



January 20, 2012

House Votes to Disapprove Debt Ceiling Increase

The second session of the 112th Congress got underway this week with House passage of a resolution to disapprove the raising of the nation's debt ceiling by another \$1.2 trillion, the sixth time the debt limit has increased since 2009. Now approaching \$16 trillion, our out-of-control national debt exceeds the value of our economy, stifling growth and job creation. The House Majority has worked to rein in this tremendous debt burden by voting to cut and cap federal spending and to amend the Constitution to require the federal government to balance the budget. Unfortunately congressional Democrats have blocked these efforts while the Obama Administration continues to call for more deficit spending and job-killing tax increases to pay for this profligate spending. Congressman Miller strongly believes we must cut up the nation's credit card and stop the federal government from bankrupting future generations of Americans. As Congress considers further spending reductions and reforms, he will continue to work with his colleagues to make the difficult choices needed to confront our nation's economic challenges.

President to Deliver State of the Union on 1,000th Day Without a Senate-Passed Budget

On Tuesday, January 24th, President Obama will deliver his State of the Union address - a date that also marks the one-thousandth day since the Senate last passed a budget. One of the primary responsibilities of Congress is to establish a fiscal blueprint for our nation's spending and revenue priorities. While the House of Representatives fulfilled this important obligation for the current fiscal year, the Senate Majority has continued to ignore this fundamental responsibility. Meanwhile, our country's budget problems have continued to worsen. Since April 29, 2009 - the last time the Senate passed a budget - the national debt has soared by \$4 trillion. The Senate's failure to consider a budget in nearly three years amid record level spending and debt is unacceptable. In April 2011, the President said passing a budget was the "least we can do" and that Americans expect and deserve a government that fulfills its duty to produce a budget. Congressman Miller agrees, and hopes that the President will reiterate this message to his colleagues during his speech to Congress and the American people next week.

President Rejects Job-Creating Keystone XL Pipeline

On Wednesday, the Obama Administration announced that it will block the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline, claiming that there is "not enough time" to review the project's environmental impact. This is despite the fact that the project meets standard pipeline safety requirements and has already gone through an extensive, three-year review by the U.S. State Department, which determined that the pipeline would have a minimal impact on the environment. In addition to creating as many as 20,000 jobs immediately, it has been estimated that the Keystone XL pipeline would deliver up to 830,000 barrels of oil per day from Canadian oil sands to refineries along the Gulf Coast, helping to meet our country's energy needs while lessening our dependence on oil from unfriendly nations. Congressman Miller is extremely disappointed with the Administration's decision that will weaken our country's energy security and cost our economy thousands of jobs that we need now. He will continue working to promote policies that will spur private sector job creation, address our nation's growing energy needs and reduce the burden of high gas prices on American families.