

## Franklin Center & Ripon Society Hold Policy Conference Looking at U.S.-Ireland Relationship

WASHINGTON, DC – The Franklin Center and The Ripon Society held a policy conference in Dublin from August 11-15 looking at some of the key issues impacting the U.S.-Ireland relationship. Called the TransAtlantic Capital to Capital Exchange, the conference included keynote addresses and panel discussions on such topics as trade, health care, immigration, tax reform, and cybersecurity.

“The relationship between the United States and Ireland is becoming one of the most important in the world,” stated Jim Conzelman, the President & CEO of the Franklin Center and The Ripon Society. “With a new trade deal in the works and issues like tax reform, immigration and cybersecurity topping both of our agendas, we thought it was a good time to hold a policy conference in Dublin to not only look at how these and other issues are impacting that relationship, but to hear from those on both sides of the Atlantic who are at the center of the debate.”

Participating in the policy conference were representatives from Ireland’s public and private sectors, and Members of the United States Congress, as well. The Members included U.S. Representatives Spencer Bachus (AL-6), Cory Gardner (CO-4), Luis Gutierrez (IL-4), Mike Kelly (PA-4), John Larson (CT-1), Frank Lucas (OK-3), Patrick Meehan (PA-7), Erik Paulsen (MN-3), Steve Scalise (LA-1), Bill Shuster (PA-9), and Pete Sessions (TX-32). Also attending and helping to lead the discussions was former Ambassador and Representative Connie Morella (MD-8), who served as Co-Chair of the Capital to Capital Exchange.

The discussions focused on a number of key areas, including:

**“Ireland, the EU, and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership”** – with Ireland having served as



Chairman Frank Lucas makes a point during the panel discussion on “Ireland, the EU, and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership.”

President of the Council of the European Union earlier this year and with negotiations over the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership now underway, this panel looked at the historic discussions and examined what a possible agreement should look like.

**“With a new trade deal in the works and issues like tax reform, immigration and cybersecurity topping both of our agendas, we thought it was a good time ... to not only look at how these and other issues are impacting that relationship, but to hear from those on both sides of the Atlantic who are at the center of the debate.”**

Participants included: House Agriculture Committee Chairman Lucas, who, in addition to serving on the panel, also delivered the Keynote Address; Rep. Kelly; Ambassador Dáithí Ó’Ceallaigh, the former Irish Ambassador to London, the WTO and the UN; Brendan Halligan, the Chairperson of the Institute of European Affairs; Pascal Donohoe, Ireland’s Minister of State for European Affairs; and, Sean Kelly, a Member of the European Parliament from

Ireland South. The panel was moderated by Stacey Glasscock, who serves as the Chief of Staff for Chairman Lucas.

**“Steering a Nation to Success”** -- with a focus on Ireland’s Celtic Tiger era, this panel discussion examined ways in which government action – and inaction – has contributed to past growth and how lessons learned during periods of prosperity



With Amb. Connie Morella looking on, former Lord Mayor of Dublin Andrew Montague delivers welcoming remarks.

can be applied to jump-start a nation in the future.

Participants included: former Taoiseach and Ambassador John Bruton, who, in addition to serving on the panel, also delivered the Keynote Address; Reps. Sessions; Rep. Shuster; and, Deputy Lucinda Creighton, T.D., the former Minister of State for European Affairs from Dublin South-East. The panel was moderated by Rep. Meehan.

**“Health Care and Pharmaceuticals”** -- with nine of the top ten global pharmaceutical companies located in Ireland and seven out of ten pharmaceutical blockbusters being produced in Ireland, this panel looked at the role of government in health care innovation, the respective strengths and weaknesses of both the United States and Ireland in this area, and how the government and companies in both countries can collaborate in the future.

Participants included: Reps. Paulsen, Larson, and Gardner; Anne Nolan, the Chief Executive of Irish Pharmaceuticals Healthcare Association; and Matt Moran, the Director of PharmaChemical Ireland. The panel was moderated by Steve Stombres, the Chief of Staff to U.S. House Majority Leader Eric Cantor.

