

# The NUNES Report

## Inside this issue:

**Nunes criticizes racial mascot bill** 2

**Nunes continues work on issues** 3-4

## Quick Facts

In February, Rep. Nunes helped 32 constituents overcome problems with government agencies. For the year, the Congressman has directly solved issues for 79 constituents and is currently assisting 330 others.

## Nunes backs railroad legislation

*Rail upgrades would improve air by limiting truck traffic on congested roads*

Rep. Devin Nunes is co-sponsoring legislation to improve short-line railroads in California.

Regional short-line railroads handle a large portion of shipping currently done in Central California. However, if the tracks are not improved to current rail standards more and more shipping would have to be done by truck, making an already poor air quality problem in the valley even worse.

The bill, known as H.R. 876, was introduced in the House of Representatives in February and has already gained 248 co-sponsors. The legislation would give tax credits to short-line companies that improve their rail system. If passed the companies would be eligible for \$10,000 per mile of improved track, which represents about 25 percent of the project cost.

Without rail shipping in the Central Valley, more than 20,000 additional trucks would be needed to handle the freight.

Experts say that each rail freight car carries as much



Rep. Devin Nunes speaks to a crowd at Gang-Nail Truss in Visalia about the air quality and economic benefits H.R. 876 would have on the Central Valley.

as three to four semi-trucks.

While air quality is one way the legislation can help the Central Valley, the bill would also have significant benefits for local businesses.

Tim Rouch, co-owner of Gang-Nail Truss in Visalia, said the legislation will help keep his business running smoothly.

"My business depends on the use of rails like those of the San Joaquin Valley Railroad. By keeping them maintained and functioning well, my company can oper-

ate efficiently and competitively."

Other local leaders have spoken out in favor of the legislation, including Visalia Councilman Don Landers, Tulare County Supervisor and San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District board member Steve Worthley.

San Joaquin Valley Railroad has already begun rehabilitating its tracks at a cost of about \$14 million.