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**Rep. Waxman is working on:** \_\_\_\_\_ Dec. 17, 2005

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#### Rep. Waxman Introduces Legislation to Allow Subway Tunneling Along Wilshire

Rep. Waxman has introduced legislation (H.R. 4571) that would allow subway tunneling along Wilshire Boulevard. The tunneling prohibition was enacted after the 1985 methane gas explosion at the Ross Dress for Less store. A safety review panel selected by Rep. Waxman and the American Public Transportation Association has made a unanimous determination that tunneling can be done safely if proper procedures and appropriate technologies are used.

- [Press release »](#)
- [Report »](#)

#### For Years, Administration Ignored Warnings That National Disaster Medical System Was Dysfunctional

A report requested by Rep. Waxman, Rep. Bennie G. Thompson, and Rep. Charlie Melancon finds that since 2002, the effectiveness of the National Disaster Medical System - a key component of the nation's emergency response capacity - has been eroded by mismanagement, bureaucratic reshuffling, and inadequate funding.

#### Rep. Waxman's Statement on the President's Speech on Iraq Reconstruction

Rep. Waxman explains that the President's description of "quiet, steady progress" in Iraq's reconstruction is misleading and ignores the facts. Independent auditors confirm that billions of dollars have been squandered without increasing Iraq's oil or electricity production. Yet the Administration has done nothing to halt rampant waste, fraud, and abuse in Iraq.

#### Rep. Waxman Asks Chairman to Explain Oversight Choices

In a letter to Chairman Tom Davis, Rep. Waxman asks the Chairman to explain his rationale for rejecting requests to investigate the leak of classified information involving CIA agent Valerie Plame Wilson and contract abuses at the Department of Homeland Security, while directing the Committee to look into a leak of classified information related to the Philippines and contract abuses involving the District of Columbia.

#### Contact Lens Safety Bill Passes

Rep. Waxman and Rep. Boozman's bill to apply the highest safety standards and consumer protections to all contact lenses passes both the House and Senate. The legislation will stop needless eye injuries caused by unsafe lenses.

#### Fair Access to Clinical Trials (FACT) Act

- [Press release »](#)

#### Provision Would Block Public Access to DIA Documents

Rep. Waxman asks the House and Senate Armed Forces Committees to remove a provision in the pending National Defense Authorization Act that would weaken the nation's open government laws by exempting "operational records" of the Defense Intelligence Agency from the Freedom of Information Act.

#### U.S. Position in International Drug Talks Questioned

Reps. Waxman, Brown, and Allen raise concerns that the US position on access to generic versions of lifesaving pharmaceutical drugs in the current World Trade Organization Ministerial in Hong Kong will undermine global public health.

#### New Questions about Payments



#### Tip Lines

- [Iraq Contracting](#)
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#### Rep. Waxman's Voting Record

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- [Bill summary »](#)
- [Text of the bill »](#)

#### **Rep. Waxman and Leader Pelosi Introduce Anti-Cronyism Bill**

The Anti-Cronyism and Public Safety Act would prohibit the President from appointing unqualified individuals to critical public safety positions in the government.

#### **to Halliburton**


In a letter to Chairman Tom Davis, Rep. Waxman discloses that the Army Corps of Engineers has paid Halliburton \$130 million in cost reimbursements, profits, and bonuses for billings related to fuel imports and oilfield repairs in Iraq that Defense Department auditors determined to be unreasonable and unsupported.

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### **Other Current Issues**

- [West LA VA - CARES Business Plan Options](#)
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- [Visit the Website of the House Democrats »](#)

**GR** Indicates link to information on House Government Reform Committee Minority Office website - [www.reform.house.gov/min](http://www.reform.house.gov/min).

 Indicates document in .pdf format. To view these documents, download free Adobe Acrobat Reader software.

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