**“Highly-skilled Workers & Immigration”** – with both the U.S. and Ireland experiencing a “brain drain” of highly-skilled workers who are taking their talents abroad once they graduate from school, this panel discussion looked at the immigration reforms that need to be put in place to alleviate this growing problem.

Participants included: Reps. Sessions and Gutiérrez, who, in addition to serving on the panel, also delivered Keynote Remarks; Chairman Pat Breen, T.D., the Chair of the Oireachtas Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade from County Clare; Prof. James Wickham, the Director of the Employment Research Center, Department of Sociology, Trinity College Dublin; Alan Barrett, Research Professor and Head of the Economic Analysis Division for the Economic and Social Research Institute; Seamus McGuinness, and the Associate Research Professor, Labor Market, Economic and

Social Research Institute. The panel was moderated by Rep. Bachus.

**“The Future of Energy and its Security”** -- with energy and its consumption being an enormous component of each country’s economic activity, this panel not only explored policy ideas to ensure stable markets in our interconnected world marketplace, but also looked at the exploration and innovation of domestic fuel sources in the U.S. and Ireland.

Participants included: Reps. Scalise, Gardner, and Kelly; Dr. Brian Motherway, the Chief Executive Officer of Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland; and Owen McQuade, the Director of Energy Ireland. The panel was moderated by Rep. Shuster.

**“Tax Reform and Financial Services”** – with Ireland’s corporate tax rate set at 12.5%, which is among the lowest in the industrialized world, the panel discussion examined the impact this low rate has had on businesses and the economy in Ireland, and what the U.S. Congress can learn from the Irish example as it considers its own plan to reform the tax system in the United States.

Participants included: Rep. Paulsen, who in addition to serving on the panel, also delivered Keynote Remarks; Rep. Larson; Feargal O’Rourke, the Head of Tax and Legal Services for PwC Ireland; Donal de Buitléir, Director at Publicpolicy.ie, and Stombres, who also served as moderator of the panel.

**“High-Tech, Telecommunications, & Cybersecurity”** – with the high-tech industry in Ireland continuing to thrive despite the global economic downturn, the panel discussion explored what the U.S. and Ireland can learn from each other in this growing industry, as well as the ways they can share information and collaborate to protect critical infrastructure from cyber-attacks.

Participants included: Reps. Scalise and Meehan, who in addition to serving on the panel, also delivered Keynote Remarks; Rep. Bachus; Prof. Peter Clinch, the Vice President for Innovation at University College of Dublin; and Dermot Clohessy, Executive Director, IDA Ireland. The panel was moderated by Rep. Gutiérrez.



Former Taoiseach and Ambassador John Bruton discusses his leadership of Ireland during the Celtic Tiger era.



U.S. Representatives meet with Chairman Pat Breen during a visit to Leinster House.



U.S. Embassy Chargé d'affaires John Hennessey-Niland delivers remarks during a briefing at the U.S. Ambassador's residence.



Rep. John Larson delivers remarks during the panel discussion on "Health Care and Pharmaceuticals."



Rep. Scalise discusses energy security during a panel on the issue.



Rep. Gutierrez delivers keynote remarks about immigration reform.



Rep. Paulsen makes a point during the panel on health care.



TRANSATLANTIC CAPITAL TO CAPITAL EXCHANGE  
DUBLIN, IRELAND AUGUST 11-15, 2013



## AGENDA AT A GLANCE

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 11, 2013

**5:00 - 7:00 pm** (at Newman House)

Welcoming reception with remarks by Amb. Morella & former Lord Mayor of Dublin, Councillor Andrew Montague

### MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2013

**8:50 am - 9:00 am** - (at the Royal College of Surgeons)

Welcome & brief history of the Royal College of Surgeons by former Head Porter Jim Sherlock

**9:00 am - 10:15 am**

Keynote speech and panel discussion on "Ireland, the EU, and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership"

-Keynote Speaker - Rep. Frank Lucas

-Panelists - Rep. Lucas; Rep. Mike Kelly, Minister Paschal Donohoe, Parliamentarian Seán Kelly, & Ambassador Dáithí O'Ceallaigh. Panel moderator - Stacey Glasscock – Chief of Staff for Rep. Lucas.

