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House Passes Legislation to Expand American-Made Energy Production

Amidst skyrocketing oil and gas prices, the House of Representatives took steps this week to increase access to energy sources here at home. On Tuesday, the House passed legislation which will increase American energy production and create jobs in a responsible and transparent manner. Specifically the bill establishes a 30-day timeline – with up to two 15-day extensions – for the Secretary of the Interior to either approve or deny applications for drilling permits. This would ensure that the Administration cannot prevent new drilling through willful inaction on permit applications. The legislation also requires the Secretary to restart Gulf permits approved before the drilling moratorium was imposed on May 27, 2010 within 30 days, with no extensions. In addition, the bill improves drilling safety by requiring lease holders to receive approved permits prior to drilling offshore wells and for the Secretary to conduct safety reviews. To address the crisis at the pump, Congressman Miller will continue to support legislation that increases energy development and create jobs for more Americans.

House Passes Legislation to End the Obama De Facto Drilling Moratorium

While the national average for a gallon of regular gasoline has doubled since January 2009, the Obama Administration has taken steps to institute a de facto moratorium on domestic energy production by reducing the available portions of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) available for leasing. This week the House acted to reverse the moratorium by passing a bill requiring the Administration to move forward on production in areas containing the most resources. The measure requires that each five-year offshore leasing plan include lease sales in the areas containing the greatest known oil and natural gas reserves. The bill also requires the Secretary of the Interior to establish the production goal for the 2012-2017 leasing plan of 3 million barrels of oil and 10 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day by 2027. By comparison to today's levels, this increase in oil equates to a tripling of current offshore production and would reduce foreign imports by almost one-third. According to the Congressional Budget Office, this legislation would generate \$800 million in revenue over ten years. As the spike in gas prices threatens our nation's economic recovery, it is time to step up production of our vast energy resources - not limit them.

Intelligence Authorization Passed by the House

Today, the House passed legislation establishing policy related to our nation's intelligence gathering activities and setting funding levels for our nation's intelligence agencies for this fiscal year. The authorization contains everything from general operations to clandestine-human intelligence programs, analysis, signals intelligence, and covert action capabilities. Congressman Miller is pleased that this legislation will now move forward to address the needs of the intelligence community and will continue working to ensure that Americans are protected from threats at home and abroad.

Dreaming of Amnesty: DREAM Act Reintroduced in the House

Congressman Miller was disappointed that the President again this week called for the passage of the DREAM Act, which was recently re-introduced in the House of Representatives. By granting mass amnesty for those who arrived in the United States before the age of 16 illegally, the bill will encourage more illegal immigration and inevitably reduce job opportunities for American workers. To combat our nation's illegal immigration problem, the Congressman believes we need an enforcement-first approach that strengthens security on the southwest border, closes loopholes in current law, and shuts down the jobs magnet that encourages the willful violation of our nation's immigration policies.