



July 10, 2009

Congressman Miller and Colleagues Highlight Failure of the So-Called Stimulus

This morning, Congressman Miller joined several of his colleagues on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to highlight the failure of the Democrat Stimulus Package to provide the jobs Americans were promised. In February of this year, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act allocated \$787 billion, of which only 6 percent was dedicated for transportation projects to keep America and its economy moving. So far, only .0045% has been spent on California transportation projects. As of last week, only one percent of the transportation stimulus money has been spent nationwide and only 1 percent of the \$3.4 billion in transportation funding that was allocated to California has been spent as well. For every \$1 billion in infrastructure spending, nearly 35,000 jobs are created. Yet, construction sector jobs in California have decreased by 18 percent over the last year and over 20,000 construction jobs have been lost since the stimulus was signed into law. Rather than devote billions of taxpayer dollars to more government programs, Congressman Miller believes firmly that the stimulus should have primarily focused on addressing the infrastructure needs of the United States while also creating jobs for millions of hardworking Americans. He will continue to work in Congress to put an end to this gross misuse of taxpayer dollars and will fight for fiscally responsible solutions to address the economic crisis.

During Economic Decline, House Again Votes to Dramatically Increase Spending

Amid the deepening economic recession, the House of Representatives this week voted to dramatically increase funding for the Departments of Agriculture and State as well as their related agencies. The Agriculture Appropriations legislation contains a total of \$123.8 billion in both mandatory and discretionary spending, which is a 14 percent increase from the last year's level. While the bill funds several important programs, including farm lending and safety-net food and nutrition programs, the bill over-compensates these programs with unsustainable, double-digit funding increases for Fiscal Year 2010. Following this trend, the House also passed a \$48.8 billion State Department and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2010, which is a monstrous 33 percent increase from Fiscal Year 2009. Although the legislation funds a variety of crucial international and foreign assistance programs, including activities to fight illegal drug trafficking in Mexico and security assistance to our strategic allies such as Israel, the massive increase in overall spending is a serious concern. Congressman Miller opposed these measures because our country simply cannot continue to borrow and spend during these times of economic hardship.

Administration's E-Verify Rule Sends Mixed Signals

This week, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced that after delaying the implementation of the rule requiring federal contractors to use E-Verify three times, the rule will finally take effect on September 8, 2009. E-Verify is a successful and commonsense program which checks workers' names and Social Security numbers to confirm employment eligibility and enjoys a success rate of 99.6 percent. However, DHS also announced that it will rescind the No-Match Rule, a rule which establishes procedures that employers should follow if they receive a letter from the Social Security Administration or a notice from DHS that call into question work eligibility information provided by employees. Although Congressman Miller is pleased that the Administration has finally prioritized the needs and interests of American workers over those of illegals, he is concerned that employers will be able to do little when illegal aliens are unmasked in the workplace.

House Passes Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Bill

On Friday, the House passed the Fiscal Year 2010 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill to provide needed funding to our nation's retired military heroes and their families. This legislation contains a total of \$76.5 billion, which is a five percent increase over last year's funding. Of this amount, the bill appropriates \$34.7 billion for veterans medical services; \$4.9 billion to improve VA facilities, hospitals, and clinics; and \$2 billion for family and military personnel housing. Congressman Miller supported passage of this bill. He believes that we must continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our nation's veterans, servicemembers, and their families to ensure those who put themselves in harm's way to protect our freedom are cared for when they return home.