



CONGRESSMAN GARY G. MILLER

## PRESS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA'S 42<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 13, 2010

CONTACT: Jessica Baker  
(202) 225-3201

### **Rep. Miller Blasts Los Angeles City Council's Decision to Boycott Arizona**

WASHINGTON, DC – Yesterday, the Los Angeles City Council voted 13-1 to ban official travel to Arizona and block future contracts with companies there in protest of its new immigration law. Following this erroneous decision, Congressman Miller released the following statement:

“The decision made by the Los Angeles City Council to boycott the state of Arizona is an insult to American citizens and legal immigrants. The boycott could crush important industries that are helping America’s economy recover. This shortsighted move by the City Council could stop airline contracts at LAX, cancel over \$25 million in Clean Truck Program contracts, and cancel important forensics and law enforcement tools. Clearly, the City Council is favoring the rights of illegal immigrants over the rights of American businesses and citizens. This boycott undermines the rule of law and will further communicate to illegal immigrants that they can come live, work, and soak up taxpayer-funded resources in California.

“Currently, 15 million Americans are unemployed while an estimated 8 million illegal immigrants are employed. At the same rate, drug-related violence has intensified along the Southwest border. Because the federal government has failed to address these ongoing issues, the state of Arizona has a duty and a right to protect its citizens from these ongoing and escalating issues.”

Background on Arizona’s Immigration Law: The state of Arizona recently passed the toughest immigration law in the country in order to respond to our nation’s ongoing illegal immigration problem. Specifically, the new Arizona law mirrors federal law, which already requires aliens to register and carry their documents with them. Arizona’s law simply states that violating federal immigration law is now a state crime as well. Because illegal immigrants are by definition in violation of federal immigration laws, under the new provisions they can now be arrested by local law enforcement in Arizona. While many have expressed concern that the law will lead to racial profiling, the new statute only allows police to ask about immigration status in the normal course of “lawful contact” with a person, such as a traffic stop or if they have committed a crime.

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