

From: "Rep. Michael Lawler" <repmikelowler@mail.house.gov> To: Peter.Finocchio@mail.house.gov Subject: Supporting Allies, Fighting for the Vulnerable, and Recognizing Heroes Date: Fri, 09 Feb 2024 18:22:53 -0500 Unsubscribe:

<https://lawler.house.gov/Forms/EmailSignup/?Delete=true&MessageID=425&Email=Peter.Finocchio@mail.house.gov>

Supporting Allies, Fighting for the Vulnerable, and Recognizing Heroes body,

table, td, a{-webkit-text-size-adjust: 100%; -ms-text-size-adjust: 100%;} /*

Prevent WebKit and Windows mobile changing default text sizes */

img{-ms-interpolation-mode: bicubic;} /* Allow smoother rendering of resized

image in Internet Explorer */ /* RESET STYLES */img { border: 0; height: auto;

line-height: 100%; outline: none; text-decoration: none; }table {

border-collapse: collapse !important; }body { height: 100% !important; margin:

0 !important; padding: 0 !important; width: 100% !important; }strong {

font-weight: bold; } /* Editor reset */ /* FIRESIDE STYLES */.component img

{max-width:600px;}.component table {mso-table-rspace:10pt;

border-collapse:collapse;}.component { padding: 0px !important; }.press

{padding-bottom: 0px;}@media all and (max-width:650px) { .image-1, .caption-1,

.img-1 img, .image-1 tr, .image-1 td, .image-2, .img-2 img, .image-2 tr,

.image-2 td {max-width: 100% !important; width: 100% !important;}

.responsive-table {width:100% !important;}.responsive-table img

{max-width:100% !important; height: auto !important;}.press .component, .press

td {text-align:center;}.component { margin-left: 20px; margin-right: 20px;}

.component .responsive-table { margin-left: 0px !important; margin-right: 0px

!important;}.wide .video-thumb { width: 100% !important;height: auto

!important; }.wide.video-container { width: 100% !important; }

.component.full-width {margin-left: 0px; margin-right: 0px; } } /*

CLIENT-SPECIFIC STYLES */ body, table, td, a{-webkit-text-size-adjust: 100%;

-ms-text-size-adjust: 100%;} /* Prevent WebKit and Windows mobile changing

default text sizes */ table, td{mso-table-lspace: 0pt; mso-table-rspace: 0pt;}

/* Remove spacing between tables in Outlook 2007 and up */

img{-ms-interpolation-mode: bicubic;} /* Allow smoother rendering of resized

image in Internet Explorer */ /* RESET STYLES */img { border: 0; height: auto;

line-height: 100%; outline: none; text-decoration: none; }table {

border-collapse: collapse !important; }body { height: 100% !important; margin:

0 !important; padding: 0 !important; width: 100% !important; }strong {

font-weight: bold; } /* Editor reset */ /* FIRESIDE STYLES */.component img

{max-width:600px;}.component table {mso-table-rspace:10pt;

border-collapse:collapse; font-family: Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif;}

.component td, td {font-family: Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif;}.component {

padding: 0px !important; }.press {padding-bottom: 0px;}.caption-1 td

{font-family: Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif;} /* Margin/NoMargin STYLES */

.component.full-width{ overflow: hidden; margin: 0px; } /* HEADER STYLES */

.header-bar {width: 100%;}.header-bar-margin {background-color:#ffffff;}

.header-bar h2 {margin: 0 !important; padding: 0 !important; color:

#000000;text-align: center;font-size: 24px;font-weight: bold; }.survey-content

> table > tbody tr td { border-color: #08244a !important; }.survey-content

input.survey-submit { font-family: Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif !important; }

