



News From Congressman Ben Cline



CONGRESSMAN
BEN CLINE



Sixth District Perspectives *with Congressman Ben Cline*

Recently, there has been a lot of discussion about a compromise infrastructure bill, and last week ended with a \$1.2 trillion agreement from several Senators from both parties. While I will consider the merits of the bipartisan agreement, I oppose any effort to link it to a larger reconciliation package full of unrelated spending and tax hikes. Additionally, we commemorated the 77th anniversary of the GI Bill, I cosponsored legislation to improve rural access to broadband, and I highlighted the negative impact out of control spending has on our Nation's economy and taxpayers' wallets. And finally, I met with several constituent groups over the past few days and honored a local high school track and field team for winning their division's state championship. As we celebrated the Commonwealth's birthday last Friday, we also remember a great Virginian, Senator John Warner, who was laid to rest this past Wednesday. As the House heads into another week of legislative business, I will always fight on behalf of the Sixth District residents that I am honored to represent.

Defending Life:

Throughout my tenure in Congress, I have fought to advance pro-life legislation, and I will continue to be a voice for the voiceless here in Washington. To that end, I joined my colleagues in sending a [letter](#) to Secretary Dennis McDonough of the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs to applaud his assurance that he will not pursue any public rulemaking that would add abortion services to the VA's medical benefits package. We wrote to remind the Secretary that while we whole heartedly agree with his decision, there is already a law in place under Section 106 of the *Veterans Health Care Act of 1992* which explicitly prohibits Veteran's Affairs from providing

abortions. Further, last week began House Republicans' participation in "Eighteen Days for H.R. 18." During each of these days, Republicans will attempt to force a vote on H.R. 18, the *No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act*, which would make the Hyde Amendment permanent and government-wide. Rest assured, I will remain an advocate for Pro-Life policies and fight the left's attempt to weaken protections for the unborn.



Excessive Spending and Inflation:

Despite our Nation sitting on the edge of a fiscal cliff, the Biden Administration continues to propose trillions upon trillions of dollars in new spending. And sadly, yet not unexpectedly, the American people are beginning to see the consequences of the continued and unprecedented levels of deficit spending. The Consumer Price Index has increased 5% from last May, which marks the fastest rate of inflation since right before the economic crisis in 2008 and a nearly 13-year high. This is in addition to producer prices rising 6.6% over the past year, the fastest increase on record. Rising inflation at this rate is like a new tax, and American consumers are feeling it as they shop for the essentials. Gasoline is 56.2% more expensive today than it was 12 months ago, transportation services are up 11.2% since last year, and together, food and energy prices have increased 3.8%, which is the fastest rate since 1992. Middle class families are paying the price for the lack of fiscal responsibility shown by this Administration. It's time to get our fiscal house in order to ensure our children and our children's children are left a thriving economy.



Expanding Access to Rural Broadband:

Access to broadband service is an important tool for education, health, business, and general economic development in rural areas, and despite numerous Federal and State-level efforts to encourage broadband deployment, at least 19 million Americans remain without

access to any form of reliable broadband service. The coronavirus pandemic highlighted the immediate necessity to expand internet access to more Americans, as services have moved online and will likely continue to utilize web services long after the pandemic has subsided. As your Congressman, I've been working hard to expand access in rural areas like ours. Several weeks ago, I joined my colleagues in introducing the *Gigabit Opportunity (GO) Act* in order to encourage the expansion of broadband service into long-neglected areas. The *GO Act* will provide tax incentives to encourage providers to invest in broadband infrastructure in Gigabit Opportunity Zones. Under the *GO Act*, the FCC will provide guidance to States on how to designate Gigabit Opportunity Zones, with requirements that zones include low-income rural and urban areas that currently lack broadband service at minimal speeds. The *GO Act* seeks to cut red tape and encourage private investment to bridge the digital divide and help ensure that communities like ours have access to this important service. Further, recently, I cosponsored the *Broadband for Rural America Act*, which will authorize funds for critical broadband programs, such as the ReConnect Rural Broadband Program, the Middle Mile Broadband Program, and the Innovative Broadband Advancement Program, all of which will help folks connect in areas like ours.



A Return of Obama-Era Regulations:

Recently, House Democrats sought to return to several Obama-Era regulations by repealing three Trump Administration deregulation efforts. The resolutions took aim at rules governing methane regulations, lending practices, and employment discrimination cases. The repeal of President Trump's rule on methane means that the industry will now have imposed on it costly regulations to the tune of \$100 million. This will harm small operators and will force the industry to reduce drilling investments, which will cost jobs and increase the likelihood of continued price spikes at the pump and at the grocery store. Further, the repeal of a rule making it easier for banks and certain lenders to partner up will have negative consequences on the availability of capital. Industry experts say, "invalidating the regulation will inject uncertainty into the modern finance system, where banks and lender have converged to make credit available to small businesses." The third Trump-era rule repealed by the House required the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to provide more information to employers when the agency is trying to help reach an out-of-court resolution in discrimination cases. This provided a much greater level of transparency to the process and sought to ensure the system was fair for everyone involved. I am disappointed that the Speaker and the Biden Administration are ushering in a new era of costly regulations and adding red tape instead of cutting it.

