

Legislative work encompasses many issues

Agriculture

California Rural Legal Assistance

The Office of Inspector General recently released an investigative report into the practices of the Legal Services Corporation (LSC). The report concluded that California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA), a recipient of LSC funding, did not maintain objective integrity and independence from a legal organization that engaged in prohibited activities in violation of federal law. After reviewing the conclusions of the investigation, Congressman Nunes contacted LSC President Helaine Barnett requesting that LSC take action to address this matter. In his letter, Congressman Nunes conveyed to President Barnett that it was inappropriate and illegal for federal tax dollars to be used in CRLA's legal activities aimed at halting dairy farm development and job creation in the Central Valley. Lawsuits benefiting from the inappropriate use of federal dollars have attempted to leverage cash settlements from defendant farmers and county governments. These extortion efforts and junk lawsuits are bad enough when initiated by private parties, but it is highly offensive that tax dollars were used.

Pierce's Disease

Pierce's Disease, spread by the glassy-winged sharpshooter, is highly destructive to California's \$2.8 billion grape industry. Sharpshooters also spread Almond Scorch, threatening the State's \$838 million almond industry. Recognizing the need to strengthen efforts to

eliminate this pest, Congressman Nunes joined other Representatives from California in supporting emergency funding from the United States Department of Agriculture. Under an existing emergency declaration, USDA has the authority to provide additional resources to the State. Congressman Nunes urged USDA Secretary Veneman to expedite the release of this funding.

Armenian

Armenian Genocide

As a cosponsor of H.Res. 193, the Armenian Genocide Resolution, Rep. Nunes sent a letter to Speaker Hastert urging him to bring this legislation to the House floor for a vote as soon as possible. This measure, commemorates the 15th anniversary of U.S. implementation of the Genocide Convention and reinforces our nation's dedication to this landmark human rights treaty. Approved in the shadow of the Holocaust, the Convention stands today as the international community's best hope for the realization of the noble aim of eradicating forever the crime of genocide. The House Judiciary Committee, recognizing the importance of this effort, adopted H.Res. 193 without opposition in May of 2003. One hundred and ten Representatives have cosponsored this measure, including both the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee.

Environment

Oxygenate Waiver

In a letter to Mike Leavitt, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Rep. Nunes

expressed strong support for the State's oxygenate waiver request. On February 2, 2004, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and the California Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) submitted a request for a waiver of the 2 percent oxygenate mandate for California's gasoline. A Federal waiver is crucial to California's ability to improve its ground water and air quality through the use of reformulated gasoline. The EPA's approval of California's waiver request will not only help California protect the environment, but will also allow California refiners the flexibility to produce more cost-effective gasoline formulations, saving our consumers money at the pump.

General

Identity Theft

Identity theft is a serious problem, not to mention a serious crime. Since the 1990s, there has been a sharp increase in the number of crooks who steal people's personal information and assume their identity to charge up huge credit card bills, telephone bills, buy cars, and apply for loans. If your identity has been stolen, it often takes years and thousands of dollars to repair the damage done to your good name and good credit. Victims of identity theft may lose job opportunities, be refused loans for education, housing, cars and even be arrested for crimes they didn't commit. Having your identity stolen is more than a headache, it is a mess. Identity theft is the number one consumer com-

Quick Facts

In February, Rep. Nunes organized tours of the U.S. Capitol, Library of Congress, Supreme Court, Kennedy Center, National Archives, Bureau of Engraving and Printing, and Mt. Vernon for 58 constituents.

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