



CONGRESSMAN

# Wally Herger



REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON

## Dear Friends:

Our nation is facing a number of challenges, both at home and abroad. Fortunately, our economy continues to be strong, with historically low national unemployment and continued growth. However, continued success depends upon Congress taking action on pro-growth trade and tax legislation that has languished. On the international front, we continue to face challenges as we fight radical jihadists who want to kill us, and work to address dangerous regimes in Iran and North Korea. Our soldiers, sailors, Marines, and airmen in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere deserve our support, thanks and prayers as they continue their efforts to keep us free and secure here at home.

In the face of these challenges, Congressional leaders have pursued policies that I'm concerned are not in our nation's best interests. For instance, the new Democrat majority has proposed spending measures that are over budget and do not address the out-of-control growth in entitlement spending, which threatens our economy. They are also considering an energy bill that one study suggests could result in gas prices doubling over the next ten years.

Meanwhile, the Senate recently defeated a flawed immigration measure that I believe would have failed to secure our borders and stop future illegal immigration. With that said, the new majority has not provided sufficient funding for a new secure fence along the U.S.-Mexico border, which was mandated last year and is essential to our border security.

In May, I was pleased to host the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works John Woodley for a tour of levees in our area. The tours provided the Assistant Secretary with a firsthand look at the need for enhanced flood protection. I will continue to work with him and other flood control leaders to secure continued support for levee improvements and other flood protection efforts in our district.

I want to thank the thousands of Northern Californians who filled out the questionnaire in the March newsletter, and who participated in the district-wide Tele Town Halls in April. Enclosed you will find the survey results. Knowing your point of view helps me better represent you in our nation's Capitol.

You will also find information about the upcoming "Anti-Scam: Don't Be a Victim" forums that I will again be hosting in August. These forums provide law enforcement and fraud experts the opportunity to outline steps individuals can take to help protect themselves from fraud. I hope your family can attend one of these meetings.

As always, I look forward to hearing your thoughts on issues important to you. When you have a moment, please feel free to visit my redesigned website, <http://www.house.gov/herger>. In addition to receiving up-to-date information regarding activities in Washington, you can also sign up to receive periodic email updates from me on the issues you're most interested in. I hope to hear from you!



*Herger presents medals to Sgt. Jack Bowles in Redding during the week of July 4th. Sgt. Bowles requested Herger's assistance in replacing his military discharges and decorations, which were lost when his home was destroyed by fire in 2004. Herger joined others in honoring Sgt. Bowles' "heroic and extraordinary service."*

## District Offices

### Chico

55 Independence Circle  
Suite 104  
Chico, CA 95973  
(530) 893-8363

### Redding

410 Hemsted Drive  
Suite 115  
Redding, CA 96002  
(530) 223-5898

Wally

## Anti-Scam Events

Last year, Sutter County law enforcement teams searched the Feather River for a 75-year-old Yuba City woman named Norma Anderson. Her husband, Jim, believes his wife took her own life after being defrauded of over \$500,000 through international lottery scams. To date, Norma is still missing. After talking with Jim, I joined local officials in Northern California in taking proactive action to help prevent this from happening to others.

Last August I hosted "Scam Seminars: Don't Be a Victim" throughout the 2nd Congressional District. These town hall style meetings provided law enforcement and fraud experts the opportunity to outline steps individuals may take to help protect themselves from this type of scam. I am happy to say the events were a great success and I am pleased to be hosting them once again. Above are dates and locations for the 2007 seminars.

## ANTI-SCAM TOWN HALLS

### ■ Tuesday, August 7th

#### **Yuba City**

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.  
Yuba County One Stop  
1114 Yuba Street

#### **Chico**

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Prestige Assisted Living  
1351 E Lassen Avenue

### ■ Wednesday, August 8th

#### **Redding**

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Redding Senior Nutrition Facility  
100 Mercy Oaks Drive

#### **Red Bluff**

2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
River Oaks Homeowners Assn.  
350 Gilmore Road

## Reexamining No Child Left Behind

High quality education is vital for each American student and critical to our nation's future. The **No Child Left Behind Act** (NCLB) was originally created in 2002, and was designed to be carefully assessed five years later. Congress is currently working to determine whether it is helping to improve the quality of education. This issue is very important to me, as my first elected position was to my children's school board.

So far, NCLB has had mixed results. Some studies suggest that NCLB's accountability standards have helped narrow the "achievement gap" between students from different social and economic backgrounds. A recent study also indicates that students who have received tutoring through NCLB improved their math and reading scores. Perhaps most significant, NCLB makes it more difficult for schools to simply "push children through" the system.

