



June 24, 2011

House Votes to Speed Up American Energy Production

On Wednesday, the House approved legislation that would expedite the permit approval process for energy exploration off the coast of Alaska. Two of Alaska's Arctic Seas – the Beaufort and Chukchi – are estimated to contain nearly 28 billion barrels of oil and 122 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. Development of these resources could produce up to 1 million barrels of American oil per day, and create tens of thousands of new jobs. Unfortunately, bureaucratic delays and confusion surrounding the Clean Air Act have needlessly stalled approval of production permits. The Jobs and Energy Permitting Act would make several technical clarifications to the Clean Air Act that would eliminate uncertainty in the permitting process and cut through bureaucratic red tape at the Environmental Protection Agency. Congressman Miller supports this legislation, and will continue working to lessen our dependence on foreign oil and bring down the price at the pump by encouraging domestic production.

Reform of Outdated Patent Laws Passed by the House

While technology has advanced rapidly in the past sixty years, our nation's patent laws have failed to keep pace. It takes an average of three years to get a patent approved in the United States, delaying important products and services that can help businesses grow and create jobs. On Thursday, legislation to modernize the U.S. patent system was passed by the House of Representatives. The America Invents Act makes significant changes to the current system, including transitioning the basic standard of patent approval from a "first-to-invent" to "first-inventor-to-file" system, which will create certainty about patent ownership and reduce costly and frivolous litigation. Congressman Miller supported the America Invents Act in order to bring our outdated patent system into the 21st Century, ensure better protection and promotion of intellectual property, and give American inventors the assurance they need to innovate and create new jobs.

House Considers Measure to Prohibit Funding for Unauthorized Military Action in Libya

This past Sunday marked the 90th day of U.S. military operations in Libya, and President Obama has yet to seek congressional authorization for military action. On Friday the House considered legislation that would block funding for the war in Libya unless the President seeks authorization from Congress. The bill states that no funds available to the Department of Defense may be expended for support of the mission in Libya, unless specifically authorized by law. In order to fulfill our country's obligations to NATO, the measure makes limited exceptions for funds used for search and rescue, intelligence, operational planning, and aerial refueling. While this bill did not pass, Congressman Miller will continue to support measures that preserve Congress' constitutional authority over declarations of war and war funding while protecting our alliance with NATO.

Reception Held to Honor 2011 Service Academy Appointees

Congressman Miller recently hosted a reception for thirteen students from California's 42nd Congressional District that have been selected to attend a Service Academy this year. These exceptional students have received Congressional, Senatorial or JROTC nominations to attend these fine institutions. Attending the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, New York will be Ryan Kim, Ye Young Kim, Minki Lee, Todd MacDonald, Alana Mitchem, and William O'Keefe. Leaving for the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland will be Daniel Lim, Trevor Samaha, and Alexandra Westberg. Enrolling at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado will be Robert Gutierrez, Justin Moon, Elliott Myers, and Jack Waller. Congressman Miller extends his congratulations to all of the nominees and their families. For those interested in applying to one of the U.S. Service Academies for the class of 2016, please contact Congressman Miller's Brea office at 714-257-1142.