



January 29, 2010

### **State of the Union Rhetoric Does Not Match Record**

During his State of the Union address on Wednesday, President Obama announced several proposals aimed to reign in the rapid increase in government spending. Of these initiatives, the President announced his Fiscal Year 2011 budget will propose a freeze in nonsecurity discretionary spending, which is only one-eighth of the federal budget, for the next three fiscal years. The proposal is expected to save \$250 billion over 10 years, but the savings is small compared with Congressional Budget Office's (CBO) projected \$6 trillion deficit over the next 10 years. While Congressman Miller welcomes the President's call for a spending freeze and hopes that it is a positive turning point, he is wary of this announcement since the President recently signed an omnibus appropriations package for Fiscal Year 2010 that increased nonsecurity funding by a whopping 12 percent. In fact, CBO just announced that this year's budget deficit will reach \$1.35 trillion and described our nation's fiscal situation as "unsustainable." Although a spending freeze is certainly a step in the right direction, Congressman Miller believes Congress and the Administration can do better. To this end, he has consistently cosponsored legislation to force Congress to pass a balanced budget every year.

### **Ten Months After So-Called Stimulus 49 of 50 States Have Lost Jobs**

While the Administration continues to claim that the so-called stimulus package has created or saved millions of jobs, evidence recently released proves otherwise. In a December 2009 report using data from the U.S. Department of Labor, 49 states have lost jobs since the so-called stimulus was enacted in February 2009. In fact, the Administration claims its stimulus package has created or saved 256,000 jobs in California while the Golden State has actually lost over 388,000 since its enactment. Rather than create jobs and grow the economy, the Democrats' stimulus package has been used to fund pet projects and grow the size and scope of the federal government. In fact, according to a recent poll, three out of four Americans believe stimulus money has been wasted. Congressman Miller will continue to fight against the Democrats' misuse of taxpayer dollars and will fight for fiscally responsible and job-creating policies.

### **Amnesty Bill Would Eliminate Critical 287(g) Program**

Among its most questionable provisions, the amnesty bill recently introduced in the House of Representatives eliminates the 287(g) program. Created by Congress in 1996, the 287(g) program enhances cooperation between local law enforcement and federal immigration authorities. Since its inception, over 1,000 officers from 67 law enforcement agencies have been trained and participate in the program, including Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties. According to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), since January 2006 the 287(g) program is credited with identifying more than 130,000 potentially removable aliens, mostly at local jails. Furthermore, in 2008 the number of 287(g) arrests was equal to one-fifth of all criminal aliens identified by ICE in prisons and jails nationwide that year. Despite the overwhelming success of this program, the amnesty legislation altogether eliminates the 287(g) program. In addition to this proposal, the Obama Administration already has placed limits on state and local law enforcement agencies who participate in the 287(g) program, which effectively prevents them from arresting many of the illegal immigrants with whom they come into contact. Congressman Miller is deeply disappointed the Administration has watered down this critical program and will keep fighting against amnesty legislation.

### **Despite Record Debt, House Passes Bill to Purchase Beachfront Property in St. Croix**

As the national debt now stands at a whopping \$12.3 trillion, the House of Representatives this week passed legislation to impel the National Park Service to acquire beachfront property in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands at a cost of \$45 million over the next ten years. The bill is intended to preserve 2,900 acres of land and an additional 8,600 acres underwater that together include archeological sites, a barrier coral reef, and historic cattle plantations. Although the National Park Service is currently in the middle of a \$500,000 congressionally mandated study to determine if the project is worthwhile, the Majority forged ahead with its agenda in order to appease their interests. Congressman Miller opposed this legislation because he believes firmly that Washington must reign in runaway government spending.