

The Honorable Jill Lynette Long Thompson
U.S. Representative of Indiana (1989–1995)

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

Serving on the Agriculture Committee

Representative Long Thompson explains how her background made for a good fit on the Agriculture Committee.

Interview recorded June 15, 2017

I know I worked hard. But I could speak the language and I, I could, I could talk Midwest farming, and so I think that I had instant credibility. And in my TV spots that were produced for my campaigns, I always had one with me driving a tractor. And so I think that some of the, I, I actually think some of the men were intimidated by that because they hadn't, some of the men on the committee hadn't driven tractors. And so, I, I think I was treated very well actually, on that committee. The chairman was Kika de la Garza. He was very supportive. And then, I was on the Conservation, Credit, and Rural Development Subcommittee. Glenn English was the chair of that subcommittee, and he was a very supportive chairman. So I, I, I think, I actually think I was received very well. And I, I would make the point of staying in our committee hearings as long as it was necessary. You know, I was always the last one to get to ask a question because I had the lowest seniority because of the special election. I was elected after everybody else had been elected in November. But I would just make sure that I stayed there and asked my questions. And I took it very seriously and I think that that all paid off.