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# CAPITOL CONNECTION

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

**Congressman Gary G. Miller**  
**42<sup>nd</sup> District, California**



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March 9, 2007

## **Bill Introduced to Prevent Illegal Aliens from Obtaining Credit Cards**

In response to reports that our nation's banks have been providing credit cards to illegal aliens, Congressman Miller coauthored a bill to bring this practice to an end. H.R. 1314, the Photo Identification Security Act, was introduced on Monday. Under this legislation, illegals will no longer be able to exploit a loophole that had previously allowed them to obtain credit using fraudulent identification documents. Instead, the federal government and financial institutions will be required to accept only secure forms of identification. Because only people who are in the United States legally will have these documents, under this bill they will also be the only ones able to receive federal benefits and conduct financial transactions. Congressman Miller believes firmly that banks should not be seeking illegal immigrants as a new market for their services and he will be working aggressively with his colleagues on the House Financial Services Committee to get this important bill passed into law.

## **Congressman Miller Fights Excessive Bilingual Ballot Requirements**

Even though U.S. citizens are required to take their citizenship test in English, the Voting Rights Act requires almost 300 counties in 30 states to have bilingual voting materials available, costing taxpayers millions of dollars. Counties are required to provide voters bilingual ballots based on Census Bureau survey data. Respondents to the Census survey choose one of four categories to describe how well they speak English: "not at all," "not well," "well," or "very well." Only if a person says they speak English "very well" are they presumed not to need foreign language assistance. Due to these regulations, Orange County may be required to publish all voting materials, including pamphlets, in five different languages at a cost of \$20 million for each election. Congressman Miller believes that this requirement is excessive, overly broad, and expensive. On Thursday, he joined members of the Orange County delegation in a meeting with representatives from the Census Bureau and asked them to revisit the regulations and amend them to conform with the legislative intent of the Voting Rights Act. Congressman Miller will continue working to ensure our local governments do not have to pay for unnecessary bilingual ballots.

## **House Passes Water Infrastructure Bills**

This week, the House passed three water infrastructure bills to improve aging water and wastewater facilities across the nation. One bill authorized funding to help fix sewer systems to ensure sewage and sanitary waste does not flow into our nation's oceans, lakes, and streams when storms overflow sewer systems. The second bill authorizes grants for communities to develop alternative water source projects to conserve, manage, reclaim, or reuse water. The third bill reauthorizes the Clean Water State Revolving Loan fund, which provides low interest loans to communities to fund new water infrastructure projects and the replacement of aging wastewater infrastructure. As a member of the House Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, Mr. Miller will continue to support funding to improve our nation's water and wastewater infrastructure.

## **Local Cities Celebrate Arbor Day**

As communities around California celebrate Arbor Day from March 7 to March 14, Congressman Miller would like to honor the cities in the 42nd Congressional District participating in the Tree City USA program. Tree City USA is a nationwide program that supports tree planting and tree care. It is sponsored by The National Arbor Day Foundation and is supported by the Department of Agriculture's Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program. Congressman Miller salutes the cities of Anaheim, Brea, Diamond Bar, La Habra, Mission Viejo and Whittier who all received the Tree City USA designation. To receive this designation, a city must have a Tree Board or Forestry Department, implement a local tree ordinance, spend at least \$2 per capita on community forestry, and actively promote Arbor Day.