



CONGRESSMAN GARY G. MILLER

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CALIFORNIA'S 42ND DISTRICT



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Congressman Gary Miller Supports Legislation Allowing the Border Patrol To Do Its Job

WASHINGTON, DC – Recently, Congressman Gary Miller cosponsored legislation to prohibit the Department of the Interior (DOI) from using environmental regulations to hinder the U.S. Border Patrol from securing our border on federal lands.

Currently, some of the most dangerous areas along the U.S.-Mexico border are the 20.7 million acres of DOI and U.S. Forest Service land. Although violence has escalated along the Southwest border, DOI has deliberately taken steps to prevent the Border Patrol from securing our nation's border on federal lands, claiming the Wilderness Act of 1964 trumps border security legislation passed by Congress.

Just recently, Arizona Rancher Rob Krentz was shot and killed on his ranch by a person who had illegally entered and exited the United States through federal land, specifically the San Bernardino Wildlife Refuge.

To address this issue, H.R. 5016 was recently introduced to ensure that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Border Patrol are permitted to assert operational control over the border in order to carry out their mission as mandated by Congress. The bill would free DHS and Border Patrol from bureaucratic interferences that currently impact their ability to effectively secure the border on public lands.

“While I am supportive of protecting wilderness areas for future generations, the American people are in desperate need of protection from the growing violence along the Southwest border,” said Congressman Miller. “It is simply unacceptable that the Department of the Interior is hindering Border Patrol agents from safeguarding our nation from this real and prevalent threat. Because of these actions, Border Patrol agents, park rangers, and private American citizens have been killed by criminals crossing the border through federal lands. Congress must pass this bill so that the Border Patrol can do its congressionally mandated job of gaining operational control of the border.”

The bill was introduced by Reps. Rob Bishop (R-UT), Doc Hastings (R-WA), Peter King (R-NY), and Lamar Smith (R-TX).

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