
CAPITOL CONNECTION

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

Congressman Gary G. Miller
42nd District, California



January 5, 2007

110th Congress Officially Sworn In

On Thursday, legislative business for the 110th Congress officially began as Members convened to take the oath of office. After being called to order by the Clerk of the House, incoming Members of Congress were led in prayer by the House Chaplain. Members then recited the Pledge of Allegiance before proceeding to the first order of official business, the election of the Speaker of the House. With the election complete, Congressman Miller was sworn in for a fifth term in office. According to Congressman Miller, "It is an honor and a privilege to continue serving the people of California's 42nd District. As always, I will work with my colleagues to fight for the issues that matter to Southern California."

Congressman Miller Opposes "Tax As You Go" Spending Rules

This week, Congressman Miller opposed a rules change proposal that could raise taxes for millions of hardworking American families. This rules change, known as pay-as-you-go, or PAYGO, is intended to guarantee that any new spending is offset by decreased spending somewhere else or by increased revenue. However, due to budgetary scoring regulations in federal law, the proposed PAYGO requirement is in actuality a mechanism that will make it easier to raise taxes and virtually impossible to pass needed tax relief. Congressman Miller, instead, will continue to support measures in the 110th Congress to reduce the tax burden on all Americans and eliminate wasteful spending in government programs.

Starting the 110th Congress with Border Security and Immigration Reform

Congressman Miller this week renewed his commitment to immigration and border security reform by supporting a number of measures designed to crack down on illegal immigration.

Strengthening Worksite Enforcement: Currently, employers can voluntarily check the legal status of their workers by using an electronic verification system. Congressman Miller co-authored a bill that would require all employers to verify the legal status of their workers.

Opposing Social Security For Illegal Immigrants: In 2004, the United States entered into a preliminary agreement with Mexico to repay Mexican nationals who worked legally or illegally and paid Social Security taxes in the United States. In order for this agreement to go into effect, it must be sent to Congress for approval.

Congressman Miller co-authored a resolution expressing disapproval of the proposed agreement on the grounds that it would likely provide even more illegals with the incentive to violate our nation's immigration laws.

Continued Funding for the Border Fence: Last year, Congress made a \$1.2 billion investment in the construction of a 700-mile double-layered border fence, but more remains to be done. Congressman Miller this week joined his Southern California colleagues in sending a letter to President Bush requesting full funding for the border fence to ensure it is completed as soon as possible.

Forest Road Damaged During Sierra Fire is Ready for Fire Season

During fire suppression activities for the Sierra Fire in early February 2006, Black Star Canyon Road was damaged by the movement of heavy firefighting equipment. In the event of such emergencies, this road provides firefighters with critical access into the Santa Ana Mountains near Cleveland National Forest. On Friday, the U.S. Forest Service, the County of Orange, and California Department of Public Works celebrated the completion of major repairs to the road in a ribbon cutting ceremony. In Washington, Congressman Miller has worked to support the efforts of state, local, and federal agencies to provide wildfire protection to the Cleveland National Forest and surrounding communities.