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# CAPITOL CONNECTION

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

**Congressman Gary G. Miller**  
**42<sup>nd</sup> District, California**



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January 30, 2009

## **House Passes Massive Borrow and Spend Bill in Attempt to Stimulate Economy**

On Wednesday, the House passed a massive \$816 billion so-called stimulus package which was crafted by the Democrat Leadership in haste, behind closed doors, and without input that was promised to the Minority party in Congress. The bill represents a litany of extraneous spending that will do nothing to create jobs and help hard working American families struggling to make ends meet. For example, the bill creates 32 new government programs and contains \$600 million to buy new cars for the federal government, \$50 million to fund the National Endowment for the Arts, \$44 million to repair the U.S. Department of Agriculture Headquarters, \$400 million for NASA to conduct climate change research, and \$335 million for sexually transmitted disease education and prevention programs. According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, only 40 percent of the discretionary funds included in this legislation will be spent in the next year and a half. Congressman Miller voted against this outrageous bill because he believes that wasteful spending and new government programs will only place the American people at greater financial risk in the future. Rather than spend record levels of taxpayer dollars and substantially increase the federal deficit, he supports the Republican plan which will create 6.2 million jobs by releasing the resources and creativity of the American people through fast acting tax relief to struggling families and small businesses.

## **DHS Announces Near Completion of the Border Fence**

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) this week announced that the fence along the Southwest border is nearly complete. As of this week, 302 miles of pedestrian fencing and 300 miles of vehicle fencing have been constructed, together which tally up to over 600 miles of fencing to secure our nation's borders. This announcement follows the Secure Fence Act of 2005, a bill that Congressman Miller co-authored, which was signed into law to achieve and maintain operational control over the entire international order. Specifically, this law requires DHS to construct over 700 miles of double-layered reinforced border fencing and the installation of additional physical barriers, roads, lighting, cameras, and sensors. Since the law's enactment, over \$2.7 billion has been set aside for the construction of the fence. Congressman Miller believes that the border fence is an important step in solving our immigration and border security problems and will continue to work in Congress to enforce our nation's current laws and close existing loopholes that facilitate illegal immigration.

## **Orange County Transportation Authority Testifies Before House Subcommittee**

This week, the House Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials held a hearing on the role, needs, and benefits of passenger and freight rail in our communities. Congressman Miller, a member of this Subcommittee, welcomed the testimony of Orange County Transportation Authority Chairman Peter Buffa as he discussed the impacts of goods movement on the Southern California region. In his testimony, Chairman Buffa discussed the need to create a designated revenue source to address the local impact of increased container traffic coming from the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, which is the largest port complex in the United States. In 2007, nearly 16 million cargo containers traveled through these ports to or from the rest of the country. While the Ports are an important part of the local economy, increased activity leads to more traffic congestion for local communities. As Congress works in the coming year to reauthorize federal transportation policies and funding, Congressman Miller will work to ensure the region has the support necessary to reduce traffic and keep the economy moving.

## **Congressman Miller Invites Entries for Artistic Discovery Competition**

Congressman Miller is pleased to announce that he will be holding the Artistic Discovery 2009 Congressional Art Competition for all high school students residing in the 42<sup>nd</sup> district. Started in 1982 by Congress, the Artistic Discovery competition is designed to provide aspiring high school students with the opportunity to have a winning artwork displayed at the U.S. Capitol for one full year. Additionally, Southwest Airlines will provide the first place winner with three roundtrip tickets to Washington, DC for the unveiling of the artwork. Congressman Miller hopes that this year's competition will highlight and support the rich artistic talents of the students in his district. For more information on Artistic Discovery 2009, including the guidelines and due date, please contact Mina Choi in his Brea office at (714) 257-1142.

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