
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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Congress Debates Nonbinding Iraq Resolution

This week, the House of Representatives spent four days debating H. Con. Res. 63, a resolution condemning the President's proposal for a troop surge in Iraq to quell sectarian violence and allow democracy to take hold. Rather than conducting a substantive and constructive debate, the House deliberated on a nonbinding resolution that offered no alternatives to the President's plan. Congressman Miller strongly opposed this resolution because it will not improve our chances of success in Iraq, but only embolden our terrorist enemies. While progress has not been as swift or as decisive as anyone hoped, Congressman Miller believes that instead of withdrawal, Congress should set verifiable benchmarks with which to measure Iraq's progress toward democracy and security. Above all else, Congressman Miller believes that Congress must support our troops in the field and for that reason is a proud cosponsor of a bill to guarantee funding for United States Armed Forces operating in Iraq and Afghanistan. H. Con. Res. 63 passed the House on Friday 246 to 182.

Congressman Miller Reintroduces Bill to Ease Congestion on 91 Freeway

The 91 Freeway experiences some of the worst congestion and longest drive times in Southern California, carrying a quarter of a million vehicles per day. Making matters worse, the number of cars traveling the 91 Freeway is expected to double over the next twenty years. To help reduce traffic along one of Southern California's busiest freeways, Congressman Miller on Wednesday reintroduced H.R. 1053, the California State Route 91 Congestion Relief Act. Specifically, this bill would authorize \$390 million in federal funding to improve the 91 Freeway by increasing capacity through additional lanes, constructing truck storage lanes, and providing a direct connector from the 91 Express Lanes to the 241 toll road. H.R. 1053 now awaits further consideration by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of which Congressman Miller is a member.

Congressman Miller Calls For Oversight Hearings on Border Agents' Cases

Serious questions remain unanswered about the conviction of Border Patrol Agents Ramos and Compean. Recently, the two agents were convicted of shooting an illegal alien drug smuggler and they are currently serving more than a decade in prison. Numerous and repeated attempts by Congressman Miller and his colleagues to gather the facts of this case through federal inquiries have so far been denied. This week, Congressman Miller stepped up his efforts by calling on House Leaders to exercise oversight authority and hold hearings on the Ramos and Compean cases in the Homeland Security, Judiciary, and Government Reform Committees. The implications of this case are far reaching, compromising the safety of our Border Patrol agents and impairing their ability to fight illegal immigration. As his request is considered, the Congressman would like to take this opportunity to thank the many individuals who have contacted him to express their support for Agents Ramos and Compean. Please know that Congressman Miller will continue to fight aggressively for their release.

Small Business Assistance Event Coming to Southern California

Have you ever thought of starting a small business, but don't know where to begin? Are you a current business owner with questions about selling your product to federal, state, or local governments? The United States Small Business Administration will present "SBA Day" on Wednesday, February 21, 2007 from 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. to provide more information on these issues. The event will take place at the Ontario Convention Center, located at 2000 East Convention Center Way. There, workshops will be held on such topics as small business loans, federal contracting programs, and federal and state procurement certification programs. To register for the event or for more information, please contact the Inland Empire Small Business Development Center at (951) 781-2345 or go to www.iesmallbusiness.com.