

WASHINGTON – U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell today invited constituents with questions or concerns about the new document requirements for travel between the United States and Mexico, Canada, the Caribbean and Bermuda to contact his office for assistance.

"For those who are planning business travel or vacations, it is important to know and understand the new document requirements early on," said Mitchell. "To the extent there are any questions or concerns about the new rules, I want constituents to know my office is here to help."

Beginning Jan. 31, U.S. citizens age 19 and older traveling between the United States and Mexico, Canada, the Caribbean and Bermuda, by land or by sea, will be required to provide proof of identity, such as a driver's license, as well as proof of citizenship such as a birth certificate. Travelers can also present a passport. Children age 18 and under without a passport will be required to present proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate.

This initiative will affect Arizonans who cross the U.S.-Mexico border, by land or by sea, for business as well as for vacation. Beginning Feb. 1, frequent travelers can apply to the U.S. Department of State for a new, limited-use, wallet-size passport card, which the U.S. Border Patrol will begin accepting as a valid form of identification this spring.

The U.S. government began requiring the use of U.S. passports for air travel into the United States last year. This week's adjustment impacts travel by land or by sea. At a later date, still to be determined, the U.S. government will begin requiring most U.S. citizens entering the United States by land or by sea to present either a U.S. passport or a U.S. passport card.

These new requirements are part of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) aimed at strengthening U.S. border security. The WHTI follows a recommendation made by the 9/11 Commission.

Mitchell's Scottsdale office is available to provide assistance for Fifth District residents who have questions about this new identification policy or passport applications.

## **Mitchell Offers Assistance to Travelers As New Document Requirements Take Effect**

Tuesday, 29 January 2008 20:00

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The office is located at the southeast corners of Camelback and Scottsdale Roads in Scottsdale:

Office of U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell  
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