GI Bill:

On June 22, 1944, President Roosevelt signed the GI Bill into law, which set a standard of how the government should provide and care for our Veterans. The GI Bill was created to

ensure that the nearly 16 million Americans serving in World War II wouldn't return home only to face unemployment. The original GI Bill offered federal aid for soldiers returning home to buy a house, go to college, and adjust to civilian life after serving our country. Since then, the GI Bill has been vital in helping millions of our Nation's Veterans provide for themselves and their families. As we recognize the 77th anniversary of the signing of the GI Bill, we must continue to protect this promise to those who honorably serve.

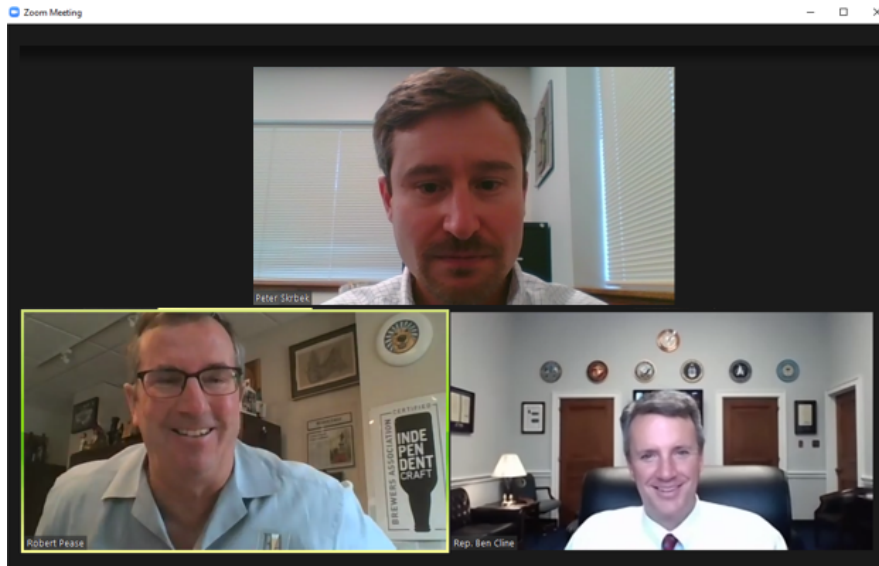


State-Champions:

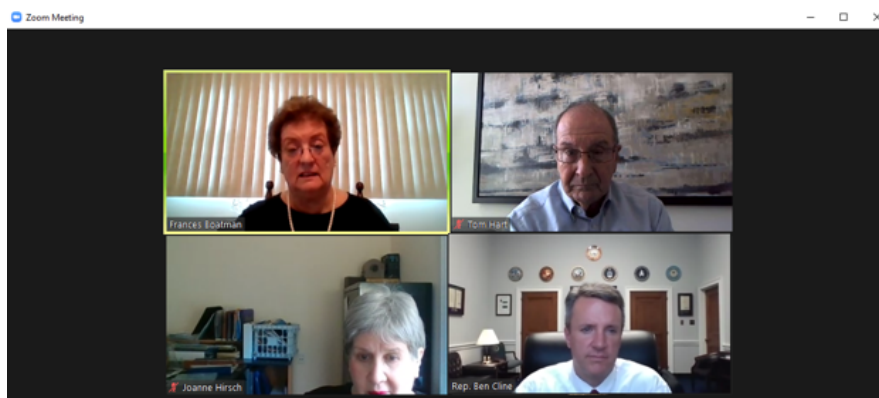
I recently recognize the Heritage High School Girl's Track and Field Team for winning their second consecutive Virginia Class 3 State Championship. The Heritage Pioneers racked up 74 points at the title meet – with only five girls. Star student athlete, junior, Alysia Oakes said, "Our coach always calls us the SEAL Team. We go into states with five people, and it was definitely a tough battle." She continued, "But everybody did what they needed to do. Just stayed strong. We knew it was going to be a battle, but we didn't back down, so I'm proud of us." Oakes captured three events, and seniors Tay Blake, Kaelynn Hawkins, Graysen Arnold, and Jalasia Jones helped the Pioneers pour on the points. Oakes came away as the individual state champion in the triple jump, long jump, and the 100-meter dash, while placing second in the 200-meter and 400-meter dash - all making for a tremendous showing from the Junior phenom. This team is a shining example of hard work paying off. Congratulations to the Heritage athletes and coaches on an incredible season. We look forward to seeing what the future has in store for this talented group.



