

## Musgrave introduces bills to cut taxes, aid farmers

Congresswoman Marilyn Musgrave, Republican from the 4th Congressional District, has introduced her first three bills in the United States House of Representatives: the Senior Citizens' Tax Relief Act, the Emergency Farmer and Rancher Assistance Act and a third bill extending the replacement period for involuntary conversion of livestock.

"I was sent to Congress to defend Coloradans, and I am excited to start by pushing three bills that will reduce the tax burden faced by hardworking individuals and help drought stricken agricultural producers," stated Musgrave.

Musgrave is a member of the House Committees on Agriculture, Education and the Workforce, and Small Business.

Musgrave's Senior Citizen's Tax Relief Act will repeal a Clinton-era tax increase on social security. In 1993, social security recipients with a provisional income above \$34,000, or \$44,000 for a couple, faced an increase from 50 percent to 85 percent on portions of their income. This tax increase, she said, unfairly discriminates against hardworking

seniors, and changed the rules after years of expected benefits.

Rep. Musgrave's other two bills assist western farmers and ranchers. The Emergency Farmer and Rancher Assistance Act redirects unspent money from the 2002 Farm Bill to provide emergency livestock and crop loss assistance to agricultural producers who suffered 2001 or 2002 crop year losses. In addition,

Musgrave will introduce this week a bill to extend the reinvestment period from two years to five years on cattle sold on account of drought, floods or bad weather conditions. A similar bill passed at the state level last year during the special session.

In addition to the legislation she introduced, Musgrave is working to support her legislative goals by actively co-sponsoring legislation and signing onto letters that she feels clearly benefit Coloradans.

*Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century letter:* This letter to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure requests a change in the funding formula for those states receiving less than a 90 percent rate

of return on money given to the federal government for transportation. Colorado is one of the fastest growing states that does not receive a 90 percent rate of return, creating an adverse affect on transportation funding and infrastructure statewide.

*Farm Disaster Emergency Assistance Act:* This bill provides emergency financial assistance to livestock producers who incur losses due to damaging weather.

*National Right To Work Act:* This legislation preserves the choice of individuals to form, join, or assist labor organizations, or to refrain from such activities.

*Internet Non-Discrimination Act:* This bill prevents new taxes on Internet access by permanently extending the Internet Tax

Moratorium. The current moratorium is set to end on November 1, 2003.

*Balanced Budget Amendment:* This legislation adds an amendment to the United States Constitution

requiring the Congress each year to maintain a balanced budget, unless three-fifths of the House and Senate vote for an exception. This amendment automatically provides exception for years of military conflict that seriously threaten national security.

*Cloning of Humans bill:* This legislation makes it unlawful for any public or private organization, or any individual, to clone a human embryo.

*Colorado River Basin States letter:* This letter to Secretary Gale Norton of the Department of Interior requests the department to maintain its decision limiting California's legal water allocation to 4.4 million acre feet. This decision helps Colorado keep greater amounts of the river's resources and not be forced to pass them down stream.

*Fitzsimons Army Medical Center:* This legislation authorizes the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to relocate the Denver Veterans Medical Center to Fitzsimons Army Medical Center in Aurora, Colorado.