
CAPITOL CONNECTION

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

Congressman Gary G. Miller
42nd District, California



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Administration Unveils Plan to Find Minimal Budget Savings in the Next 90 Days

This week, the Administration announced a plan to trim a measly \$100 million from the federal budget in the next 90 days after spending trillions in taxpayer dollars since the beginning of the year. To put this in perspective, this is only .0025 percent of the near \$4 trillion federal budget that President Obama proposed earlier this year and is similar to asking someone who makes \$40,000 annually to save a dollar. In fact, it is estimated that the federal government spends \$100 million every thirteen minutes. To make matters worse, President Obama claimed victory that the Department of Homeland Security could save \$52 million by purchasing office supplies in bulk. Although any amount of savings is commendable, Congressman Miller believes firmly that the federal government can do better. Amid the economic crisis, both Congress and the Administration have only continued to facilitate the borrow-and-spend philosophy through the enactment of the \$800 billion so-called stimulus package and by proposing the largest federal budget in American history for Fiscal Year 2010. As a steward of taxpayer dollars, Congressman Miller will continue to fight for fiscal responsibility and tax relief for hardworking Americans and small businesses.

Law Enforcement Officials Find Most Drugs Cross U.S. Borders in Trucks

In the wake of increasing violence along the U.S.-Mexico border, law enforcement officials have found that most of the drugs smuggled into the United States by the Mexican drug cartels are concealed in trucks that drive across U.S. border checkpoints. Since the implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement in 1993 and the Mexican Truck Pilot Program in 2007, the number of trucks entering the United States has steadily increased and the ability to fully inspect trucks has waned. In fact, the media has reported that in 2008 alone over 3 million trucks crossed the U.S.-Mexico border and only about five percent were inspected. Due to a lack of safeguards in place to ensure Mexican truck drivers comply with homeland security and immigration laws, Congressman Miller has adamantly opposed allowing Mexican trucks to have access to all U.S. roads. After he voted against the Mexican trucking program numerous times, Congress finally terminated the program in the recently enacted Fiscal Year 2009 Omnibus Appropriations bill. Congressman Miller will continue working to address issues contributing to the escalating border violence and will also work with his colleagues to keep our roads and communities safe.

Administration Delays Rule Requiring Federal Contractors to Use E-Verify

The Administration this week announced that it will delay for a second time the implementation date for its rule requiring federal contractors to use E-Verify until June 30, 2009. E-Verify is a successful and commonsense program which checks workers' names and Social Security numbers to confirm employment eligibility. Currently, it is estimated that eight million illegal aliens are employed in the United States while thirteen million American workers are unemployed. During these economically challenging times, Congressman Miller believes firmly that the federal government should protect American workers and set the example in the enforcement of our nation's immigration laws. In the meantime, he has cosponsored several pieces of legislation to strengthen E-Verify, among which would require all legislative branch and federal government contractors, as well as their subcontractors, to immediately use the E-Verify program. Congressman Miller is proud to support these proposals to improve worksite enforcement and will continue working to prevent illegal aliens from securing employment in violation of our nation's laws.

Congressman Miller Returns to Washington

This week, Congressman Miller returned to Washington after recovering from reconstructive shoulder surgery. In February, he underwent surgery and was given doctor's orders to refrain from traveling for several weeks. He is touched by the countless well wishes from constituents of the 42nd Congressional District and looks forward to working with his colleagues in coming months to address the issues facing our great nation.