**12:00 pm - 1:15 pm** - lunch

**10:30 am - 11:45 am**

Keynote speech and panel discussion on "Steering a Nation to Success"

-Keynote Speaker - Amb. John Bruton

-Panelists: - Amb. Bruton; Rep. Sessions; Rep. Bill Shuster; Deputy Lucinda Creighton. Panel moderator - Rep. Pat Meehan

**1:30 pm - 3:30 pm**

Panel discussion on "Health Care and Pharmaceuticals"

-Panelists: Rep. Erik Paulsen; Rep. John Larson; Rep. Cory Gardner; Anne Nolan; Chief Executive of Irish Pharmaceuticals Healthcare Association; Matt Moran, Director of PharmaChemical Ireland. Panel moderator - Steve Stombres.

**7:00 pm - 9:00 pm**

Dinner with continuing discussion on trade, government leadership, and health care.

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2013

**8:30 am - 10:00 am** - (at Farmleigh)

Keynote speeches and panel discussion on "Highly-skilled Workers & Immigration."

-Keynote Speakers - Rep. Luis Gutiérrez and Rep. Pete Sessions

-Panelists: Rep. Gutiérrez; Rep. Sessions; Chairman Pat Breen; Professor James Wickham; Professor Alan Barrett; and Seamus McGuinness. Panel moderator - Rep. Spencer Bachus

**10:15 am - 11:45 am**

Panel discussion on "The Future of Energy and its Security."

-Panelists: Rep. Steve Scalise; Rep. Gardner; Rep. Kelly; Dr. Brian Motherway; and Owen McQuade. Panel moderator - Rep. Shuster

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2013 (CONT'D)

**11:45 am - 1:15 pm** - lunch

**1:30 - 2:30 pm** (at the residence of the U.S. Ambassador)

Briefing with U.S. Charge d' Affaires & U.S. Embassy staff

**3:00 - 5:00 pm**

Educational visits to Christ Church Cathedral & Dublin Castle

**7:00 - 9:00 pm**

Dinner with continuing discussion on immigration and energy security.

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2013

**9:00 am - 11:00 am** (at the Banking Hall at the Westin Hotel)

Keynote speech and panel discussion on "Tax Reform and Financial Services"

- Keynote Speaker - Rep. Erik Paulsen (introduced by Kelli Briggs, Deputy Chief of Staff to Rep. Pat Tiberi)

-Panelists: Rep. Paulsen, Rep. Larson, Feargal O'Rourke; and Dr. Donal de Buitléir. Panelist and moderator - Steve Stombres

**11:10 am - 11:15 am**

Historical remarks regarding the Banking Hall by the Head Concierge of the Westin Hotel.

**11:15 am - 11:45 am**

Remarks by Aidan Pender, the Director of Strategic Development for Fáilte Ireland. Introduction by Ms. Kelli Briggs, Deputy Chief of Staff, Chairman Pat Tiberi

**11:45 am - 12:45 pm** - lunch

**12:45 pm - 2:00 pm**

Keynote speech and panel discussion on "High-Tech, Telecommunications, & Cybersecurity"

-Keynote Speakers - Rep. Steve Scalise and Rep. Pat Meehan  
-Panelists - Rep. Scalise; Rep. Meehan; Rep. Bachus; Professor Peter Clinch; and, Dermot Clohessy. Panel moderator - Rep. Gutiérrez.

**2:30 pm - 4:30 pm**

Visit to Leinster House, home of the Irish Parliament, with welcoming remarks by Minister Ruairí Quinn, T.D. – Minister for Education and Skills; Chairman Pat Breen, T.D. – Chair of the Oireachtas Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade; and Minister Paschal Donohoe, T.D. – Minister of State for European Affairs

**6:30 pm - 9:30 pm**

Closing reception and dinner at Powerscourt with Irish guests