

Right Now

Herger Calls for Increased Domestic Energy Production

Recently the House passed three bills to address rising gasoline prices and expand American energy production. H.R. 1229, the [Putting the Gulf Back to Work Act](#), would end the Obama Administration's de facto moratorium in the Gulf of Mexico in a safe, responsible and transparent manner. H.R. 1230, the [Restarting American Offshore Leasing Now Act](#), would require the Obama Administration to promptly act on offshore lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico and off the coast of Virginia that have been unnecessarily delayed or canceled. The [Reversing President Obama's Offshore Moratorium Act](#), H.R. 1231, would lift the President's ban on new offshore drilling by requiring the Administration to move forward in the 2012-2017 lease plan with energy production in areas containing the most oil and natural gas resources.

In recent months, Northern Californians have watched gas prices rise to well over \$4 per gallon placing extraordinary strain on the budgets of working families, farms and small businesses. Sadly, the Obama Administration's policy of restricting access to our resources has set the stage for high gas prices. The Administration remains out of touch with Americans' ongoing pain at the pump and has done nothing recently to provide relief. The measures passed by the House would boost production of our own energy resources. In the face of rising energy costs and the continuing instability in the Middle East, it is critical that America take control of our energy future. I strongly urge the President and Senate to join us in support of these commonsense solutions that would begin to address America's energy concerns.

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Living on Borrowed Money is Living on Borrowed Time

I want to share a column I recently wrote about the dangers of the debt crisis and the crippling effect it will have on our economic prosperity. We need to get our fiscal house in order to ensure that we leave our children and grandchildren with a bright and prosperous future. If we don't get our act together and make the tough choices, we risk a permanent future of a stagnant economy and high unemployment. Recently I voted for a [budget](#) that will halt our debt crisis, create jobs, and save our entitlement programs for future generations. You can read the full column [here](#) .

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Recent Past

Justice is Done

The recent demise of Osama Bin Laden was an outstanding success in the war against radical jihadism and brought justice to the victims of the September 11th attacks and to all Americans. While terrorist threats will remain, Bin Laden's death was a devastating blow to Al Qaeda and other extremists across the globe and was the result of a decade of sacrifice and incredible efforts of our Armed Forces and intelligence community. I offer my highest gratitude and congratulations to the courageous and remarkably skillful troops who successfully executed this mission.

Our brave men and women in uniform deserve our enduring gratitude for doing the hard work of freedom and keeping America safe over the last ten years. Those who lost their lives on that terrible September day nearly a decade ago, along with the service members who, in response, have given what Lincoln called, "the last full measure of devotion," will never be forgotten. It is my hope that the death of Bin Laden brings a sense of closure and victory to all Americans.

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Program Renewed to Allow Students in Nation's Capital to Attend Better Schools

I am pleased to inform you that the [Opportunity Scholarship Program](#) in our nation's capital was reauthorized as a part of the recent budget agreement that became law. I am pleased that D.C. students will once again receive scholarships for a better education. Allowing these

lower-income students to attend the school of their parents' choice actually costs the federal government less per student than enrolling them in failing schools in their neighborhoods while also increasing the quality of their education. Please know that I will continue to monitor the program's impact as it assists additional students.

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Northern California News and Events

National Debt Seminars



In recent weeks I had the opportunity to visit several groups across the North State to discuss America's debt crisis and the solutions I believe are necessary to confront it. The federal government is borrowing 40 cents out of every dollar it spends, and we're facing the third consecutive annual deficit exceeding one trillion dollars. We've become dangerously dependent on foreign countries to service our debt, leading our nation's top military advisor to declare that the debt is the biggest threat to our national security. Meanwhile, economists are warning that we're approaching the point when the debt crisis becomes so severe that our economy could experience a rapid collapse.

As part of my effort to arm the people of Northern California with the honest facts about our debt crisis, I invite you to watch my series of three presentations outlining the [main drivers of the crisis](#), its detrimental impact on [job creation and our economy](#), and [common-sense solutions](#) to overcome the challenge before us. I hope you find the presentations informative, and I welcome your feedback.

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Tax Relief for Northern California Farmers

Recently I introduced [H.R. 1747](#), legislation to provide faster cost recovery under the tax code for equipment and machinery used on farms. Northern California farmers are already dealing with a struggling economy and skyrocketing energy prices – it's critical that we have a tax code that makes things easier for them, not harder. Specifically, the bill would reduce the depreciation schedule for agricultural equipment and machinery from 7 years to 5 years. A five-year recovery period is consistent with the actual lifespan of modern farming equipment as well as the tax treatment of machinery used in other industries such as construction. Congress passed legislation in 2008 to provide for 5-year recovery of investments in farm equipment and machinery, but this provision expired at the end of 2009. My bill would reinstate it as a permanent rule. According to a study by the American Farm Bureau Federation, this bipartisan proposal, which does not add to our nation's long-term deficit, would increase U.S. farm and ranch income by \$800 million in a typical year. I look forward to working toward passage of this important tax relief for American farmers.

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