



March 11, 2011

House Votes to End Two Failed Federal Housing Programs

This week, the House of Representatives voted to end two federal housing programs which have failed in their mission to help struggling homeowners, while placing billions of taxpayer dollars at risk. On Thursday, the House voted to terminate an \$8 billion program to refinance underwater loans into the Federal Housing Administration (FHA). Despite the Obama Administration's high expectations, the FHA refinance program has aided very few troubled borrowers. While it was originally estimated that the FHA program would help up to 1.5 million homeowners, as of mid-February a whopping 44 loans have been refinanced. In addition to eliminating the unworkable refinance program, the House also voted to bring to an end the billion dollar "Emergency Homeowners Relief Program", which was created by the Democrat Dodd-Frank law to provide loans to unemployed homeowners unable to make their mortgage payments. Congressman Miller believes the so-called relief program is a bad deal for taxpayers and struggling homeowners alike. Adding to the debt burden of already-strapped borrowers will only worsen their financial situation, making it likely that they will default on their program loans. In fact, the President's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2012 estimates that this program will have a 98 percent subsidy rate, meaning that for every dollar spent on the program, the government will lose 98 cents. Congressman Miller remains committed to rooting out wasteful spending on ineffective government programs to get our fiscal house back in order and to provide the certainty job-creators need to expand their businesses and hire new workers.

Need for Increased Energy Production Clear as Gas Prices Continue to Soar

For the first time since October 2008, oil prices have risen above \$100 a barrel, causing gas prices nationwide to skyrocket. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, the average cost of a gallon of regular grade gasoline in California has risen 15 cents in the past week alone to \$3.87, the highest in the nation. This alarming rise in energy costs threatens our fragile economic recovery and will cause further strain on the pocketbooks of American families already struggling to make ends meet. Congressman Miller strongly believes that increasing supplies of American-made energy will drive down the cost of gas, create new American jobs, and reduce our nation's dependence on foreign sources of oil. He will continue to support an all-of-the-above approach to energy that includes increased exploration of oil and gas here at home, as well as further development of alternative sources such as natural gas, clean coal, wind power, and nuclear energy.

Congressman Miller Cosponsors Bill to End EPA Regulation of Spilled Milk

This week, Congressman Miller co-sponsored legislation to exempt milk from oil spill regulations. Under current law, the Environmental Protection Agency requires certain facilities that use, store, or transfer large quantities of oils – including non-petroleum oils such as animal fats and vegetable oils - to create and implement oil Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures (SCPCC) plans. Because milk contains a percentage of animal fat, the EPA classifies the dairy product as oil, and farmers that store large quantities of it must comply with the costly SCPCC rule. In the final days of the Bush Administration, the EPA, recognizing that milk is already subject to sanitary standards that will prevent spills, proposed a rule to exempt milk from the SCPCC requirement. Unfortunately, the exemption was caught up in the Obama Administration's freeze on the prior administration's proposed rules and policies. Congressman Miller believes it is time for the EPA to finalize this exemption for milk, and has co-sponsored legislation to require the federal agency to do so within 30 days of the bill's enactment into law. He will continue to work to eliminate all costly, burdensome regulations that hinder productivity and economic growth.

Social Security Administration Conducts Webinar on Assistance for Younger Workers

On March 10, 2011, the Social Security Administration (SSA) hosted a web-based seminar, "Social Security 101: What's in it for me", to educate college students and young workers on issues of special importance to them: disability and survivors insurance, financing principles of the program, how workers qualify, and steps to plan and save for their financial future. This webinar will be available on the website along with numerous other SSA education webinars and benefit information. To view these webinars or obtain information go to www.socialsecurity.gov or call 1-800-772-1213. For issues concerning Social Security or any federal agency, constituents can contact the Congressman's district office for assistance at (714) 257-1142.