



June 29, 2009

*This is an updated version of last week's edition of Capitol Connection Newsletter. As Congress adjourns for the Fourth of July Recess, the next addition of Capitol Connection will appear July 10, 2009.*

### **Congressman Miller Blasts House Passage of Cap-and-Tax Legislation**

On Friday, the House of Representatives narrowly passed cap-and-trade legislation by a vote of 219-212. This bill will ultimately amount to higher energy prices, fewer jobs, and more government intrusion, costing the 42nd Congressional District nearly 4,000 jobs and an estimated \$477 million in economic destruction in the first year alone. A cap and trade system sets a limit, or cap, on carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel use. Essentially, the federal government would set a cap on total carbon dioxide emissions and establish a carbon allowance on each utility or company. Those companies that emit less carbon dioxide than permitted by the allowance may trade credits to other companies that exceed the allowance. Under a cap and trade system, utility companies will be forced to raise energy rates to pay for this new artificially imposed market while other energy producing companies will make millions of dollars by "trading" their carbon credits to higher polluting energy producers. Moving into a cap and tax system will place the United States economy at a distinct competitive disadvantage because it will place additional costs on American manufacturers and cede market share to overseas competitors not subject to limits on greenhouse gas emissions. These restrictions essentially will enact a national energy tax, costing American families thousands annually and will ship millions of American jobs overseas. During these economically challenging times, Congressman Miller believes firmly that Americans should not be forced to bear these unreasonable costs. As this legislation currently awaits consideration in the Senate, he will continue to oppose a national energy tax.

### **House Approves Homeland Security Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2010**

The House this week passed a \$42.6 billion Homeland Security Appropriations package for Fiscal Year 2010, which will fund the Secret Service, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the Transportation Security Administration, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Coast Guard, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. At a time when threats to our national security and violence along the U.S.-Mexico border are ever increasing, these funds will be used to prevent and deter threats along the U.S. borders and ports of entry, including stopping terrorists, weapons, drugs, and other contraband from entering the United States. Also included in the bill is \$162 million for the E-Verify program, a successful and commonsense program which checks workers' names and Social Security numbers to confirm employment eligibility, as well as a two-year reauthorization. Furthermore, the bill contains an important provision to prohibit any funds in the bill from being used to employ illegal workers. Congressman Miller supported this legislation because he is committed to providing our nation's defenders with the resources they need to carry out their vital mission of protecting the American people from both current and emerging threats.

### **Defense Authorization Bill Sails Through the House of Representatives**

On Thursday, by a strong bipartisan margin, the House of Representatives passed legislation authorizing \$550.4 billion in funding for the Department of Defense and other important national defense activities. This annual authorization bill sets forth a comprehensive annual defense policy and authorizes budget authority for the Pentagon for the coming year. Specifically, the bill seeks to protect our troops in harm's way by authorizing funding for mine resistant vehicles as well as funding for improvised explosive device (IED) jammers. The measure also includes a 3.4 percent pay raise for our military personnel and \$632 million for the modification, research, and development of C-17 aircraft, parts of which are produced in the 42nd District. Despite reservations about cuts to missile defense programs, Congressman Miller supported passage of the bill and will continue to work with his colleagues to ensure the immediate needs of our Armed Forces are met.

## **House Passes Bloated Interior and Environment Appropriations Bill**

The House on Friday passed a \$32.3 billion Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations package for Fiscal Year 2010, representing a staggering 17 percent increase above last year's enacted levels and is in addition to the \$10.95 billion included in the Interior provisions of the so-called Economic Stimulus Package passed earlier this year. Of the many large funding increases included in the legislation, the bill provides a \$2.8 billion, or 37 percent, increase over last year's level for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). When combined with funding approved earlier this year in the Fiscal Year 2009 Omnibus and the Democrat Stimulus, the EPA will receive more than \$25 billion in a single calendar year. The bill also provides \$420 million, a whopping 82 percent increase from Fiscal Year 2009, for programs to address global climate change. Congressman Miller opposed this legislation because he believes firmly that the government should reign in wasteful Washington spending during these times of economic hardship. As a steward of taxpayer dollars, he will continue to fight against record and abusive levels of government spending.

## **Congressman Miller to Accept Applications for Congressional Page Program**

Congressman Miller is seeking interested and qualified students entering their junior year in high school to apply for the United States House of Representatives Page Program for the Fall 2009 Semester. Prospective Pages must be at least 16 years of age but not over 17 years of age and entering their junior year of high school. GPA requirements also apply. To be qualified to serve as a Page, all applicants must have a cumulative grade point average of a "B" or better ("B" is a 3.0 or 80/100) in the five major subjects. Congressman Miller's Brea office must receive all paperwork from prospective pages by July 3, 2009. For more information and to request an application form, please contact Congressman Miller's Brea Office at (714) 257-1142.