

Dear Neighbor,

It is my honor and privilege to represent the people of Central New Jersey and to work to improve your quality of life. [On this website](#) you will find a sampling of my efforts to make the American system work on behalf of you and more than 700,000 of your neighbors. Part of the genius of the American system is that the person representing you legislatively in the national political give and take is also responsible for tending to your individual and local concerns.

The needs and concerns expressed to your Representative are as diverse as the people in these five counties, ranging from job creation to food safety, from research on diabetes to transportation efficiency, from protecting clean air to honoring our soldiers. Some of the concerns are very specific and personal, some more conceptual and global. I value our communication and need to hear from you about the issues that affect you and your family.

The history of America is the history of expanded opportunity, greater fairness, and more supportive community, not just for certain classes, but for each individual. As many are telling me, though, we must rededicate ourselves to continuing that progress for each American.

In addition to the anxiety caused by the loss in the value of their homes, their retirement funds, and their job security, and the struggle to pay for healthcare, food, and education, many speak of their acute awareness of growing inequalities in our country. There is a strong belief that some good citizens who work hard find less opportunity for advancement, less access to democratic decision making, and less justice when interests compete than some other, more privileged, elements in our society.

The challenges of addressing these inequalities are real but not insurmountable. We are a rich and productive nation. We still have the largest economy in the world with great resources and creative, hard workers, a combination of advantages superior to any other country in the world. We can and we do make things. We can and we do attract investment from around the world. We can and we should create jobs by investing

in education, R&D, and our nation's infrastructure. We can overcome our current economic

troubles if we embrace the traditional American dedication to the idea of each person making progress, not just an average where people of privilege do very, very well while millions of others stagnate.

Yet in Congress recently there have been calls for the government to scale back, to lower our sights, to do less to enforce rules that make America fairer and more productive, and to invest less in the American people. Most in New Jersey reject those calls. Those with a sense of history and a view of America's promise know we can nurture our strengths, create opportunity and fairness, and help each person climb the ladder of success. By attending to your family's very real concerns, I dedicate myself to helping to bring about that success and to build trust in our self-government one town, one family, one resident at a time.

Sincerely,

Rush Holt