



# Frank Burns

State Representative

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## Burns' plan to revive U.S. manufacturing, steel gets national interest

### California congressman puts Johnstown atop list for community-rebuilding effort

When Rep. Burns unveiled his plan to reverse the loss of millions of manufacturing and steel jobs due to unfair trade pacts by requiring the use of U.S.-made steel in state-funded construction and pipeline projects, he called it a blueprint for the rest of the nation.

Turns out, it was.

Burns' 2020 proposal caught the attention of an unlikely elected official – U.S. Rep. Ro Khanna, who hails from Silicon Valley in California, a world away from Cambria County, geographically, politically and economically.

Keeping true to his pledge to work with anyone to accomplish something good for his constituents, Rep. Burns responded to Rep. Khanna's inquiries and kept open a channel of communication on this issue of mutual interest.

That culminated in Rep. Khanna visiting Johnstown earlier this year – and he's now including Johnstown in the same breath as Detroit and Cleveland as focus communities for a federal push to restore U.S. steel production as a matter of national security.

Rep. Burns, who is still pushing his "American Made Jobs Plan," will work with any above-board official who shares his desire to rebuild economically devastated communities. He'd be foolish not to.

United States Congressman  
★ Ro Khanna ★

Dear Rep. Burns,

Your passion for reviving U.S. manufacturing – and in particular the once-mighty steel industry – caught my attention back in 2020, when you unveiled your "American Made Jobs Plan" in the Pennsylvania legislature. Some people might not think that an initiative put forth by a state representative in Cambria County, Pa., would catch the attention of a Congressman in California, but it did.

Because of the dialogue we have shared for the past three years on the need to revive the U.S. steel industry – and your work in bringing me to Johnstown earlier this year, so I could meet with union officials and people in the community – I now mention Johnstown in the same breath as Detroit and Cleveland when discussing places that would benefit from a new federal focus on steel production.

Of the world's top 15 steel companies, China has nine and the U.S. has none. In the 1950s – when Johnstown was thriving – the U.S. made 50 percent of the world's steel. It's now down to 2 or 3 percent.

While I represent a congressional district in Silicon Valley, California, I strongly share your conviction that restoring our country's middle class means bringing back the good-paying, family-sustaining steel and manufacturing jobs that have been shipped overseas. I've called this loss of our steel industry that decimated cities like Johnstown "a colossal mistake," and asked, "How did we let this happen as a country... costing community after community so many good jobs?"

Your answer to that question, when proposing your American Made Jobs Plan back in July 2020, was, "For too many years, we've been fed the lie – by big-monied interests and their elected enablers – that trade pacts which stripped millions of jobs from our manufacturing base would be good economic policy in the long run."

Although our respective districts are four time zones and 2,672 miles apart – and we may have substantial philosophical distance on many other political issues – you share with me the strong desire for a course correction that would strengthen and restore U.S. manufacturing might. We also share the desire to rebuild forgotten communities by providing jobs.

I thank you for bringing me to Johnstown, so I could see firsthand the immense good that a course correction in steel would accomplish. I look forward to continuing to work with you on this very important initiative, as I press forward with proposals at the federal level similar to your goals in Pennsylvania.

PENNSYLVANIA

2,667 MILES

CALIFORNIA

Aug. 15, 2020

*"This legislation (my American Made Jobs Plan) will be a blueprint for the rest of the country to follow, so we can get people back to work, and begin to bring manufacturing back to the United States."*

– Rep. Frank Burns



Phoenix Tavern owner Dave Sapulich (right) met with U.S. Rep. Ro Khanna of California during his Johnstown visit. Khanna is leading a federal effort to revive the domestic steel industry.

July 27, 2023

*"It's time for America to have a strategy to bring modern steel production back home. We can make steel that is cleaner, that is of a higher quality – and we can revitalize towns, like Johnstown, Pennsylvania."*

– U.S. Rep. Ro Khanna



# Burns turns down paycheck until state budget passed

Continuing his legislative tradition, Rep. Burns ONCE AGAIN refused to accept a paycheck until this year's state budget was approved. His well-known stand is based on a strong belief that if you don't get paid until the job is done, neither should state legislators.

Rep. Burns may have been one of only two state representatives who took that stand this year – and the only Democrat. But he always makes decisions independent of what the bigger group thinks, or whatever pressures they apply.

## Burns: End unnecessary tickets and fines on PA drivers



Life is busy enough without Pennsylvania drivers having to worry about being ticketed over paperwork snafus, so Rep. Burns has put forth a legislative solution to keep them from being unfairly fined for hundreds of dollars.

