



# THE BECERRA BULLETIN

News and Views from Washington to Los Angeles



SEPTEMBER 6, 2006, WASHINGTON, D.C. – In a continued effort to bring news and relevant information about our federal government back to his home district in Los Angeles, Representative Xavier Becerra (CA-31), the only congressional member from Southern California who is on the House Ways and Means Committee, brings you “The Becerra Bulletin,” an e-newsletter filled with facts and information meant to stimulate thought and discussion about American economic policy and a host of other issues.

## BY THE NUMBERS

### *BROKEN PROMISES: ONE YEAR AFTER HURRICANE KATRINA*

Congressman Becerra along with 24 of his House colleagues visited New Orleans August 29 to see firsthand the state of recovery efforts one year after Hurricane Katrina devastated this historic American city. He was impressed by the perseverance of New Orleans residents, volunteers, and Army National Guard members working tirelessly to rebuild the city; unfortunately, the Bush Administration has not followed through with the same level of commitment on the part of the federal government. Congress appropriated billions of dollars to help rebuild the Gulf Coast region, but progress has been slow, much of the money was used for no-bid contracts and the Committee on Government Reform has found far too many examples of waste, fraud and abuse (go to <http://www.democrats.reform.house.gov/story.asp?ID=1097> to learn more).

Here is what we know:

- 7,500 = the number of families in New Orleans who have been promised a FEMA-issued mobile home, but have yet to receive it
- 10,000 = the number of mobile homes sitting unused at an airport in Hope, Arkansas (500 miles from New Orleans)
- 130 = the number of public schools in the New Orleans Public Schools system prior to Katrina
- 56 = the number of schools that will open for students for the fall 2006 academic year
- \$10,000,000,000 = the amount of money Congress appropriated to the Small Business Administration (SBA) to be used as loans for business owners in the Gulf
- \$2,000,000,000 = the amount of SBA loan money that has actually found its way into the hands of small business owners
- 60 = the percentage of no-bid contracts awarded in a noncompetitive process
- \$10,100,000,000 = the total dollars awarded to private contractors for Gulf Coast recovery
- 1,395 = the number of criminal fraud and abuse cases reported in connection to contractors
- \$2,480 = the reported average cost to taxpayers for a \$300 roofing job
- \$3,000,000 = the amount spent on 4,000 camp beds that were never used
- \$10,000,000 = the cost to renovate military barracks that eventually housed only six occupants

## SHORT TAKES — WASHINGTON, D.C.

### *CONGRESSMAN BECERRA WORKS TO END PRICE GOUGING AT THE PUMP*

Few folks have felt the pain of our high gas prices as have Angelenos. Despite record profits, oil companies continue to charge consumers colossal rates at the pump. Congressman Becerra has been fighting to stop these corporations from profiting off of working families. Oil companies made \$1.62 trillion in revenue last year, yet they continue to receive massive subsidies. During consideration of the Tax Reconciliation Act, Congressman Becerra voted in favor of two procedural motions (Roll Call #109 and 121) that would have ended \$5 billion in tax subsidies for oil companies. Congressman Becerra also supported amendments to the Interior Appropriations Bill and the Deep Ocean Energy Resource Act of 2005 that would require the federal government to suspend royalty relief when oil prices reach exorbitant levels. Congressman Becerra is also a proud cosponsor of H.R. 3936, which gives the Federal Trade Commission and the Department of Justice the authority to investigate and prosecute energy companies engaged in gas price gouging. Unfortunately, the Republican Leadership has blocked all attempts at discussing meaningful solutions to alleviate high gas prices.

## SHORT TAKES — LOS ANGELES

### *CONGRESSMAN BECERRA HOSTS KOREAN AMERICAN LEADERS ROUNDTABLE*

Congressman Becerra met with local Korean American community leaders July 6 to discuss his participation in the U.S.-Republic of Korea Inter-Parliamentary exchange in Washington, D.C., that took place in mid-July. The roundtable provided Congressman Becerra with an important opportunity to engage in a meaningful discussion with local leaders and obtain their input and ideas to ensure that the interests of Korean Americans — especially those living in Los Angeles — were properly represented during his meetings with the Korean National Assembly. Several of the topics covered during the meeting included the recent missile launches in North Korea, the visa waiver program, a possible U.S.-South Korean free trade agreement, and immigration.

**Representative Xavier Becerra, 31st Congressional District, California**

Committee on Ways and Means

Subcommittee on Human Resources & Subcommittee on Social Security

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