Virtual Meetings:



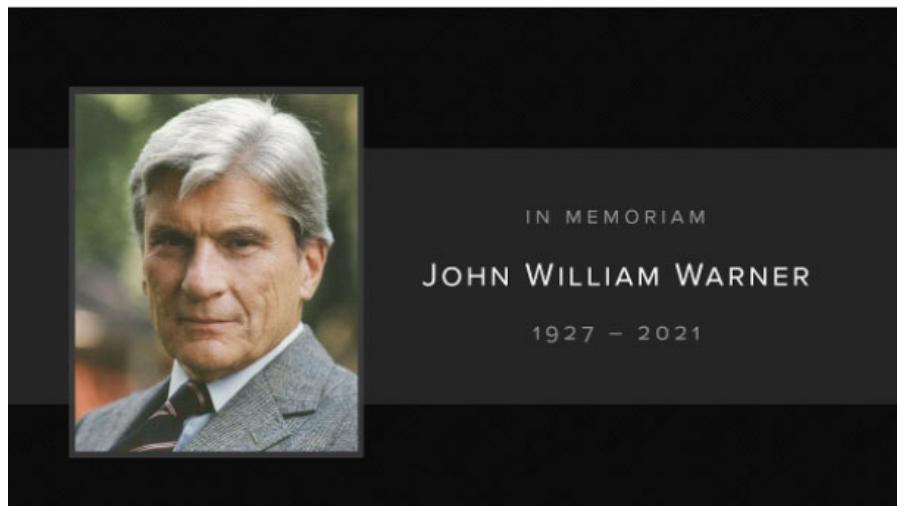
Brewers Association



National Active Retired Federal Employees Association

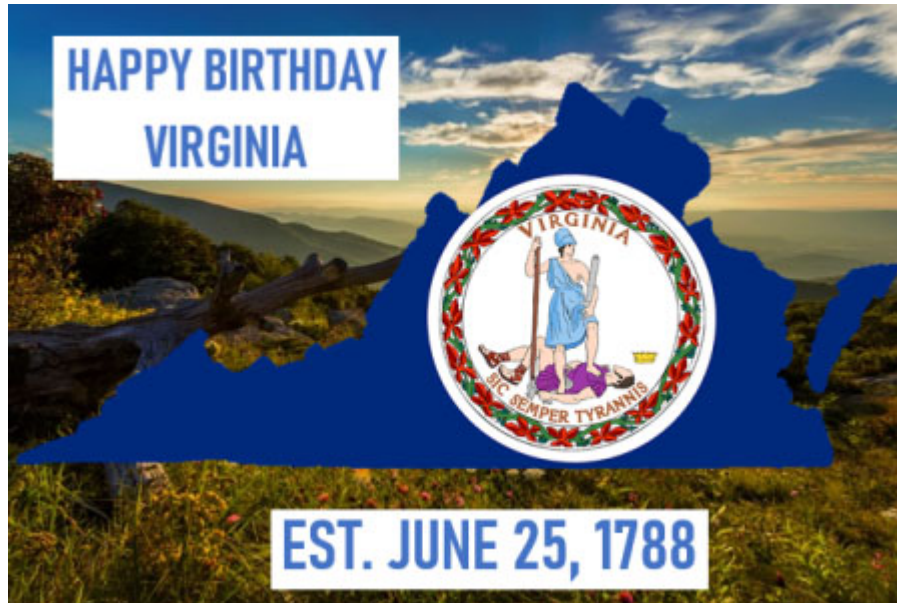
Remembering John Warner:

Last week, our Nation laid former Secretary of the Navy and Virginia Senator, John Warner, to rest. John was dedicated to serving his Commonwealth and his Country. A grateful Nation recalls his decades of faithful, diligent public service. A titan of Virginia politics, he was unrelenting in his efforts to provide for the national security of the United States. He will be greatly missed, and Elizabeth and I offer our deepest sympathies to his family.



Celebrating Virginia's Birthday:

On June 25, 1788, the Commonwealth became the tenth state admitted to the Union. The Old Dominion is filled with natural beauty, culture, and great people, and we are truly blessed to call it home. Happy Birthday, Virginia!



COVID-19 Update:

As of June 27, 2021, Virginia has had 679,829 total cases of COVID-19, including confirmed lab tests and clinical diagnoses, according to the Virginia Department of Health. The current death toll in the Commonwealth stands at 11,397. Further, according to the VDH's COVID-19 vaccine data dashboard, as of June 27th, 4,986,031 people have been vaccinated with at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, and 4,279,531 people are fully vaccinated.



Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Congressman. If my office can ever be of assistance, please contact my Washington office at (202) 225-5431.

For the latest updates from Washington and across the Sixth District, please follow my [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.

Ben Clive

Washington D.C. Office
2443 Rayburn
House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-5431

Harrisonburg Office
70 N Mason St
Suite 110
Harrisonburg, VA 22802
Phone: (540) 432-2391

Lynchburg Office
916 Main St
Suite 300
Lynchburg, VA 24504
Phone: (434) 845-8306

Roanoke Office
10 Franklin Rd SE
Suite 510
Roanoke, VA 24011
Phone: (540) 857-2672

Staunton Office
117 S Lewis St
Suite 215
Staunton, VA 24401
Phone: (540) 885-3861

Please do not reply to this email.
To share your thoughts please visit my [website](#).

[Unsubscribe](#)