
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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Immigration Bill Stalls in Senate

This week, the Senate gave up on an immigration reform package that would have granted amnesty to millions of illegal immigrants. After a procedural motion to limit further debate failed late yesterday, Senate leadership pulled the measure and vowed to broker a compromise with those that opposed the bill. While this was a defeat for amnesty supporters, it is a victory for all those like Congressman Miller who strongly oppose any attempt to legalize those that have violated our nation's immigration laws. As Congress works to find a solution to our nation's immigration crisis, Congressman Miller will continue to strongly advocate for an immediate effort to secure our borders and strengthen interior enforcement.

House Passes Bill to Bolster Democracy in Afghanistan

On Wednesday, the House approved legislation to help Afghanistan continue its transition into a peaceful, democratic state. The bill strengthens counter-narcotics efforts in light of the recent growth in poppy production and the deteriorating security situation in the country. Additionally, the bill strengthens oversight of U.S. financed reconstruction programs in the country to ensure that taxpayer dollars are being properly spent. During floor consideration, Congressman Miller supported an amendment to extend the State Department's efforts to help bring terrorists hiding along the Afghani border, like Osama bin Laden, to justice. Congressman Miller believes this bill represents an important step toward stabilizing the country, fighting terrorism, and ensuring the Taliban does not return to power.

Pair of Bills Approved to Increase Southern California Water Supply

The House this week passed a pair of bills that will help reduce Southern California's dependence on water supplies from the Colorado River and Northern California. The first bill, the Riverside-Corona Feeder Water Supply Act, will provide federal support for a water supply project that will capture and store water in wet years in order to increase local water supplies and improve water quality. Specifically this project includes groundwater wells and treatment facilities, water storage and pumping facilities, and 28 miles of pipeline in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. The second bill continues federal support for the Orange County Water District's Groundwater Replenishment System, which is a wastewater reclamation project that uses microfiltration, reverse osmosis, and ultraviolet disinfection to produce 35 billion gallons of water to replenish the local groundwater basin. Congressman Miller was pleased to support these important water resource bills and continues to support non-traditional methods of producing dependable water sources, such as through water recycling and desalination.

Temporary Relief Coming for Passport Delays

In response to lengthy delays passport applicants have been experiencing, the U.S. Departments of State and Homeland Security announced today that American citizens traveling to Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Bermuda will be granted temporary relief. Effective immediately, those whose applications are still being processed can temporarily enter and depart from the United States by air with a government issued photo identification and proof from the Department of State that a passport application has been filed. This temporary relief will extend until September 30, 2007. After that date, a U.S. passport for travel by air in the Western Hemisphere will again be required. Earlier today, Congressman Miller joined his House colleagues in a letter to Secretary of State Rice asking for immediate relief for those travelers that are waiting for their passports in order to travel throughout the Western Hemisphere. For more information on obtaining a passport, please visit the State Department's website at www.travel.state.gov or call Congressman Miller's Brea office at (714) 257-1142.