

Why I voted Yes on H.R. 2681, the Cement Sector Regulatory Relief Act

I voted Yes on H.R. 2681, the Cement Sector Regulatory Relief Act. This bill would postpone three EPA rules taking effect in 2013 that would apply to 100 cement manufacturing plants. H.R. 2681 calls for re-proposing new, more attainable rules and it eases the compliance time for cement businesses. It is estimated that this change would stave off billions of dollars in compliance costs for the cement industry and the potential loss of thousands of jobs overseas to countries like China.

This bill would directly benefit jobs Upstate as there are three cement manufacturing plants in our region that could be devastated by the EPA's rules if this bill is not enacted. Our nation is literally built upon cement, and the industry directly employs over 20,000 people in our state alone. We need to keep these businesses and jobs right here. We need to make things Upstate, not close down our manufacturing.

I am also a strong support of investing in transportation and infrastructure in Upstate so we can repair our roads and bridges. Cement is a big part of that work, and we should be working to make sure it is locally produced to keep as many dollars in our communities as possible.