



CONGRESSMAN  
**WALLY HERGER**

*Representing California's 2nd Congressional District*

May 2009

Dear Friends:

From the inauguration to addressing the ongoing economic crisis, there has been a great deal going on here in our nation's capital, and I want to take the opportunity to update you on the recent activity in Congress.

Our nation is currently facing one of the most serious economic downturns in our history and there has been serious debate in Congress about how to best address this situation. I believe that the budget passed by Congress spends too much, borrows too much, and taxes too much. I have serious concerns with these record breaking spending and tax increases, especially during a recession. Earlier this year, Congress passed a massive \$1 trillion stimulus bill, including the interest, and a near half-trillion spending bill, along with a budget that will explode our deficit even further. I am fighting for an alternative economic proposal that will help grow our economy by lowering taxes on middle class families and encouraging investment in our small businesses to preserve America's position as the global economic leader. The battle over our fiscal future is one that will define the opportunities we leave our children. I will continue my push to ensure that we act responsibly and keep spending in check.

Modern technologies, including our brand new website and tele-town halls, offer many new ways to connect with one another. I invite you to share your thoughts with me and stay up-to-date on all of the latest activities in Congress. Please visit my website to sign up for my e-updates on issues important to you. I hope that you find this newsletter informative, and I look forward to hearing from you.

*Wally*



*Congressman Herger meets with Air Force Sgt. Chris Frost of Chico, who was his special guest for the inauguration ceremony. Sgt. Frost was wounded serving in Iraq and has spent time recovering at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.*

## ***Big Government, High Taxes Are Not the Solutions We Need***

Across Northern California, families, farmers and small business owners are making sacrifices to manage their budgets so that they can ride out this difficult economic climate. In particular, many residents have scaled back on unnecessary expenses because the family budget or the long-term success of a small business depends on spending money wisely and eliminating non-essential costs. It's sadly apparent, however, that many in Washington don't share this concern when it comes to government spending.

We're facing serious challenges and it's now time to get back to the fundamentals that have led to growth in our economy. We need to tighten our belts and keep wasteful spending out of our budget. It's what people in communities in Northern California are doing and they deserve the same from Congress.

I believe that the budget proposed by President Obama and recently approved by Democrats in Congress will take us in the opposite direction. The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office stated that the proposed increases in government spending will explode the deficit. In fact, the projected deficits over the next ten years under this budget will exceed all of the deficits under the previous forty-three Presidents combined, while ignoring the entitlement crisis. Our nation is undergoing a massive government expansion unseen since the unsuccessful Great Society programs of the 1960s, and this spending spree will be paid for by generations to come.

The President's budget calls for trillions of dollars in tax increases that, incredibly, won't come close to paying for all of this new spending. These tax hikes jeopardize the jobs of

millions of Americans by squeezing small businesses that are already nearing the breaking point. Included in the tax increases is a huge new \$646 billion energy tax that could cost up to \$3,128 per household annually, based on an MIT study. As we try to jumpstart our economy, tax increases will stop any recovery attempts in their tracks.

Congress needs to follow the example of the families and businesses that have reined in their spending and are acting in a fiscally responsible manner. I am supporting an alternative budget that reduces spending, dramatically simplifies the tax code and lowers taxes on middle class families and small businesses, and cuts the debt to a far more manageable level. Additionally, it directly addresses the entitlement crisis that has put our nation's financial future at tremendous risk by reforming Medicare and Social Security to put them on a sustainable fiscal course. This alternative offers a much better solution and it will help get our fiscal house in order. You can learn more about it at [http://www.house.gov/budget\\_republicans/](http://www.house.gov/budget_republicans/).

America has a great tradition of providing our children better opportunities than we received. However, the budget passed by Congress puts us in very real danger of leaving the next generation with unprecedented debt and a lower standard of living.

I will continue to stand strongly against this course. Congress must reject the irresponsibility of the majority's budget. Instead, I believe adopting the alternative budget would put us back on the path to prosperity.