Rep. Burns wants insurers to be responsible for reporting a new vehicle insurance policy to PennDOT – just like they already are for any cancelled policy – so drivers don't receive an unnecessary ticket for forgetting to do so.

Also, since the state did away with registration stickers on license plates, Rep. Burns wants PennDOT to send text or email reminders to vehicle owners regarding the upcoming expiration of their vehicle registrations. Since PennDOT stopped issuing annual registration stickers for license plates – eliminating an easy reminder – citations for driving unregistered vehicles have risen nearly 37 percent.

## Burns briefs business community on State of the Commonwealth

### *\$50 million in hospital emergency relief included in new state budget*

As a strong advocate for job creation and retention, Rep. Burns gave a briefing to the Cambria Regional Chamber of Commerce – including the availability of \$50 million in the new state budget for emergency relief for hospitals.

**“If this money can come here and relieve some of that burden that affects all of us, then we need to go after that money for sure,” Rep. Burns said.**

Rep. Burns realizes the importance of letting the business community know what's going on in Harrisburg, including the things he is working on and any new funding included in the state budget.

The new spending plan also includes a \$114 million increase for State Police and a \$178 million increase for Corrections Department operations.



## Blacklick Township street signs repair \$28,370 grant



Rep. Burns, Vice Chairwoman Bev Sherwood and Supervisor Rich Miller. (Not pictured, Supervisor Dennis Zanin.)





# Burns leads House Professional Licensure Committee hearings

## *Mental health care access topic at Duquesne University forum*

As majority chairman of the House Professional Licensure Committee, Rep. Burns convened two public hearings at Duquesne University to review legislation designed to expand mental health access in Pennsylvania.

The need for action is acute: 1.7 million Pennsylvanians live in a mental health professional shortage area, with 97% of counties having a shortage of child/adolescent psychiatrists. And a recent survey of psychiatric practices in Pennsylvania found that 36% were not accepting new patients, while another 36% were scheduling appointments six to eight weeks out.

One bill reviewed by Rep. Burns' committee would address the shortage by permitting qualified psychologists to prescribe some mental health medications, with physician collaboration.

*"We are facing a growing mental health crisis, and patients need every avenue for care they can get."*

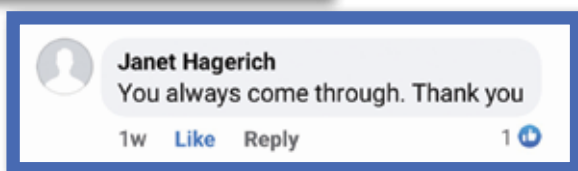
- Rep. Frank Burns

## Ebensburg pool renovations

### **\$134,600 grant**



Recreation Director Dirk Johnson, Rep. Burns, Borough Manager Kelly Cook and Councilman Michael Owatt.



## Dale Borough flood wall repair

### **\$635,340 grant**



I presented Councilmen David Pundzak and Lake Dorn with Dale Borough's \$635,340 grant to repair a flood wall along Solomon Run. My goal is to fight for all the state funding I can, because if I don't, you can be sure it will go somewhere else.



State Representative  
**Frank Burns**

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# Burns opposes 200% hike in Johnstown Local Services Tax

*Urges governor to help protect taxpayers*

*“I urge city officials to abandon this quest for higher taxes.”*  
- Rep. Frank Burns

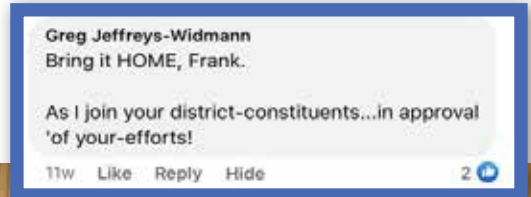
When Johnstown exited Act 47 after decades of state financial oversight, it meant the Local Services Tax of \$3 per person, per week had to revert to \$1. That hasn't stopped city officials from trying to keep the higher rate, even as Johnstown is flush with millions in pandemic-related federal cash.

Rep. Burns thinks it is wrong to seek special permission to keep in place a tax 200% higher than it needs to be. He's the only elected official to publicly oppose that effort – and has asked Gov. Josh Shapiro to join him in that stance.

Willing to work with Johnstown officials on other priorities and projects, Rep. Burns cannot and will not support what amounts to a huge tax hike.

# Conemaugh Township (Cover Hill/Bonair) police equipment, recreation area renovations

**\$173,981 grant**



Rep. Burns with Supervisor Larry Beabes.

# East Taylor Township police cruiser

**\$33,855 grant**

Supervisors Darryl Davis, Rickey Price Jr. and J.P. Wainwright, and Rep. Burns.