@media all and (max-width:650px) { .image-1, .caption-1, .img-1 img, .image-1 tr, .image-1 td {max-width: 100% !important; width: 100% !important;}
.responsive-table {width:100% !important;} .responsive-table img {max-width:100% !important; height: auto !important;} .press .component, .press td, .split .component, .split .component td, .split td {text-align:center;}
.component { margin-left: 20px; margin-right: 20px;} .component .responsive-table { margin-left: 0px !important; margin-right: 0px !important;}
.wide .video-thumb { width: 100% !important; height: auto !important; }
.wide .video-container { width: 100% !important; } .scale1280x720 .video-thumb-padding {height: calc(((720 * (100vw - 50px)) / 1280) / 2 - 40px);} } Friday, February 9, 2024 Peter, We had another busy week this week - between important votes on the House floor, new legislation introduced, and time spent with constituents across the 17th District. I'm looking forward to another busy weekend getting around the Hudson Valley and I'm looking forward to getting back to D.C. next week to continue spearheading legislation that improves the lives of New York families, including my SALT Marriage Penalty Elimination Act, which will be coming up for a vote on the House floor. Friday, February 9, 2024 Peter, We had another busy week this week - between important votes on the House floor, new legislation introduced, and time spent with constituents across the 17th District. I'm looking forward to another busy weekend getting around the Hudson Valley and I'm looking forward to getting back to D.C. next week to continue spearheading legislation that improves the lives of New York families, including my SALT Marriage Penalty Elimination Act, which will be coming up for a vote on the House floor. The House passed impactful bipartisan legislation this week to enhance the detection of human trafficking and to prevent discrimination against health care patients with disabilities or chronic illnesses. You can read more about these two bills below: Sadly, even with these monumental wins for the American people, we failed to provide much-needed aid to our close ally Israel. The \$17.6 billion package was a clean aid package - no poison pills - which would have provided important funding for Israel's defense capabilities - including for the Iron Dome, David's Sling, and Iron Beam systems. You can watch my floor speech in support of this aid package below: Why would anyone oppose a clean aid package to Israel during their time of need? You'll have to ask Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries and the 166 House Democrats who voted against this bipartisan legislation. As I said then, as I have been saying from the beginning, and as I said to Israeli Knesset Speaker Amir Ohana and family members of Israeli hostages when I met with them Wednesday, I will never waver in my commitment to Israel, the Jewish people, or our NY-17 Jewish communities. Rep. Lawler joins congressional colleagues on the bipartisan House-Knesset Parliamentary Friendship Group with Israeli Speaker Amir Ohana and family members of hostages who are still being held by Hamas in Gaza. We cannot turn a blind eye to atrocities - whether those committed against Israel on a never-ending basis by Hamas, Putin's war crimes against the Ukrainian people, or Azerbaijan's ongoing aggression against the Armenians. That's why this week I introduced the Armenian Protection Act with Congressman Gabe Amo (D-RI-01) and Congressional

Armenian Caucus Co-Chairs Congressman Gus Bilirakis (R-FL-12) and Congressman Frank Pallone (D-NJ-06). This bipartisan legislation will put a stop to the Biden Administration's funding of Azerbaijan's authoritarian regime and desire for regional dominance. You can read my full statement on the measure below: I look forward to keeping you posted on my efforts to support Israel, defund Azerbaijan's aggression against the Armenian people, give Hudson Valley families the relief they need on SALT, and the myriad other bills I'm continuing to fight for on behalf of the people of New York's 17th Congressional District. We just finished our second round of mobile office hours in 24 hours - Nyack yesterday and Philipstown today. Whenever I'm not in D.C., I'm here in our district interacting with constituents - taking their questions, hearing their stories, and helping them with casework needs. This is my favorite part of the job and the most important. Rep. Lawler engages with constituents at Nyack and Philipstown mobile office hours. A truly rewarding experience I had was recognizing World War II veteran and Congressional Gold Medal recipient James Dipelesi today. At the age of 16, he joined the U.S. Merchant Marines, playing a pivotal role in the perilous Murmansk Runs, navigating the dangerous waters of the North Atlantic to deliver essential supplies to our allies. After his tenure with the Merchant Marines, James continued to serve our country by joining the U.S. Navy, where he served aboard a cruiser in the South Pacific. I'm truly grateful for James' service and honored to count him as a constituent! Rep. Lawler recognizes local World War II hero James Dipelesi. It has been a tremendous privilege to recognize so many of the heroes in our community - whether veterans, service members, law enforcement officers, or firefighters and first responders. Last week, on the House floor, I recognized another one of our hometown heroes, whose life was tragically cut short. East Fishkill Police Officer Daniel P. DiDato had served our community for nineteen years when he was killed in a car crash just before Christmas while on duty. He will be remembered for his unwavering commitment, camaraderie, and a passion for life that touched all who knew him. You can watch my floor speech recognizing him last week below: This morning, I had the terrific opportunity to spent an hour with around fifty Brewster High School students from various advanced civics and history classes and student government leaders. I appreciated sharing how I got involved in politics and answering questions on immigration, term limits, and many other policy issues. It was uplifting to see how involved, intelligent, and engaged these students are! Rep. Lawler meets with students at Brewster High School. While I was in D.C. for votes, my team recognized several members of our community - including lifelong Pawling resident Amy Snowden who just celebrated her 100th birthday! Amy's roots in our community run deep and I'm honored to represent her! Rep. Lawler's office recognizes Amy Snowden of Pawling for her 100th birthday. My office also participated in the Village of West Haverstraw's Black History Month ceremony this week, where we were proud to provide certificates recognizing each of the Village's honorees and thank them for their leadership in our community! Rep. Lawler's office recognizes West Haverstraw Black History Month honorees. We appreciate the