However, after listening to parents and teachers throughout Northern California, I have some concerns that current law may be hampering local efforts to improve academic achievement and implement reforms to address unique

needs. NCLB has also been a costly and cumbersome law for states to implement. Further, it established difficult and sometimes unreasonable standards for teachers in rural communities.

For these reasons, I have co-sponsored the A-PLUS Act, which is intended to provide state and local governments the flexibility to meet their students' needs without the intrusive mandates which are often tied to federal funding. This legislation would give states the option to opt out of most of NCLB's requirements. Those choosing to do so would be required to assume full responsibility for the educational needs of students. Additionally, they would continue to be held accountable to parents, schools and local government. I think this legislation strikes the right balance between ensuring accountability in federal education spending, while at the same time ensuring that schools are accountable to parents at the local level, not bureaucrats in Washington, D.C.

As the debate over NCLB reauthorization continues, I look forward to hearing your thoughts on what role the federal government should have in our nation's education policy.

## Immigration Update

Illegal immigration continues to be one of the most serious problems facing our country. I am pleased that a majority of senators voted to defeat what I felt was a flawed immigration bill that the Senate was considering earlier this year. It's clear that they listened to the American people, who voiced their strong concern that the Senate bill would not secure our borders or stop future illegal immigration.

I believe we need to enforce our current immigration laws and finish construction of the 700 miles of border fence that Congress mandated last year. Unfortunately, the new majority is attempting to impose open-ended environmental mandates that would likely prevent much of the fence from ever being built. An effort to scrap this ill-conceived ploy was unsuccessful in the House. Still, I will keep fighting for real and meaningful border security.

I will also continue to support an effective temporary legal worker program, along the lines of the Bracero program in the 1950s, whereby farmers can hire workers who would come into our country legally to work temporarily and then return to their homeland. Americans deserve a government that is responsive to their concerns about the state of emergency on our nation's borders.



*Herger with Chico resident Jezena Curiel, the winner of the 2007 Congressional Art Competition for the Second Congressional District. Jezena's winning entry, entitled "Freedom," is a powerful depiction of a falcon, her high school mascot. Jezena's artwork will be displayed at the U.S. Capitol.*



# 2007 Questionnaire Results — Thanks for Your Input!

Question	Yes (%)	No (%)	Unsure (%)
<b>(1)</b> Should Congress make permanent the substantial tax relief on personal and investment income passed since 2001? (It is set to expire in 2010, which would cause tax rates to return to their previous levels.)	<b>75</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>(2)</b> Would you support immigration reform that enhances border security and creates a temporary legal worker program similar to the past Bracero Program, while also creating a path for illegal immigrants currently working in the U.S. to “earn citizenship” by paying back taxes, passing a criminal background check, working for six years, and learning English?	<b>60</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>(3)</b> Should Congress expand No Child Left Behind, a federal education law, to provide greater parental choice to enable students from lower-income families who are attending chronically failing public schools to attend private or religious schools?	<b>46</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>(4)</b> Since 1994, the U.S. has implemented Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with thirteen countries, reducing unfair trade barriers. Trade with these partners accounts for over forty percent of U.S. exports, even though these countries make up a small percentage of the world’s economy. Do you believe we should continue to pursue free and fair trade agreements?	<b>56</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>(5)</b> Would you support efforts in Congress to restrict or condition funding for our troops in Iraq, making it impossible for them to implement the President’s new security plan?	<b>27</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>(6)</b> Would you support tougher economic sanctions against Iran if it refuses to dismantle its nuclear program?	<b>79</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>(7)</b> A recent United Nations report on climate change has renewed calls by some for the U.S. to enter into a global treaty (the “Kyoto Protocol”) that would require a significant reduction in the use of fossil energy by U.S. industry and motorists. Do you support U.S. entry into this U.N. treaty?	<b>29</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>12</b>



*Herger (center) with Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works John Woodley (right) and Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District Board President Don Bransford (left) discuss bank erosion issues along the Sacramento River. Herger invited Assistant Secretary Woodley — head of the Corps of Engineers flood control program — to Northern California to provide him with a firsthand look at the need for enhanced flood protection in the region. Secretary Woodley received briefings on levee improvement and bank stabilization projects in Yuba, Sutter, and Glenn Counties.*

## Benefits of Trade

This year I became the ranking Republican on the Trade Subcommittee, which allows me to serve in more of a leadership role on this critically important issue to Northern California. While many Americans may not recognize the benefits of free trade, they experience them every day. By lowering tariffs and other barriers, free trade opens new markets for farmers and businesses across our nation, lowers prices for consumers, and creates new and better-paying employment opportunities for workers. Rivals like China and the European Union recognize these benefits and are moving forward with trade agreements that cut out U.S. goods and services. Standing still would allow these nations to gain a competitive edge over us.