***Congressman Herger consults with local education officials in Oroville regarding the No Child Left Behind program. The legislation is scheduled to be reauthorized later this year.***

### **No Child Left Behind**





# Reports from Washington

## Health Care News

This year I have been chosen to serve as the Ranking Member of the Ways & Means Subcommittee on Health. Ranking Members are the leaders of subcommittees for the minority party in Congress and I am honored to accept that privilege. The Health Subcommittee oversees the Medicare program and provisions of the tax code pertaining to health care, as well as regulations affecting health insurance plans offered by large employers. Sadly, our health care system faces serious problems rooted in skyrocketing costs. In order to minimize the number of Americans who are uninsured, we must find ways to reduce these costs.

Health care is one of the most important issues facing our district and our nation today. It is abundantly clear that we need significant reform to improve quality of care. In order to make health care more affordable for all Americans, we need to increase transparency, competitiveness, and efficiency. We must

guard against a transition toward a public plan, which in reality is government-run health care that will inevitably lead to rationing, shortages, and substandard care. I will continue to fight for a system that keeps bureaucrats away from medical decisions and instead places the power in the hands of patients and their doctors.

In addition, our communities are

home to the highest share of Medicare-eligible individuals among California's 53 congressional districts. I will work to protect senior citizens' access to health care and move the Medicare program towards a sound financial footing for the future. I look forward to working with the White House and lawmakers in both parties in hopes of finding a comprehensive agreement that improves both the affordability and quality of health care in America.



*Congressman Herger presents William Stevenson, Jr. of Williams with his Purple Heart medal. Stevenson earned the medal during his service in Vietnam.*



*Congressman Herger visits the Gateway Science Museum, currently under development through the College of Natural Sciences on the campus of California State University, Chico. Pictured on the left: CSUC President Paul Zingg and Congressman Herger, along with members of the museum board, college foundation members, and staff.*

### Serving You

As your representative in Washington, I have the privilege of offering several services to the citizens of Northern California. Newest among them are periodic e-updates on the issues that you care about. Please sign up at [www.house.gov/herger](http://www.house.gov/herger) to stay informed on what's going on in Washington. These services also include providing you a tour of the U.S. Capitol, requesting tours of the White House, Library of Congress, and National Cathedral, and assisting you in the purchase of flags flown over the U.S. Capitol. If you would like more information, feel free to visit my website or contact one of my offices.



**Congressman Herger visits Woodland's Cache Creek Settlement Basin with Francis Borcalli, program manager of FloodSAFE Yolo, to discuss flood control issues.**

# Flame Act

With fire season approaching, I wanted to inform you of legislation that was recently passed by the House of Representatives. H.R. 1404, the Federal Land Assistance, Management, and Enhancement Act of 2009 (FLAME Act), will establish a fund for the five federal wildland firefighting agencies to pay for wildfire suppression in excess of their regularly appropriated firefighting accounts. I supported this legislation because it seeks to address the funding shortfalls that cause these agencies to transfer funds from other accounts to cover wildfire suppression costs until emergency funds can be approved by Congress. This drastically affects the agencies' other operations until those accounts are replenished.

With that said, I am concerned that the FLAME Act does not do enough to address the real cause of these fires—our overgrown and densely stocked forests that provide the fuel for the catastrophic wildfires we are now faced with year after year. For this reason I introduced an amendment to this legislation that would have required some of these funds to go towards hazardous fuels reduction projects. Unfortunately, my amendment was defeated in committee. If we do nothing to address the fuels problem, fire suppression costs will only continue to rise. I will continue to urge my fellow House members to recognize that preventing catastrophic wildfires should be one of our nation's highest priorities.

**Upcoming Tele Town Halls**

**Key for Map**

- Green — May 12th
- Blue — May 14th
- Orange — May 18th

**Each starting at approximately 6:30 p.m. PST.**

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Official Business



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