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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**



October 3, 2008

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## **Congress Passes Amended Financial Rescue Package**

To respond to the turmoil in the financial markets, Congress this week passed an amended financial rescue package to preserve America's overall economy. The \$700 billion economic rescue plan grants \$250 billion in immediate authority to the Department of Treasury to purchase assets from financial institutions, with an additional \$100 billion after the Secretary reports to Congress. Congress has the authority to withhold the remaining \$350 billion. In addition, the amended version provides significant new protections for American taxpayers by protecting 21 million middle-class families from getting hammered by the Alternative Minimum Tax for the 2008 tax year, continuing tax deductions on state and local taxes, and extending critical energy tax credits and incentives to encourage conservation and innovation of renewable energy technologies. Furthermore, other amendments increase the amount of bank deposits insured by the FDIC from \$100,000 to \$250,000 through 2009 and reaffirm the steps the Securities and Exchange Commission has taken to ease harmful "mark-to-market" accounting rules. While Congressman Miller is a strong believer in free enterprise and limited government, the current economic crisis is threatening the economic security of all Americans and demands government action. Without action, the credit crunch will undoubtedly continue and Americans with good credit will have difficulty accessing home, auto, and student loans and small businesses will not be able to access the loans they need to keep their businesses open and their employees paid. Congressman Miller will continue to work to address the financial markets crisis and deliver crucial tax relief for hardworking American families.

## **Bans on Offshore and Oil Shale Energy Production Expire**

On Wednesday, October 1, the 27 year old bans on offshore and oil shale energy production expired. Lifting the bans on energy production off our shores and in the Inter-Mountain West's oil shale reserves is a step toward lower gas prices and American energy independence. By allowing the bans to expire, Congress has taken a critical step toward a comprehensive approach to solving America's energy needs. Congressman Miller is pleased with Congress' decision to lift these outdated bans and in the future he will continue to advocate for a comprehensive plan that provides critical revenue-sharing agreements that would give states an incentive to allow energy production in their energy reserves, encourages more conservation and efficiency, and creates a renewable energy trust fund that would be financed through drilling revenues from several energy-rich locations in Alaska and off our shores.

## **New Study Reveals Decline in Illegal Alien Population**

A new study released this week reveals that the illegal immigrant population appears to have declined from 12.4 million in 2007 to 11.9 million in 2008. As the U.S. economy has slowed and the unemployment rate has risen, the job magnet has been turned off and subsequently has caused many illegals to return home. This coupled with the increased enforcement of our nation's immigration laws—such as construction of the border fence, worksite enforcement, and deportation—is attributed to the estimated decline of the illegal alien population. Just in the past three weeks, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Fugitive Operations Team in California have arrested 1,157 immigration violators, including 420 in Southern California. Congressman Miller commends ICE for stepping up their enforcement efforts to crack down on illegal immigration and will continue to work in Congress to reduce our nation's illegal immigrant population.

## **Congressman Miller to Host Service Academy Night**

Interested in attending one of our nation's military colleges? Join Congressman Miller for a Service Academy Night on Wednesday, October 22 at 6:30 P.M. in the East Room at the Richard Nixon Library. Representatives from the U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, and U.S. Coast Guard Academy will be present to provide information and answer questions about the application and admissions process. This event gives students, parents, and counselors the opportunity to learn about and speak with representatives from the five Service Academies. To R.S.V.P. or request more information about attending a U.S. Service Academy, please call the Service Academy Coordinator at (714) 257-1142.

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