
CAPITOL CONNECTION

A Weekly Update of News and Views
For Opinion Shapers and Policy Makers

Congressman Gary G. Miller
42nd District, California



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House Passes Bailout for Big Three Automakers

The House this week voted on a package to provide a \$14 billion bridge loan to three ailing U.S. auto manufacturers in an attempt to help them achieve long-term financial viability. Congressman Miller opposed this bill because he believes it is a vague and ambiguous attempt to restructure the domestic auto industry and lacks the specificity to protect taxpayers. Furthermore, the bill does nothing to guarantee that once domestic automakers receive billions of taxpayer dollars that they will become independent of government money and viable companies in the future. While the American auto industry directly employs thousands of workers, this bailout uses American taxpayer dollars to put a band-aid on poor management decisions. On Thursday, the Senate did not secure enough votes to bring up the measure for consideration.

Congressman Miller Urges Increased Oversight for Taxpayer Dollars

This week, Congressman Miller and several of his Republican colleagues sent a letter to Speaker Pelosi and House Financial Services Chairman Frank urging increased congressional oversight for the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP). Earlier this year, Congress passed and the President signed into law the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act to establish the TARP in order to respond to the financial markets crisis. Under the TARP, the Treasury Department has distributed, or has made commitments to distribute, approximately \$335 billion to a wide range of U.S. financial institutions, including \$40 billion to prevent the failure of American Insurance Group and a total of \$50 billion in capital and loss protection to Citigroup. To ensure accountability and taxpayer protection in the implementation of the TARP, Congressman Miller has requested that the Chief Executive Officers from institutions that have received TARP funds testify before the House Committee on Financial Services. As our economy continues to face historic and unprecedented challenges, he will continue to advocate for taxpayer-friendly and fiscally responsible solutions to unfreeze credit.

Congressman Miller Asks President to Commute Sentences for Border Agents

Recently, Congressman Miller and eleven of his House colleagues sent a letter to President Bush urging him to commute the sentences of Border Patrol Agents Ignacio Ramos and Jose Compean before his term as President is over in January. Agents Ramos and Compean, who were convicted of shooting and wounding an illegal alien who was attempting to smuggle 700 pounds of marijuana across the border, were sentenced to 12 and 11 years in federal prison, respectively. Last month, a U.S. District Court judge left unchanged the sentences of Ramos and Compean and now the border agents are asking the Supreme Court to review their case. While Congressman Miller continues to fight this injustice, he remains committed to ensuring our Border Patrol officers have the resources they need to protect our nation's borders.

Support Our Troops and Their Families This Holiday Season

As thousands of families await the safe return of their loved ones serving our country overseas, many will celebrate the holidays without an important family member. To bless military families this holiday season, Yellow Ribbon America and the America's Heroes Foundation are again sponsoring "Operation Christmas for Our Troops and Their Families". This project gives statewide and national community support to those who valiantly serve in the Armed Forces at home and abroad as well as their families who make tremendous sacrifices in the absence of their loved ones. To participate in this program, simply bring a new, unwrapped toy or new DVD to one of the statewide drop-off locations by December 21, 2008. For more information on drop-off locations, please call Yellow Ribbon America at (714) 454-1150 or visit them online at www.yellowribbonamerica.org/opchristmas.htm.