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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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March 27, 2009

## **Despite Administration's Claims, CBO Projects Larger Deficit Over Next Decade**

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) recently announced that President Obama's budget proposal, if carried out, would produce \$9.3 trillion in total deficits over the next ten years, which exceeds those anticipated by the Administration by \$2.3 trillion. The CBO estimates that this unprecedented borrowing would grow the national debt from 41 percent of the Gross Domestic Product in 2008 to a monstrous 82 percent in 2019. In 2010 alone, the budget will spend \$172 billion on interest on the national debt, which is four times greater than the budgets for the Department of Education and the Department of Homeland Security. The Administration's budgetary blueprint would also double families' share of the debt from \$35,000 to \$70,000 over the next ten years and creates more gross debt than every other U.S. President in history combined. At a time when American families and small businesses are tightening their budgets, Congressman Miller believes firmly that the federal government should follow their example. Our nation simply cannot sustain this level of borrowing and spending and it is unfair to saddle future generations with a massive debt.

## **DHS Announces Plan to Address Increased Violence Along the Southwest Border**

This week, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced several Southwest border initiatives designed to crack down on Mexican drug cartels through enhanced border security. With violence escalating across the border and threatening to spill over into the United States, this plan calls for additional personnel, increased intelligence capability and better coordination with state, local, and Mexican law enforcement authorities. Specifically, DHS will initiate strategic redeployments of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement and will realign funds to meet priorities along the Southwest border. DHS will also send new technologies to the border and at ports of entry, including rail screening and X-ray units to detect anomalies in rail cars and vehicles; upgraded license plate readers to help detect suspected smugglers' cars; "cross-trained" canines that can detect both weapons and cash; and eight additional information sharing centers between CBP and local enforcers. Although more could be done, Congressman Miller is pleased the Administration has addressed this critical national security issue and will continue to advocate for increased resources and personnel, such as the redeployment of the National Guard, to safeguard our nation.

## **Congressman Miller Cosponsors the Homebuyer Tax Credit Act**

To bring stability to the housing market and encourage responsible homeownership, Congressman Miller recently cosponsored the Homebuyer Tax Credit Act, which was introduced by a fellow Southern California Congressman, Ken Calvert. This legislation would offer a one-time \$15,000 tax credit or ten percent of the purchase price, whichever is less, to individuals who purchase a home within one year of the bill's enactment. In addition, this tax credit would not have to be repaid. The Homebuyer Tax Credit Act also seeks to prevent misuse by only allowing purchases of a principal residence and by recapturing the credit if the home is sold within two years of the purchase price. During these economically challenging times, Congressman Miller believes that it is more important than ever to provide tax relief to hardworking Americans. He is proud to cosponsor this commonsense legislation and will continue working in Congress to help stabilize the housing market.

## **House Passes Bill to Enhance Wildfire Suppression and Management**

On Thursday, the House passed the Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act to provide additional resources for wildfire suppression and management. Specifically, this bill establishes the FLAME Fund within the U.S. Treasury to pay for emergency catastrophic wildfire suppression. Further, the bill directs the Departments of Agriculture and Interior to develop a cohesive wildland fire management strategy to identify cost effective fire management budgeting and address community risk levels. The bill also establishes a grant program within the Departments of Agriculture and Interior to help communities carry out wildfire education programs, firefighter training, and equipment acquisition. As the 42nd Congressional District has experienced devastating wildfires over the last few years, Congressman Miller is pleased that Congress has taken steps to improve wildfire preparedness and response actions. He will continue working to provide California with the resources it needs to effectively address future wildfire threats.

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