current budget proposals would eliminate funding for more than 35 programs that our local agriculture community relies on.

Example agriculture programs Rep. Harder is fighting for:

- Pest and Disease prevention programs like the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
- Crop insurance and the Ag safety net
- New agricultural research to ensure the safety of our nation's food supply, improve nutrition and health, and sustain our resources
- Rural Energy for America Program
- Market Facilitation Program which facilitates exports so farmers can sell their products on a global scale
- Grants to help build more safe, low-income rural housing for farm workers
- The Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program, which helps approximately 11 percent of our residents
- Value-Added Agricultural Product Market Development program, which helps eligible farmers enter into or expand value-added activities

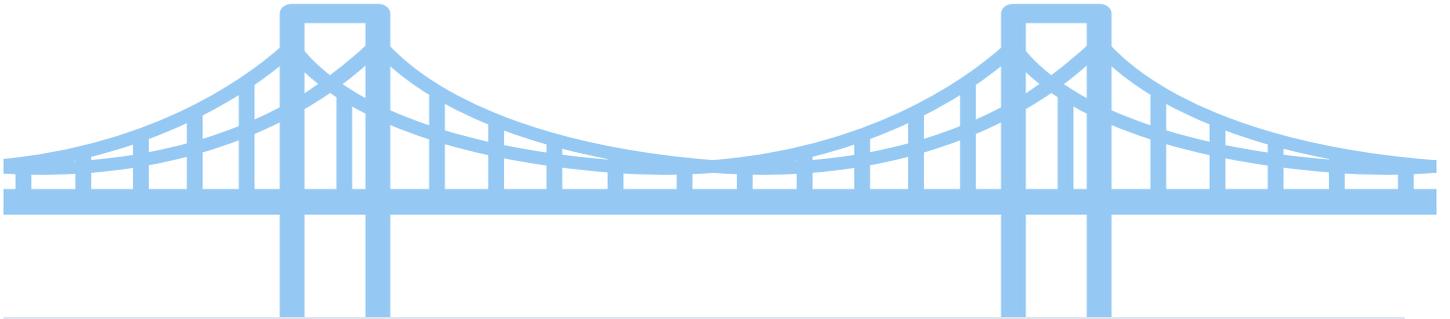


Rep. Harder received a commitment from Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue to tour our community and learn about the unique needs of Central Valley farmers.



Infrastructure

The Central Valley's roads, bridges, and transit systems are falling apart and not equipped to handle our explosive population growth. There are more than 124 bridges in Stanislaus County classified as needing immediate attention, and Modesto is home to the most structurally deficient bridge in California. Our businesses need support systems to help them grow, our commuters need safe roads and public transit.



Examples of infrastructure programs Rep. Harder is fighting for:

- Community Development Block Grants which fund neighborhood projects like rebuilding sidewalks in Ceres and Hughson, making parks accessible in Newman, and improving water infrastructure in Modesto
- Infrastructure for Rebuilding America funding to support the Central Valley Gateway and State Route 99 and Mitchell Road Interchange Project
- New Starts which funds critical transportation projects including new rail and bus transportation programs
- Maintaining and increasing support for Amtrak
- Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee programs
- Economic Development Administration grants program which provides investments that supports construction for public works programs
- Multiple programs to fund transitional and short term housing for families
- Essential Air Service to bolster local airports



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Stanislaus County is home to one of the most deficient bridges in America

Central Valley Veterans



We're lucky that thousands of veterans choose to call the Central Valley home, but too often they don't get the services our country promised them. We have a large population of veterans who lack access to stable housing who wait too long for VA health access, or suffer with substance use disorders, mental health conditions, or trauma.

Rep. Harder passed an amendment through the House to assist veterans and their families when experiencing mental health emergencies

Examples of veterans programs Rep. Harder is fighting for:

- Funding for the new French Camp VA facility in San Joaquin County
- Programs to help the Palo Alto VA facility work to cut down on wait times for care without saddling veterans with massive costs
- Veterans Treatment Courts which work to support and facilitate recovery for veterans who suffer from substance use disorders, mental health conditions, or trauma
- Funding to support housing solutions for homeless service members through HUD and VA partnered programs
- Bolstering VA programs that work to reduce the rates of veteran suicides, shorten wait times, and ensure proper medical care, like the National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide
- Critical infrastructure, administrative, and technology advancements to help the VA run more smoothly and serve more veterans with shorter wait times
- Veterans Employment and Training Service which provides job training for veterans after they finish their service



Law Enforcement & First Responders

Crime rates in our community are higher than the state average and Modesto ranks #1 in auto thefts. Our law enforcement agencies and first responders put their lives on the line to keep us safe day every day – they need federal support. Critical gaps in funding and proposed cuts to grant programs leave law enforcement agencies underfunded and without necessary resources.



Examples of law enforcement and first responder programs Rep. Harder is fighting for:

- The COPS program which helps local police departments put more officers on the beat
- Regional Information Sharing Systems Program which helps collect data to fight crime
- Discretionary grants for Drug Courts designed to make the criminal justice system more efficient
- Volunteer Fire Assistance and State Fire Assistance programs
- Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program
- State Homeland Security Grant Program, the Urban Area Security Initiative, and Operation Stonegarden programs which help to facilitate national security preparedness by facilitating planning, organization, equipment purchase, and training across federal, state and local law enforcement agencies.



Housing & Homelessness

On any given night there are more than 1,000 people in the Central Valley without a place to call home. Even with the remarkable work done by our shelters and homelessness organizations there are still hundreds of people left on the street each night. Due to skyrocketing housing prices too many people are forced into unstable housing situations.

Examples of housing and homelessness programs Rep. Harder is fighting for:

- Housing and Urban Development grant funding for programs that help to build and maintain low-income housing
- Catholic Charities of Stockton's Supportive Services
- Promoting the "Housing First" model of homelessness prevention, which has been proven effective across the country
- HUD Community Development Block Grant program which provides money to improve infrastructure and deliver food to homebound seniors
- Capital improvement funds for public housing repairs and modernization
- Bolster existing homelessness programs including the Continuum of Care Program, the Emergency Solutions Grants Program and the Rural Housing Stability Assistance Program

Rep. Harder helped introduce the bipartisan *Fighting Homelessness Through Services and Housing Act* to invest in modern solutions to address the root causes of homelessness.

