

For Immediate Release: *June 16, 2009*

Washington D.C. - This week, the House of Representatives is scheduled to consider the Fiscal Year 2010 Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations Act. This legislation, which funds federal agencies within its jurisdiction for the upcoming fiscal year, includes two funding initiatives put forward by Congressman Duncan D. Hunter (CA-52) that serve to strengthen border security and drug interdiction efforts in the San Diego community.

Specifically, these funding initiatives consist of \$350,000 for methamphetamine eradication through the California Department of Justice's Community Oriented Police Services Program and \$250,000 for gang enforcement and prevention in East County through the San Diego County Sheriff's Department. Both initiatives are strongly supported by the local community and consistent with ongoing efforts to reduce gang and drug related crime, including criminal gang activity that originates in Mexico and continues to threaten San Diego County.

"With this funding, local law enforcement agencies will be better prepared and positioned to engage criminal enterprises throughout our region," said Congressman Hunter. "Drug violence and gang activity are serious problems for any community but, in San Diego County, our close proximity to the border and rising influence of Mexico's drug cartels compound the challenges and dangers for law enforcement. It is important that they receive the training and resources they need to be effective.

"These initiatives will directly benefit the San Diego community, strengthening drug interdiction and integrated border security efforts. I am pleased my colleagues on the House Appropriations Committee also recognized their importance by including them in the legislation."

While Congressman Hunter commended the House Appropriations Committee for including these and other important initiatives in the FY2010 Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations Act, he reiterated his concerns with the legislation's overall funding level - a 12% increase over last year.

Hunter concluded, "During this time of record deficits, we must be prepared to make tough

choices and focus our attention on the most important national and local priorities. I hope we can work to reduce this overall allocation, while still advancing necessary funding initiatives, as this legislation moves through the legislative process over the coming months."

The House is expected to consider the FY2010 Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations Act as early as today. Upon its approval by the House, the legislation will be referred to the Senate for consideration.