opportunity each week to recognize residents and chat with so many constituents, partners, and stakeholders about the work we are doing in D.C. and the district! With so many events going on across the 17th District all the time, my team and I look forward to continuing to meet with constituents. It is a privilege to get around our district every week. I look forward to seeing you and your family soon! We are holding a ceremony again this year to recognize members of our community for Black History Month and are collecting nominations of exceptional black leaders from across the Hudson Valley for special Congressional recognition. See additional details below and [CLICK HERE](#) to nominate someone for this special honor! At our Black History Month celebration last year, we recognized 18 honorees for their contributions to our community - among whom were pastors, healthcare workers, law enforcement officers, community volunteers, and individuals from every walk of life. Rep. Lawler honors 18 residents at his office's 2023 Black History Month Ceremony. I'm looking forward to having the opportunity to recognize some more of our outstanding NY-17 residents at our Black History Month commemoration this year. Again, you can nominate someone for recognition by [CLICKING HERE](#)!

Giving families the SALT relief they need
News 12 | February 6, 2024
Lawler, Beyer and Pingree introduce bipartisan bill to improve soil health and sustainability
Rockland County Times | February 5, 2024 U.S. Representatives Mike Lawler (R-NY), Don Beyer (D-VA), and Chellie Pingree (D-ME) introduced the Innovative Practices for Soil Health Act, bipartisan legislation to improve soil health on farms and support sustainable alternatives to annual agriculture by improving United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) conservation programs to ensure they are better able to support farmers who incorporate perennial systems and agroforestry into their operations. "By supporting farmers in the utilization of perennial systems and agroforestry, the Innovative Practices for Soil Health Act encourages healthy soil management - improving overall farm productivity and stimulating microbial life," said Rep. Lawler. "This is a win for farmers, a win for the environment, and a win for American families. I'm proud to join my colleagues Don Beyer and Chellie Pingree in introducing this commonsense bipartisan bill." "American agriculture faces many challenges today, including harmful soil erosion exacerbated by the climate crisis' extreme weather patterns," said Rep. Beyer. "Our bill is a significant step to support the health and sustainability of American farms by ensuring the USDA has the resources necessary to be a strong partner for farmers who prioritize perennial agriculture and agro- forestry. These practices promote soil health, which not only makes the soil more resilient to extreme weather events and erosion but also improves long-term agricultural productivity and farming's impacts on watersheds and wildlife." "In Maine and across the country, farmers are on the frontlines of the climate crisis - dealing with severe drought, flooding, wildfires, and other extreme weather conditions," said Rep. Pingree. "In order to make our food system more resilient and to ensure our agricultural producers survive the worsening climate crisis, we must encourage and invest in climate-smart practices. My and Representatives Beyer and Lawler's Innovative Practices for Soil Health Act does just that - promoting soil health, investing in agroforestry research and

development, and incentivizing greenhouse gas reduction. Our bipartisan, commonsense bill is a win-win." "The Innovative Practices for Soil Health Act provides common-sense, straight-forward support for high- impact perennial practices through NRCS conservation programs. It also ensures increased technical capacity at USDA for new and exciting perennial practices through a series of agroforestry centers," said National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition Conservation Specialist Jesse Womack. "This bill is a win for farmers committed to building soil health across their operation through plant diversity and strong, living roots." "We applaud Representatives Beyer, Lawler, and Pingree for introducing the Innovative Practices for Soil Health Act of 2024. This bill could unlock critical incentives for farmers and ranchers to implement carbon-storing practices like agroforestry and perennial systems," said Carbon180 Deputy Director of Policy Cristel Zoebisch. "By making targeted changes to federal conservation programs and expanding technical assistance for innovative, climate-friendly production systems, this bill would equip producers with the tools they need to activate their soils as carbon sinks and bolster resilience to weather extremes." Annual crops and monoculture cropping, common in farming, require tilling which disrupts the natural soil structure and can lead to increased erosion and a reliance on harmful fertilizers and pesticides. Perennial and agroforestry systems require less soil disturbance - improving soil structure, preventing erosion, increasing ecosystem nutrient retention, and promoting carbon sequestration. Successfully designing, installing, and maintaining perennial systems and agroforestry on farms, however, is a long and complex process that comes with real costs. The Innovative Practices for Soil Health Act would support these farmers by improving USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) programs, the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP); increasing technical assistance for farmers installing perennial systems; and designating four national and regional agroforestry centers.

