
CAPITOL CONNECTION

A Weekly Update of News and Views
For Opinion Shapers and Policy Makers

Congressman Gary G. Miller
42nd District, California



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House Passed Energy Bill Threatens to Increase Fuel Prices

This week, for the fourth time in the last year the House passed legislation that threatens to increase gas prices by raising taxes on domestic energy producers. Specifically, the \$18 billion measure would eliminate tax incentives for oil and gas producers in order to promote alternative sources of energy. While Congressman Miller supports the expansion of efficient energy technologies, he is deeply concerned about any proposals that will lead to higher gas prices for Americans. He strongly opposed the measure when it came to the House floor because it threatens to increase costs for American consumers, send manufacturing jobs overseas, and increase our dependence on foreign sources of energy. President Bush has promised to veto the bill if it reaches his desk.

Construction of Virtual Border Fence Delayed

Following disappointing results from a 28 mile long pilot project, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced that construction of a virtual border fence will be delayed by three years. Originally slated for completion by the end of 2008, the approximately 100 mile stretch of virtual fencing between Yuma, AZ and El Paso, TX is now scheduled for completion by the end of 2011. The purpose of virtual fencing is to use high-tech tools including ground-based sensors, satellites, radar coverage, and cameras to secure our border in areas where a traditional fence is simply not feasible. Despite this disappointing setback, DHS did announce this week that it has constructed 168 miles of pedestrian fencing to date. That number is expected to increase to 370 miles by year end. While some have suggested that the border security fence will never be fully built, Congress has not only authorized DHS to construct a fence, but mandated that they do so. Congressman Miller has also repeatedly urged Speaker Pelosi to make the border fence a top priority and he will continue working aggressively to ensure that DHS has the funds necessary to complete construction as soon as possible.

Border Patrol Releases Daily Immigration Statistics

Recently, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Service (CBP) released statistics illustrating what a typical day looked like during Fiscal Year 2007. On an average day, the CBP apprehended 2,472 illegal aliens and refused entry to another 844 aliens. During that same timeframe, the CBP also intercepted 84 fraudulent documents, nine smuggled aliens, and one traveler for terrorism and national security concerns. In addition, the CBP seized nearly four tons of narcotics every day. Congressman Miller commends the men and women of the Border Patrol for their brave service and he will continue pushing to provide them with the resources they need to carry out their crucial mission.

Anaheim and La Habra Heights Adopt Local Marine Corps Units

Congressman Miller salutes the cities of Anaheim and La Habra Heights as they join other California cities in adopting local military units. On February 14, the City of La Habra Heights displayed its support for our troops by formally adopting Headquarters, Regimental Combat Team 1, 1st Marine Division. In addition, on Saturday, March 29, the City of Anaheim will honor the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit stationed out of Camp Pendleton in an official adoption ceremony. For more information on how to participate in these important programs, please contact the City of Anaheim at (714) 765-5094 and La Habra Heights at (562) 694-6302.