



July 17, 2009

### **The Administration and Majority Continue to Spend Despite Soaring Debt**

As of June 30, our national debt now stands at a monstrous \$11.5 trillion, which amounts to nearly \$40,000 for every man, woman, and child in the United States. During the month of June, the government spent \$18 billion on interest payments alone and the national debt increased by \$223.7 billion, which is an increase of \$7.5 billion a day, \$310.7 million an hour, \$5.2 million a minute, and \$86,295 a second. The simple fact is that the Administration and the Congressional Democrats' budget adds more to the national debt than all previous presidents, from George Washington to George W. Bush, combined. Since President Obama took office, the national debt has increased by \$918 billion, which has subsequently tacked another \$2,992 in debt on the back of every American. Despite these harrowing facts, the Administration and Majority continue to recklessly forge ahead with their borrow-and-spend agenda. Congressman Miller is deeply concerned about the sky-rocketing national debt and will continue fighting in Congress to get our nation's fiscal house in order.

### **As Unemployment Soars, Health Care Bill Targets Job-Creating Small Businesses**

This week, House Democrats unveiled a 1,018 page bill which sets the tone for a Washington takeover of the health care system, one defined by federal regulation, mandates, myriad new programs, and higher federal spending. Although the Congressional Budget Office has yet to score the bill, it is estimated to cost well over \$1 trillion and will be financed largely by significant job-killing tax increases imposed on small businesses. Specifically, the bill includes a surtax ranging from 1 to 5.4 percent on individuals earning over \$280,000 annually and married couples earning over \$350,000 annually. Because most small businesses do not pay corporate income taxes, and instead pay taxes on small business income on their individual returns, small businesses will be particularly hard hit by this \$544 billion tax increase. What is more, a recent study by the Tax Foundation shows that this surtax will push the top marginal tax rate over 50 percent in 39 states, including California. In addition, the bill creates a new payroll tax on employers who do not provide their employees with insurance or who are deemed to not provide adequate insurance to their employees. The new payroll tax could equal as much as 8 percent of the payroll of the entire company. Since small businesses create seven out of every ten jobs in our nation, Congressman Miller believes it is foolish to raise taxes on small businesses during an economic recession. While it is important that skyrocketing health care costs are addressed, he believes firmly that government-run health care that saddles small businesses with additional taxes is not the answer.

### **Taxing Toilet Paper Will Not Solve California Water Crisis**

On Wednesday, the Water Resources Subcommittee held a hearing on a legislative proposal to create a new water trust fund paid for by a series of new taxes on certain products and corporations. Specifically, the bill would generate an additional \$10 billion a year by adding a federal 3 cent tax on all bottled beverages, a 3 percent tax on dish soap, detergents, toilet paper, and toiletries (shaving cream, lotions, shampoo, sunscreen), while also taxing pharmaceuticals, pesticides, and fertilizers. Funding would be used for drinking and wastewater projects throughout the United States. Those regions and states that contribute to the trust fund through their taxes would not be guaranteed that funding would be spent to help water supply and sanitation projects in their areas. California's current water crisis is partly due to limited water supplies in the Delta because of Endangered Species Act protections for the California Delta Smelt, which is a small fish. The Administration has already put the needs of a fish above the water needs of California farmers, businesses, and families—Congressman Miller does not believe we should shift local water responsibilities to the federal government. Congressman Miller is adamantly opposed to new taxes and believes that taxing American families and business in a time of economic crisis is the wrong approach to addressing the infrastructure needs of our communities.

## **House Approves Questionable Financial Services Appropriations Bill**

The House on Thursday passed a fiscally and socially questionable Financial Services Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2010 to fund the Treasury Department, the Executive Office of the President, the Judiciary, and the District of Columbia, as well as several other related agencies. The bill totals \$24.2 billion in spending, an increase of 7.1 percent over last year's funding levels, and represents yet another huge spending increase for bureaucratic agencies that will do little to help families struggling to make ends meet or improve the economy. In addition, the legislation contains several controversial policy provisions, including those that allow local funds to be used for abortions, the elimination of a successful school voucher program, and permitting local funds for the use of medical marijuana in the District of Columbia. Congressman Miller opposed this legislation because it significantly increases spending for government programs during an economic recession and also permits the use of taxpayer funds for questionable policies.

## **FY 2010 Energy & Water Appropriations Bill Clears House**

The House on Friday passed a \$33.3 billion Energy and Water Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2010. The bill funds the various agencies and programs under the Department of Energy, including the National Nuclear Security Administration, as well as the Army Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and various regional water and power authorities. While the bill is not perfect, it does contain a balanced approach to providing adequate but restrained spending to key energy and water programs, especially those that seek to address our nation's growing energy needs. Congressman Miller is pleased this legislation passed and will continue to fight for a comprehensive energy approach in order to lessen our nation's dangerous and costly dependence on foreign oil.

## **Cap-and-Tax Raises Energy Costs for Americans to Save Trees Around the World**

Among the cap-and-tax bill's numerous provisions, which narrowly passed the House in June, the bill requires carbon emission allowances to be distributed by the Environmental Protection Agency to countries, public or private groups, or international funds. These allowances would be sold to support activities that reduce international deforestation. Under the Democrats' national energy tax plan, American families would face rising food and fuel costs and an estimated 2.3 to 2.7 million lost jobs, while being forced to send billions of their hard-earned dollars overseas for projects to save trees in countries such as Brazil, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, or Equatorial Guinea. As the grim details of the 1,201 page cap-and-tax legislation are further unveiled, Congressman Miller will continue to vigorously oppose this legislation and will work in Congress to drive down the cost of energy for Americans.