House set to consider raising state, local tax deduction limit

Spectrum News | Ryan Chatelain | February 5, 2024 The House is expected to vote this week on a rule for legislation that would raise the cap for state and local tax deductions, known as SALT, for many married couples. The 2017 tax cut bill passed by Republicans and signed by then-President Donald Trump created a cap of \$10,000, leading to higher taxes on some residents in states such as New York, New Jersey and California. Congressional Democrats, as well as Republicans representing swing districts in those states, have been pushing to repeal the cap ever since. The debate came to a head last week when four House Republicans in New York used a procedural maneuver to stall a tax bill that would expand the child tax credit and restore certain tax breaks for businesses. The GOP lawmakers wanted SALT deductions added to the bill, which cleared the House and awaits the Senate. They eventually relented after Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., agreed to work with them to continue discussions on SALT relief. On Thursday, the Rules Committee advanced a rule for floor debate. The bill introduced by Rep. Mike Lawler, R-N.Y., would raise the deduction limit from \$10,000 to \$20,000 for married couples earning up to \$500,000 a year. It would apply only to the current tax year and then revert

back to \$10,000 until it's set to expire in 2026. Republicans targeted SALT deductions as a way to help pay for the Trump tax cuts, saying it was an unfair advantage for residents living in high-tax states. The deductions are moot in the vast majority of states. The states most significantly impacted are all blue states. In 2017, the last year before the Trump tax cuts took effect, SALT deductions cost the federal government \$69 billion in tax revenue, according to the Peter G. Peterson Foundation. A nonpartisan estimate by Penn Wharton concluded the proposed \$20,000 cap would reduce federal revenue by \$12 billion. "If you have some crazy high taxes in New York or Connecticut, sorry, New Yorkers and people from blue states, I love you, but I don't think people in low-tax states should have to subsidize people in high-tax states just because you guys have a bunch of goons in your state legislatures and on your local governments who want to take more of your money," Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Fla., said in a livestream last week. "The answer is, if you don't want to give more of your money to wasteful government in blue states, you have to pick better leaders," he continued. Gaetz urged Florida's entire House delegation "to oppose the efforts to degrade, erode or even take one grain of SALT away from the Trump tax policies." Some, meanwhile, have called the deductions a "handout to the rich." But lawmakers who want to reduce or repeal the deduction limit say it is hurting the middle class in their states. In a handful of states - Illinois, New Hampshire, New Jersey and Vermont - the average property taxes alone are at least \$8,390 a year, according to data compiled by Rocket Mortgage. "We know it will make a huge difference here in Jersey for affordability for families," Rep. Josh Gottheimer, D-N.J., said at a news conference Monday. "This is not a 1 percenter issue. This is a middle class family issue in Jersey." Lawler said during Thursday's Rules Committee meeting that firefighters, police officers and teachers are among the people who support lifting the SALT cap. "Because in areas like mine, where we pay the highest property taxes in America - where we have high income taxes, where we have high business taxes - people are struggling under the weight under the cost of this," he said. "This is about providing relief to working families, middle class families." Some lawmakers argue capping the deductions is effectively a "double tax." Others have complained that, because the \$10,000 cap applies to both single and married tax filers, it amounts to a penalty on the married. SALT has become a hot issue in congressional races, particularly in the special election to replace ousted Rep. George Santos in New York's 3rd District. Democrat Tom Suozzi, who represented the district from 2017-23, has long vowed to defeat the SALT cap, told reporters last week "it's not going to get done" with Republicans in charge. GOP candidate Mazi Pilip says she, too, wants to restore the full deductions and has blamed Suozzi for failing to deliver on his promise while in office. If you have any questions about any of the above information, or if there is anything we can do for you or your family, please don't hesitate to contact my office at 845-201-2060 or reach out through my website at lawler.house.gov. Additionally, you can keep up with the latest news on my efforts by following us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram - and by opting in to

periodic updates from my office by [CLICKING HERE](#). Sincerely, Michael V. Lawler
Member of Congress 17th District, New York [Click Here](#) to view this email in your browser [Click Here](#) to be removed from this list