Rep. Susie Lee 117th Congress

THIRD QUARTERLY REPORT





Rep. Lee with House colleagues and climate advocates calling for investments to fight climate change in the Build Back Better Act.

Fighting for Your Tax Dollars to Get to Work for Nevadans

This year has marked Rep. Lee's first year on the very powerful House Appropriations Committee. This committee assignment gives Rep. Lee a hand in every single tax dollar in the federal budget and how to determine how taxpayer dollars are allocated to critical public resources and services. From education funding to programs for our veterans and their families, the House Appropriations Committee works together to approve 12 government funding bills every year.

Additionally, Rep. Lee exerts special authority over the jurisdictions of her subcommittees which include Energy and Water Development, Interior and Environment, and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs. These subcommittees oversee a wide variety of issues that directly impact Southern Nevada, including protections for public lands, drought mitigation in the West, and investments in our veterans and VA facilities. Most importantly, Rep. Lee lead the efforts to eliminate funding for the Yucca Mountain Nuclear Repository and worked with Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm to secure consent-based alternatives in future efforts to find nuclear solutions.

In July, the House Appropriations Committee completed their markup process and passed all 12 government funding bills to the floor of the House. Rep. Lee fought for key provisions in these bills, which include:

- Blocking Funding for Yucca Mountain and including language urging the Department of Energy to pursue consent-based alternatives
- Critical drought mitigation efforts including:
 - \$6.6 million for the Lower Las Vegas Wash
 - \$50 million for the implementation of the Drought Contingency Plan in the Lower Colorado River Basin, which provides 90% of Southern Nevada's water supply
 - o An increase of \$21 million for WaterSMART's Drought Response Program
- Increased funding for educational programs including the Full-Service Community Schools program and the STOP School Violence Act Program
- A 2.7% pay increase for military servicemembers, \$42 million for the STARBASE program for military families, and \$13.2 billion for Mental Healthcare for our VA systems
- Direct investments in Southern Nevada through Community Project Funding including:
 - \$950,000 for the hiring of social workers in Clark County School District
 - \$1 million to upgrade outdated systems at the Boulder City Wastewater Treatment Plant
 - o \$1 million for the City of Henderson's Workforce Training Center

Key Legislative Developments

The expanded <u>Child Tax Credit began hitting bank accounts on July 15.</u> Rep. Lee voted to pass this provision as part of the American Rescue Plan and she's fighting to make it law as part of the Build Back Better Act. It's one of the largest middle class tax cuts in history, and Nevadans are seeing the results. Taxes are being cut for the families of 147,000 children in Nevada's Third District and local spending has been boosted by <u>\$19.3 billion every single month</u> in the U.S. economy.

In July, the House passed the <u>INVEST in America Act with bipartisan support for Rep. Lee's amendment</u> to ensure climate resiliency of future infrastructure investments. The bipartisan legislation makes transformational investments in America's highways, roads, bridges, transit, rail, and water infrastructure to create jobs, modernize our infrastructure and reduce carbon pollution.

Nevada is ground zero for the effects of climate change, with drought plaguing the vast majority of our state. That's why Rep. Lee joined Senator Cortez Masto in introducing bicameral, bipartisan legislation to get critical water use data in the hands of farmers, ranchers, and decision-makers for improved water management across the Western U.S. The Open Access Evapotranspiration (OpenET) Act would establish a program under the Department of the Interior (DOI) that uses publicly available data from satellites and weather stations to provide estimates of evapotranspiration (ET), a critical measure of the water that is consumed and removed from a water system.

Lake Mead sits at its lowest point since the construction of the Hoover Dam, which has prompted the first federally-declared water shortage in history. The water crisis demands urgent action and innovation. Rep. Lee was proud to announce that her Large-Scale Water Recycling Project Investment Act has been included in the text of the Senate's bipartisan infrastructure bill. This provision will pave the way for increased investment in water recycling projects throughout the West, enabling more water to stay in Lake Mead for Nevadans.

Key Legislative Developments



Rep. Lee high-fives students for Nevada Youth Network's red carpet first day of school celebration



Rep. Lee hosts climate roundtable with One APIA and the Asian Community Development Council

Rep. Lee introduced the bipartisan MOBILE Health Care Act in August to expand health care access through Federally-Qualified Community Health Centers (FQHCs). Across the country, one in 11 Americans, including 400,000 veterans, rely on FQHCs for health care. This legislation would allow FQHCs to use their existing federal New Access Point (NAP) grants for establishing mobile health units, building renovation, and construction costs to increase access to affordable, quality health care in rural and underserved communities.

In July, in advance of the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, Rep. Susie Lee voted to pass the bipartisan Averting Loss of Life and Injury by Expediting SIVs (ALLIES) Act, which helped to protect our Afghan partners and expedited the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) process during the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan. Throughout the heartbreak of the past couple months, Rep. Lee and her team have been working to bring Americans home and get our allies to safety.

