
CAPITOL CONNECTION

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

Congressman Gary G. Miller
42nd District, California



June 13, 2008

Congressman Miller Cosponsors Bill to Increase Domestic Energy Supplies

To address skyrocketing gas prices, Congressman Miller this week cosponsored legislation that would dramatically increase supplies of American-made energy. The bill, the No More Excuses Energy Act, takes a comprehensive approach by opening new American oil refineries; investing in clean energy sources such as wind, nuclear, and natural gas; and allowing energy exploration in Outer Continental Shelf and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. When Democrats refused to bring the bill to the House floor, Congressman Miller joined 139 of his colleagues in signing a discharge petition to force its immediate consideration. Once signed by 218 Members of Congress, this parliamentary petition would force congressional leaders to hold an immediate up-or-down vote on the bill. With long-term investments in alternative energies still years from coming on line, Congressman Miller believes it is critical that our nation move quickly to reduce gas prices by encouraging increased energy production here at home. With gas at more than \$4.00 a gallon in California and moving higher, hard-working families simply cannot wait any longer.

E-Verify Program Made Mandatory for All Government Contractors

In an effort to remove illegal immigrants from the workplace, President Bush this week issued an Executive Order to require all companies doing business with the federal government to use the E-verify system. This successful and commonsense program checks workers' names and Social Security numbers to confirm employment eligibility. While the E-verify system will remain voluntary for private firms, it will now be mandatory for thousands of federal contractors, including 138 located in California's 42nd Congressional District. Congressman Miller applauds the expansion of this crucial program to all federal contractors. He will continue working in Congress to extend this vital program to all employers, a step he believes will promote efficiency and economic security while significantly reducing the incentives for illegal aliens to seek employment in our country.

House Votes to Authorize Merida Initiative

This week, the House voted to authorize the Merida Initiative, a multi-year, multi-billion proposal to provide Mexico and Central America with funding to combat drug trafficking, gangs, and organized crime within their countries and along our shared borders. The initiative calls for the expenditure of \$1.6 billion over the next three years. Of that amount, \$1.1 billion would be directed to Mexico, \$405 million would be directed to other Central American governments, and \$74 million would be provided for law enforcement in the United States. While Congressman Miller believes the U.S. must continue working closely with our neighbors to combat drug trafficking and crime, he opposed the measure because he believes we must first work to secure our own borders before sending money abroad. He will continue to advocate for increasing investment in our Border Patrol and infrastructure to ensure the United States has the tools it needs to stop the flow of illegal aliens and drugs into our country.

Diamond Bar High School Student Wins Congressional Art Competition

Congressman Miller is pleased to recognize Diamond Bar High School sophomore Jane Lee as the winner of the *Artistic Discovery 2008* Congressional Art Competition. Jane's colored pencil entry entitled "The Fruits of America" portrays the American flag in the midst of hanging clusters of grapes. As the winner of the competition, Jane will receive a free trip to Washington, D.C. to see the unveiling of her artwork, which will hang in the U.S. Capitol for one year. Congratulations are also in order for second place winner Sarah Dyer from Mission Viejo and third place winner Christina Lim from Diamond Bar. Sarah's "Light in the Midst" photograph will hang in the Washington, D.C. office for one year, and Christina's "The Native American" will be displayed at the Brea district office for one year. Congressman Miller is proud of the creative talents of the 42nd District and would like to encourage aspiring student artists to participate in next year's competition.

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