



# The Washington Connection

## Congresswoman Candice Miller

<http://candicemiller.house.gov>

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### Congresswoman supports energy bill

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Congresswoman Candice Miller joined her fellow House Republicans this past July in introducing the comprehensive "American Energy Act" to help solve the nation's energy crisis.

The proposed Republican bill provides solutions to the current energy crisis and skyrocketing gasoline prices that are gripping families and crippling the American economy.

Speaker Pelosi blocked this very important legislation from coming to the floor before Congress went on a five-week August recess which began Aug. 1.

"The energy policy of the radical environmental move-

ment is a "None of the Above" strategy. I consider myself an environmentalist and a strong support of clean water and clean environment," Rep. Miller said.

"We all want to be green, but we also want a little green in our wallet. In order to bring prices down and give consumers much needed relief, we need to adopt an environmental and energy policy that has an "All of the Above" strategy," she added.

Among the efforts Rep. Miller and her fellow Republicans are calling for is the expansion of supplies of domestically produced oil and gas.

The bill also repeals the prohibition on government purchasing alternative energy; providing tax incentives for business and families that improve their energy efficiency and investing the revenue from exploration into alternative and renewable energy.

"The American people are demanding solutions and I believe the plan we announced will address their needs, bring prices down, and make America more energy independent," Rep. Miller continued "I look forward to working with my colleagues on this important issue when we return in September.



### THE MILLER ENERGY PLAN

**"Miller Energy Plan" featured on website--**A new feature has been added to the Congresswoman Candice Miller's website that will provide the latest information on her efforts to address the energy crisis.

Rep. Miller's new Energy website, <http://candicemiller.house.gov/energy>, provides information about the "Miller Energy Plan" which includes increasing supply, developing alternative energy

and reducing our dependency on foreign oil.

"I hope Michigianians explore our expanded website and learn more about my efforts in Washington and Michigan to help solve the energy crisis," Rep. Miller said.

## Boating bill becomes law

Congresswoman Candice Miller praises her fellow Congressional colleagues for voting for nearly one million recreational boaters in Michigan by passing the Clean Boating Act of 2008.

Rep. Miller was a co-sponsor of this bill, recently signed into law by the President.



Rep. Miller believes in protecting the environment while also ensuring boaters are not subjected to needless

The bill will suspend a proposed permit system drafted by the Environmental Protection Agency that would have imposed new discharge requirements for recreational boaters that may have included items from bilge water to deck runoff.

Congress took steps this year to exempt recreational vessels including ski boats, canoes and per-

sonal watercraft from the permitting process.

"The Clean Water Act was never intended to force recreational boats to comply with an extensive federal permitting process," Rep. Miller said. "The Clean Boating Act represents a compromise with Senate leaders which will ensure that millions of recreational boat owners do not need to acquire an EPA permit."

## First responders get help

Congresswoman Candice Miller is pleased to announce that the Otter Lake Fire Department was selected by the Department of Homeland Security to receive nearly \$20,000 under the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program.

The grant will be used to purchase a standby generator for the fire station. The grant is from the Department of Homeland Security and is provided to first-responder organizations to purchase response equipment, personal protective equipment, vehicles and provide scholarships for firefighters' training school.

"This grant will help continue the great work the Otter Lake Fire Department has been doing," Rep. Miller said. "The funding provided will ensure these first responders will be able to continue their high level

of service to Otter Lake and Marathon Township if the station were ever to lose power. This grant is money well spent to protect the residents in these communities."

Otter Lake received \$19,855 to purchase the standby generator that will allow many of the critical utilities and emergency notification systems to operate if the station loses power.

"This is unbelievable," said Otter Lake Fire Deputy Fire Chief and Village President David Dorr. "It will allow us to have water if we lose electrical service and operate our warning siren. It will also allow us to have heat in the winter if we were to lose power."

This is the fifth grant the Otter Lake Fire Department has received over the past five years.

Prior to this grant the fire department was the recipient of two for Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety.

The first on June 11, 2004 for \$38,773, and the second on August 3, 2007 for \$32,186. The remaining grants were \$160,583 for a Firefighting Vehicle on August 15, 2003.

The most recent grant was preceded \$164,350 grant on Jan. 23 to purchase a new tanker truck, which the department will receive in September.

*"This grant is money well spent to protect the residents in these communities," Rep. Miller said.*

## Rep. Miller visits the farm

The Michigan Farm Bureau recently welcomed Congresswoman Candice Miller to a Romeo farm for an up-close view of Michigan's agricultural business.

The annual "Dinner on the Farm," this year was held at Westview Orchards in Romeo and attracted nearly 300 representatives from the agricultural industry to discuss local and national issues affecting farmers. The location for this annual event is rotated among farms in Michigan's 10<sup>th</sup> district.

"Westview Orchards was an excellent venue for us to meet and discuss issues affecting agriculture in my district," Rep. Miller said.

Rep. Miller reiterated her support for the recently passed Farm Bill -- which she voted for despite a presidential veto -

-during her meeting with the leaders of the Farm Bureau and local growers. She also spoke about her support of a guest worker program to help farm operations and the

need for a comprehensive energy plan to lower the costs to grow and transport crops.

In addition to addressing the local farmers, Rep. Miller

toured the acres of fruit and vegetable plants on the Romeo farm and viewed an automated Michigan State University weather station.

"It was a real honor that our farm was chosen and to have Congresswoman Miller," said Abby Jacobson, whose family has owned the farm for six generations.

"Sometimes Macomb County is not recognized for agriculture, and we are actually very diverse."

Attendees also heard from Gary Mast, under-secretary for natural resources, environment United States Department of Agriculture.

"The issues the Congresswoman discussed were right on the mark," said nursery owner Glenn Haack, Macomb County Farm Bureau president.

"This helps me to learn your issues and take them back to Washington," Rep. Miller told the crowd.

The Congresswoman is believed to be the only Michigan member of Congress who holds such an event for farmers.

"The family owned farm is the backbone of America and key to our economic and social well-being," Rep. Miller said.

*"Fuel is a big issue for the greenhouse business. People don't have to have plants if they need money for gas. Also, fuel is used in everything in the greenhouses from the plastics (to hold the plants) to travel," said Glenn Haack.*



**Rep. Miller speaking at "Dinner on the Farm."**



**Rep. Miller speaking with Glenn Haack and Abby Jacobson.**

## New passport options

The Department of State and the Department of Homeland Security have announced that the passport card for land and sea cross-border travel is now being distributed to U.S. citizens.

The passport card is a less-expensive alternative to the traditional passport book for

individuals who do not generally travel by air.

The card costs \$20 - \$45.

Similar to the passport book, the card is valid for 10 years for adults and 5 years for



children under 16 years of age.

The passport card will be accepted under the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI), which will require all travelers by land and sea between the U.S., Canada, Mexico, the Carib-

bean, and Bermuda, to carry a passport or other compliant document denoting citizenship and identity. Full implementation is expected in June 2009.

For more information, or to apply, visit <http://iafb.travel.state.gov>.

# Contact Congresswoman Miller



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## Updates from Washington

Watch Congresswoman Miller's Floor Statements, read updated news, and hear recent radio casts at:

<http://candicemiller.house.gov>

<http://youtube.com/user/candicemi10>

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