



June 1, 2012

House Approves FY 2013 Intelligence Authorization Measure

On Thursday, the House passed legislation to authorize intelligence-gathering activities and funding levels for our nation's intelligence agencies for the upcoming fiscal year. According to the House Intelligence Committee, the authorized funding – which is classified - is significantly reduced from last year's budget, slightly above the President's request for Fiscal Year 2013 and in line with the House-passed budget resolution. The authorization measure covers everything from general operations to clandestine human intelligence programs and analysis, signals intelligence, and counterintelligence. The authorization also increases oversight on spending by our domestic intelligence agencies. Congressman Miller is pleased that this legislation will now move forward to ensure that our intelligence community has the resources they need to protect our nation from threats at home and abroad.

FY 2013 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Bill Passes House

As the nation this week remembered those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to our nation, the House passed legislation to provide funding for our nation's veterans and their families, as well as military construction activities for Fiscal Year 2013. The bill maintains the current level of non-mandatory discretionary spending for Military Construction and Veterans Affairs at \$71.7 billion, in line with the budget resolution passed by the House earlier this year. Of this funding, the bill sets aside \$60.7 billion in discretionary funds and for veterans' compensation and benefits, medical services, educational benefits, vocational rehabilitation and employment training, and housing loan programs. The appropriations bill also includes \$10.6 billion for military construction projects, a decrease of \$2.4 billion from last year's level. This includes funding for the construction and maintenance of military family housing, medical facilities, and Department of Defense education facilities here at home and abroad. Congressman Miller supports this legislation because he firmly believes that we must continue to deliver on our promises to those who have sacrificed so much for our freedom.

Congressman Miller Introduces Bill to Block CA Property Bulk Sale and Protect Taxpayers

Recently, the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) announced a pilot program to sell in bulk properties in California currently owned by Fannie Mae. Congressman Miller strongly disagrees with this approach because selling properties in bulk makes it likely that the properties will be sold at a discount which will negatively impact California's struggling housing market. Selling in bulk may make sense in areas with low-demand and high-inventory. However, in Los Angeles and Riverside Counties there is a shortage of homes for sale and home buyers are encountering an environment in which multiple offers are being made on properties. It makes no sense to sell these properties at a discount when they could be sold individually at market rate. It is also important to remember that because Fannie Mae remains under the control of the federal government, any discount on these properties would come at the expense of American taxpayers. Citing these concerns, Congressman Miller sent a letter along with eighteen members of the California delegation asking the agency to put a halt to the bulk sale initiative. As a result of the FHFA's refusal to stop the implementation of the pilot program, Congressman Miller has introduced legislation to prohibit the agency from conducting the bulk sale of Fannie Mae-owned properties in California. To get our economy back on track, he remains committed to finding solutions that will ensure stability in the housing sector and protect taxpayers.