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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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April 3, 2009

## **House Passes Largest Budget in American History**

On Thursday, the House passed a resolution for the Fiscal Year 2010 budget. Like the Administration's budget proposal, the House passed version taxes too much, spends too much, and borrows too much. The resolution sets the federal government's budget policies over a five-year window with a total cost of \$18.3 trillion. According to estimates by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, the debt held by the public would reach a whopping 67 percent of the Gross Domestic Product by 2014. In addition, the budget will increase taxes by \$574 billion over the next five years and allows for virtually unlimited additional tax increases through seventeen reserve funds, as well as reconciliation instructions. Among these potential tax increases is a "cap and trade" proposal, resulting in a national climate tax that would cost every household up to \$3,128 annually and also result in the loss of at least three to four million jobs. With the national deficit soaring and the unemployment rate rising, Congressman Miller believes that the government must halt the borrow-and-spend philosophy and put a stop to heaping ever-growing debts on future generations.

## **Congressman Miller Cosponsors Bill to Bring Alaskan Energy On Line**

To help bring America to energy independence, Congressman Miller recently 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. During these economically challenging times, Congressman Miller believes that increasing domestic energy production is more important than ever because it will help create jobs and lower energy prices for American consumers.

## **Congressman Miller Requests Field Hearings on the California Drought**

On Tuesday, Congressman Miller joined sixteen of his colleagues in sending a letter to the House Committee on Natural Resources requesting field hearings in California to discuss the local impacts of the California drought and how federal policies are affecting them. Earlier this week, the Committee held a hearing on the California drought which solely focused on actions by federal and state agencies to address impacts on lands, fisheries, and water users. However, federal and state agencies—more specifically, federal and state regulatory and legal burdens—have been part of the problem, not the solution. Currently, California is in a water crisis of historic proportions because of the rigidity of federal laws, like the Endangered Species Act, which have taken away the flexibility to manage the state's water system. As Southern California faces the formidable task of providing continued access to safe and reliable water resources for a rapidly increasing population, Congressman Miller will continue working in Congress to provide the funding resources necessary to help local water agencies improve water reliability and diversity.

## **Bipartisan Legislation Introduced to Prevent Kidnappings by Family Members**

This week, Congressman Miller joined Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey in reintroducing the Family Abduction Prevention Act. This bipartisan legislation will crack down and prevent the abduction of children by family members. Annually, approximately 200,000 children are abducted by family members, compared with 58,000 incidents involving nonfamily members. Despite the fact that such incidents account for over 75 percent of all child abductions, most local law enforcement agencies lack written guidelines for such cases, or do not have the protocols necessary to help facilitate a child's recovery. The Family Abduction Prevention Act would address these weaknesses by providing matching grants to state and local agencies to strengthen family abduction prevention programs and raise awareness of this ongoing issue. He is proud to support this legislation and believes that it is crucial we provide states with the resources necessary to guard children from this real and prevalent threat.