
CAPITOL CONNECTION

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

Congressman Gary G. Miller
42nd District, California



July 11, 2008

Congressman Miller Cosponsors Bill to Bring Alaskan Energy On Line

To help bring down soaring energy prices, Congressman Miller this week cosponsored legislation to speed domestic energy exploration along the coastal plane of Alaska. The bill, the American Energy Independence and Price Reduction Act, will bring on line untapped energy resources from the northern coastal plane of Alaska – a 2,000 acre area specifically set aside for energy exploration. By comparison, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) encompasses 19.6 million acres of land. Additionally, to help our nation eventually transition away from fossil fuels, federal revenues from the bill will go toward efforts to promote conservation and advance clean, renewable alternative energy technologies. The simple reality is that our nation is suffering from inadequate domestic energy supplies and, as a result, American consumers are sending more than a billion dollars overseas every day to pay for our nation's energy needs. To fix this problem, Congressman Miller is committed to conserving energy where we can and exploring for energy where we must. Over the coming months he will continue to push aggressively for a comprehensive energy strategy that dramatically increases supplies of American-made energy and reduces prices for American consumers.

Members of Congress Seek Justice for Slain Border Patrol Agent

This week, a group of thirty-nine Members of Congress sent a letter to President Bush and Attorney General Mukasey to express concern regarding the release of the suspected murderer of Border Patrol Agent Luis Aguilar. Earlier this year, Border Patrol Agent Aguilar was killed while attempting to stop two vehicles that had illegally entered the United States. Agent Aguilar's accused killer, Jesus Navarro Montes, was arrested days later by Mexican authorities, but was released in June by a Mexican judge because there were no charges or extradition proceedings pending against him in the United States. Congressman Miller is outraged that this suspected murderer has been released and wrote to the President and Attorney General to demand accountability for this affront to justice. In the meantime, he will continue working in Congress to secure our borders and equip the brave men and women of the Border Patrol with the resources they need.

Congressman Miller Advocates for Civil War Battlefield Preservation

A longtime Civil War buff, Congressman Miller testified on Thursday before the House Natural Resources Committee in favor of his legislation to reauthorize the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program. Since he first authored legislation creating the program in 2002, more than 15,000 acres of Civil War battlefields in 14 states have been preserved to serve as outdoor classrooms for future generations. The program authorizes grants for state and local governments to develop partnerships with private and non-profit organizations with the express purpose of purchasing historic battlefield land from willing sellers. Congressman Miller believes that we must preserve these historical sites and he is pleased to see this legislation move forward in Congress.

International Travel Tips Available Online

Americans traveling abroad can obtain detailed information on international travel such as tips, travel warnings, and alerts by visiting the U.S. State Department website. U.S. consuls stand ready to assist Americans traveling overseas in a variety of emergency situations, including cases of lost and stolen passports, illness, crime, or arrest. By registering your overseas travel at the U.S. Embassy or U.S. Consulate in the country you are visiting, consular officers can better assist during an emergency situation. For more information on making your travel overseas easier and safer, please visit the U.S. State Department website at <http://travel.state.gov> or call Congressman Miller's Brea office for assistance at (714) 257-1142.