## Benefits of Trade

### Quick Stats

- U.S. is largest trading nation in the world
- Jobs that depend on trade pay about 13 to 18 percent more than average wages
- Although the economies of the nations in which we currently have free trade agreements make up only 7.3 percent of world GDP, our exports to these nations comprise more than 42 percent of total U.S. exports to the world
- One-in-ten jobs in the U.S. (about 12 million) is dependent on exports
- Free trade has helped contribute to our very robust economy and historically low national unemployment rate of 4.5 percent

# Lake Tahoe Fire Serves as Reminder

South Lake Tahoe's "Angora Fire" serves as a grim reminder of the need to actively manage our national forests to protect communities and forests from the devastating effects of catastrophic wildfire. Thankfully, no lives were lost, but upwards of 250 South Lake Tahoe residences were destroyed. Considering the unnaturally dense conditions of nearby forests and steep mountain landscape, the damage could have been much worse. Well-timed calm weather and quick action by brave firefighters helped contain the Angora Fire before it grew completely out of control.

Many residents throughout Northern California are understandably concerned that their community could soon fall victim to the next "Angora Fire." Forest stands located in the Sierra Nevada and Cascade mountain ranges are as much as ten times denser than they were historically. Such unnaturally heavy fuel loads have primed this area for large and destructive wildfires. Forest conditions are so bad that the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors recently called for "immediate and accelerated efforts" to thin out unhealthy forest stands in order to protect at risk communities

and watersheds within their jurisdiction. Trinity County has taken a similar action.

When catastrophic fires burn everyone loses. Entire communities can be destroyed, streams and landscape



altered forever, and recreation opportunities lost. Many forest experts are growing increasingly concerned with the devastating environmental "after-effects" caused by wildfire. Modern forest fires burn so hot, they sterilize forest soils — a condition that delays reforestation and leads to severe erosion,

which pollutes mountain streams. Air quality is also compromised. For example, wildfires in 2004 emitted as much carbon monoxide into the atmosphere as all U.S. cars and factories combined over the same time period.

I've long believed that we need to allow forest professionals to strategically thin unhealthy stands in order to reduce the modern wildfire threat and thereby protect people and forest resources. The Herger-Feinstein Quincy Library Group Forest Recovery Act of 1998 (QLG) is one example of locally-led cooperative action to protect people and restore forests to a more natural and healthy condition through targeted thinning.

Yet despite the legislation's strong bipartisan support in Congress, frivolous appeals and lawsuits have tied up close to 100,000 acres of critically needed hazardous fuel reduction and forest restoration projects in the QLG area and in other at-risk forests in Northern California. With major fires currently burning in 11 Western states, every effort must be made to fully implement the QLG program and similar locally led initiatives throughout the western states. If action is not taken, I'm afraid we will continue to see more "Angora Fires."

## Combating Drugs on Federal Lands

Illegal drug trafficking in our national forests and parks has become a major problem in Northern California. Mexican drug cartels are exploiting our wide open federal lands. Three of our nation's ten worst national forests in terms of illegal marijuana production are the Shasta-Trinity, Klamath, and Mendocino National Forests, which are in our district. There is also a very serious problem at the Whiskeytown National Recreation Area where illegal marijuana grows have been discovered within a few hundred yards of popular boating and fishing areas. Armed gang members guarding illegal "pot gardens" have shot at people who've stumbled across them.

This situation is simply outrageous. Northern Californians who work in the national forest or national parks, or those who visit them to hunt, fish, hike, and camp, shouldn't have to face this menace. Federal, state, and local law enforcement have made progress combating the problem and deserve to be commended for their outstanding efforts. From the federal level, I believe even more can be done. The House recently passed legislation that would bolster federal funding to combat drug cartels. I led an effort in the House to bring greater attention to this issue and to help ensure that adequate resources go to areas where the problem is most prevalent, such as Northern California.



**Herger before boarding a surveillance helicopter with two California Highway Patrol officers during recent drug raids in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. Several hundred law enforcement personnel from 17 local, state, and federal agencies participated in the raid. Herger is helping to lead an effort in Congress to bolster resources for law enforcement to root out Mexican drug cartels in federal lands.**



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515-3006

Official Business

*Wally Herger*

MC  
PRSRT STD

Visit us on the web  
[www.house.gov/herger](http://www.house.gov/herger)

*Congressman Herger Reports from Washington*