

Alanna Hartzok Runs for Congress

Representative Bud Shuster of Pennsylvania is leaving the U.S. Congress. Schuster, who was responsible for many of the nation's largest corporate welfare scandals, has no obvious replacement. Who will be the new representative from Pennsylvania's Ninth Congressional District?

Alanna Hartzok, that's who! She will run as a Candidate of the Green Party for the open seat, which will be filled in a special election in the spring. Here is her opening statement:

Narrow and limited ideologies are dividing us in now painfully obvious ways. We are in great need of a new American consensus of shared values and vision in order to solidly progress toward the highest and best for both ourselves and the rest of the human community that shares this world.

As the growing wealth gap widens and the concentration of economic power increases, our democracy becomes more and more at risk. Less than one percent of the population now owns more than 90% of our nation's wealth. Problems with our children's education, our environment and many social and health problems can be linked to this reality.

Economic conditions and environmental stress are interrelated. The Institute for Southern Studies recently reported that states which have the best environmental records also have the best climate for long-term economic development and job opportunities. The Gold and Green 2000 Report ranks Pennsylvania at 10th from the bottom among all 50 states on the environment, and 22nd from the bottom on economic performance. No other state's environmental score dropped as dramatically in the past six years.

As a tax reform educator and advocate, it is my firm belief that a correctly formulated tax system can deliver strong incentives for both environmental and economic well-being.

Environmental green tax policies end wasteful subsidies and shift taxes from labor and sustainable productive capital to fees-for-use of precious and limited natural resources and are essential to building win/win situations for all.

