



# Minnesota's 4th District **E-Report!**

## Congresswoman Betty McCollum

*"Serving Minnesota's Families"*



FEBRUARY 20, 2004

### Hot News!

#### Environmental Leaders Look to the Future

Congresswoman Betty McCollum hosted a roundtable discussion with more than 50 environmental leaders, activists and interested citizens on Thursday, February 19th at the University of Minnesota's Hubert H. Humphrey Institute. The group discussed frustrations with the Bush administration's regulatory roll backs and the cuts in the president's FY2005 budget that will impact our environment and environmental programs. The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) overall budget is proposed to be cut by 8.9% for FY2005.

Several environmental leaders from the American Lands Alliance, Clean Water Action, Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness Area, Minnesotans for an Energy Efficient Economy (ME3) and the Sierra Club highlighted the top issues their organizations are promoting. Major issues of concern included the protection of public lands, clean air, mercury levels in lakes and increasing investments in energy efficiency.

Congresswoman McCollum called the meeting **"an important first step in coordinating the tremendous intellect, activism and energy of our environmental community to remind Minnesotans that our health and future are directly tied to the quality of our air, water and natural resource."**

McCollum's office will help coordinate an ongoing working group with environmental leaders to ensure issues before Congress and actions taken by the federal government are publicized at home to maximize citizen awareness and participation in grassroots advocacy.



*St. Paul residents Mrs. Julie Fode and Staff Sergeant John Fode are welcomed by Rep. McCollum in the district congressional office. Staff Sergeant Fode recently returned from one-year of duty in Iraq as a member of the 19th Material Management Center of the Minnesota Army Reserve. Mrs. Fode serves as the Secretary of the Family Readiness Group which is a support network to assist family members of service personnel in Iraq.*

#### The Week Ahead

**February 23** — Rep. Betty McCollum meets Ramsey County Board of Commissioners to discuss transportation and human service issues.

**February 24** — Minnesota Disabled Veterans come to Washington to meet with Rep. McCollum.

**February 25** — International Relations Committee Mark-up of H. Res. 499: Requesting the President to transmit to the House of Representatives documents in the possession of the President and officials relating to the disclosure of the identity and employment of Ms. Valerie Plame. Ms. Plame was publicly identified as a CIA operative by a White House source.

Contact Congresswoman Betty McCollum . . . [www.house.gov/mccollum/contact.html](http://www.house.gov/mccollum/contact.html)

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