Rep. Lee was proud to join the House in passing the John Lewis Voting Rights

Advancement Act in August. As states across the country enact laws that restrict the right to vote, this bill will protect our democracy by ensuring every American can exercise their constitutional right to vote.

Key Legislative Developments

Republicans and Democrats came together in September to support our military and strengthen our national security. Rep. Lee voted to pass the **National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022**. This legislation honors our values, supports our servicemembers and their families, strengthens our security, and advances our leadership in the world. On a bipartisan basis, the House also passed Rep. Lee's amendment to examine the nutrition of food available to our military across the Armed Forces, as well as a cybersecurity amendment she cosponsored with Rep. Tony Gonzales (TX-23).

As states are passing dangerous abortion bans and the Supreme Court of the United States prepares to consider a case that would overturn Roe v. Wade and the constitutional right to abortion care, the House took action. As a proud cosponsor, **Rep. Lee joined the House in passing the Women's Health Protection Act** to codify Roe v. Wade into law and defend a woman's right to make her own health care decisions. Additionally, Rep. Lee joined over 230 of her colleagues to file an amicus brief urging the Supreme Court to uphold Roe in the upcoming Mississippi case.

Throughout these past three months, Rep. Lee has been tirelessly fighting for the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and Build Back Better Act and to deliver on the promises that brought her to Congress. As a vocal member of the bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus, Rep. Lee helped craft the infrastructure bill, which passed the Senate in August. From a <u>letter to leadership</u>, to a <u>bipartisan press conference</u>, and <u>an op-ed with her majority maker colleagues</u>, Rep. Lee is fighting to put the politics aside and deliver on



Rep. Lee hosts southern Nevada veterans for a listening session

Delivering for Nevada's Third District

This quarter, Rep. Lee kept busy as she attended and hosted **over 60 events throughout southern Nevada**, including...

- A visit with Vice President Kamala Harris at the Carpenters International Training Center in Las Vegas, highlighting the success of the American Rescue Plan in boosting Nevada's economic recovery
- A Tour of Estes McDoniel Elementary with U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom
 Vilsack to highlight the importance of federal programs helping to provide meals to
 kids over the course of this pandemic
- A Child Tax Credit Facebook Live Discussion and a Press Conference with Battle Born Progress to help families understand and secure their payments before the first payments landed in bank accounts on July 15th
- The inaugural Suds with Susie at Lovelady Brewing in Henderson to connect constituents with the Congresswoman while supporting local breweries
- <u>A Roundtable with U.S. Labor Secretary Marty Walsh</u> and Congressman Steven Horsford to discuss workforce development
- Small Business visits with HUMMUS Bowls & Wraps, Valencian Gold and volunteers from Delivering with Dignity, the grand opening of Betty's Bistro, and much more
- <u>A Senior Telephone Town Hall</u> to discuss protecting Social Security, combatting the rising costs of prescription drugs, and making historic investments in infrastructure
- A variety of events with Nevada stakeholders, including a forum with Friends of India & the Las Vegas India Chamber, a climate discussion with the Asian Community Development Council & One APIA, Eggs & Issues with the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce, and a veterans listening session
- An American Rescue Plan Listening Session with State Treasurer Zach Conine
- <u>A PPP Loan Forgiveness Webinar</u> with small business representatives and experts
- Back to school celebrations, including the openings of the brand new Hannah Marie Brown Elementary School and Barry and June Gunderson Middle School, and the first day red carpet with Nevada Youth Network at Matt Kelly Elementary
- A visit to Henderson from U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg
 highlighting Rep. Lee's work to secure nearly \$40 million for Henderson's Reimagine
 Boulder Highway Project

Constituent Success Stories

Casework and constituent service has been a top priority for Rep. Lee ever since she became a Member of Congress. Over this past quarter, she's managed to...

- Recover approximately \$91,000 for constituents
- Close over **290 cases** for constituents who requested assistance with a federal agency
- Respond to approximately **300 constituent requests** for assistance
- Respond to over **12,000 emails, calls, and letters** regarding legislation

Here are some highlights from their stories:

Jennifer needed help receiving her 2020 tax return, her 3rd economic impact payment, and the advanced Child Tax Credit. Rep. Lee's team helped to expedite her delays with the IRS and helped her access over \$7,000 in savings.

A constituent was offered the opportunity to participate in a reality TV show abroad, but her purse and passport were stolen and she needed immediate help to be able to travel. Amidst a pandemic-related passport backlog, Rep. Lee and her team were able to get her a new passport in a matter of days and she was able to participate in the TV show.

One constituent was stranded abroad because of COVID-19 travel restrictions and a lack of flights serving the area. Rep. Lee and her team elevated the case to the State Department and the constituent and her friend were able to secure flights and safely made it back home to Nevada



Rep. Lee visits Najib at his restaurant, HUMMUS Bowls and Wraps in Henderson.

