
CAPITOL CONNECTION

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

Congressman Gary G. Miller
42nd District, California



July 13, 2007

Congressman Miller Opposes Bill Mandating Withdrawal from Iraq

On Thursday, the House passed a bill to require the withdrawal of American troops from Iraq by April 1, 2008. Congressman Miller opposed the measure because he believes the troop surge needs to be given a chance to succeed. At this point, the surge has been at full strength for only three weeks. While we would all like to see immediate results, Congressman Miller believes that any final decision on the outcome of the surge is premature until the top commander in Iraq and the ambassador to Iraq deliver their report in September. If it reaches his desk, the President has said he will veto the bill.

Legislation Approved to Strengthen FDA Drug Approval Process

On Wednesday, the House of Representatives passed sweeping reforms to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The measure, which now heads to the President for his signature, allows the FDA to collect higher fees from drug companies when seeking approval for a new drug. The funding will allow the FDA to devote more resources to drug safety. The bill also requires high risk drugs to undergo a periodic safety review. Congressman Miller was proud to support this legislation because he believes it will give the FDA the resources it needs to maintain rigorous drug review standards.

Strong Border Security Legislation Introduced

Congressman Miller this week joined a group of more than thirty House Republicans in introducing the Secure Border FIRST Act of 2007. This bill, which is an enforcement-first alternative to amnesty proposals, dramatically increases border security, cracks down on employers who hire illegal aliens, prohibits the use of Matricula Consular cards, and recognizes English as our national language. Over the coming months, Congressman Miller will push aggressively to see this commonsense solution to our nation's immigration crisis passed and signed into law.

Congressman Miller Puts the Brakes on Mexican Truck Program

Last week, Congressman Miller sent a letter to the President opposing the proposal to allow Mexican trucks to make international deliveries throughout the United States. In addition to raising concerns about safety hazards and increased congestion, the letter expresses concerns that the program would permit Mexican truck drivers into our country without appropriate safeguards in place to ensure they comply with homeland security and immigration laws. In a strong show of opposition to the program, a total of 113 Members of Congress signed their names to Congressman Miller's letter.

House Passes Foreign Investment Security Bill

On Wednesday, the House passed the National Security FIRST Act to strengthen the review of foreign investment in the United States. This bill, which was cosponsored by Congressman Miller, restores accountability in the review process for foreign investment and improves congressional notification and intelligence analysis for any foreign transactions that could have national security implications. The bill was drafted in response to the proposed acquisition of port facilities by a United Arab Emirates company early last year that would have allowed the company to have control over critical U.S. infrastructure. Congressman Miller supported passage of this bill, which now awaits the President's signature.