



July 15, 2011

### **House Passes Reform of National Flood Insurance Program**

On Tuesday, the House of Representatives passed a five-year reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which also included significant reforms to improve its financial stability and increase private sector participation in the market. Since 2008, the program has operated under ten short-term extensions, and was allowed to lapse four times, creating further uncertainty in the housing market as real estate transactions were delayed. The House-passed bill will improve the NFIP's financial health by eliminating rate subsidies and phasing in full-risk actuarial rates for areas designated as a "Special Flood Hazard", and encourages increased participation by private insurers into the flood insurance market. Congressman Miller supported these important reforms which the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office estimates will generate an additional \$4.2 billion of revenue over the next ten years, reducing the burden of the NFIP on taxpayers.

### **FY 2012 Energy and Water Funding Bill Approved by the House**

Today, the House passed H.R. 2354, the Energy and Water Appropriations Act of 2012. The legislation appropriates a total of \$30.6 billion in non-emergency, discretionary funds for various agencies and programs under the Department of Energy, including the National Nuclear Security Administration, as well as the Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Water Reclamation, and various regional water and power authorities. This amount is a reduction of \$1 billion from the current funding level, and nearly \$6 billion below the President's request for 2012. The bill also represents a \$249 million reduction from the FY 2008 funding level, meeting the Majority's pledge to roll back government spending to pre-stimulus, pre-bailout levels. Congressman Miller will continue to work to rein in government spending, while adequately funding our nation's most pressing priorities.

### **House Votes to Restore State Authority Under the Clean Water Act**

Since the enactment of the Clean Water Act (CWA), the federal government and states have worked together to fight water pollution. However, in recent years, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has taken steps to undermine the state's regulatory authority and establish one-size-fits all water pollution controls. On Wednesday, the House passed common sense legislation that restores the balance between state and federal regulation of the nation's waters. Specifically, the bill restricts the agency's ability to issue revised or new water quality standards for a pollutant whenever a state has adopted – and the EPA has already approved – a standard, unless a state concurs. The bill also prohibits the EPA from unnecessarily delaying a state's permitting and water quality certification decisions once the EPA has already approved a state's program. Congressman Miller co-sponsored this important legislation to prevent the EPA's one-size-fits-all approach to controlling water pollution that creates unnecessary delays and harms businesses that are essential to our nation's economy.

### **Traveling Internationally this Summer?**

With the summer travel season well underway, constituents with international travel plans are encouraged to check documentation requirements for travel to foreign countries. The Western Hemispheres Travel Initiative (WHTI) requires U.S. citizens to present a valid and acceptable travel document that denotes both identity and citizenship when entering the U.S. by land or sea. If you are traveling into the United States from Mexico, Canada, Bermuda, and the Caribbean, be sure to visit the WHTI website at [www.getyouhome.gov](http://www.getyouhome.gov) to learn about U.S. border crossing requirements. For country-specific travel information, entry/exit requirements, travel alerts, travel warnings, or for more information on obtaining a U.S. passport and other services, please visit the U.S. Department of State's website at [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov). For additional information, please feel free to contact Congressman Miller's Brea office at (714)257-1142.