



# Minnesota's 4th District E-Report!

## Congresswoman Betty McCollum

*"Serving Minnesota's Families"*



SEPTEMBER 12, 2003

### Hot News!

#### McCollum Discusses Human Rights with Dalai Lama

Rep. Betty McCollum met with His Holiness, the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet. Testifying before the House Committee on International Relations, the Dalai Lama addressed issues of human rights in Tibet and around the world.

"The Tibetan people have endured over a half-century of religious persecution, inhumane prisons and violence," said McCollum. "Through this, the Dalai Lama's steadfast leadership and commitment to peace and bringing social change has been a model for the world. His perseverance in defending human rights worldwide is an inspiration."

As a member of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus and the Subcommittee on International Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Human Rights, McCollum is directly working to promote and protect internationally recognized human rights.

"Defense of political, religious and human rights requires constant vigilance. The United States has an opportunity to work alongside leaders such as the Dalai Lama and use our influence to affect other countries' practices and policies that violate human rights around the globe," McCollum said.

The Dalai Lama is the exiled spiritual and political leader of six million Tibetans and was awarded the 1989 Nobel Peace Prize for his work on global human rights for his ceaseless efforts to free his country from Chinese rule.

#### Upcoming Events

**September 15** - Visit 4th Grade Students at Birch Lake Elementary in White Bear Lake

- Visit White Bear Lake Fire Department

- Visit Social Policy and Organization class at Metro State University

**September 17** - Reception Celebrating the Bell Museum of Natural History



This week, Rep. Betty McCollum is meeting with Christine Russell, a Labour Party member of the British Parliament. Russell will travel with McCollum to the 4th District and shadow her for the weekend. Russell was elected to Parliament in 1997 and represents Chester, a historic Roman city with a predominantly middle-class/professional constituency, similar to McCollum's. Her committee assignments include Freedom of Information, Welfare Reform, Housing, and issues concerning various countries abroad.

#### McCollum Convenes Iraq Listening Session

A rising number of Minnesotans are questioning the White House on its Iraq strategy. A recent Star Tribune Minnesota Poll revealed that six in ten Minnesotans do not believe the Bush administration has a clear plan for handling the situation in Iraq.

**WHO:** Congresswoman Betty McCollum

**WHAT:** Listening session on Iraq

**WHEN:** Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup>; 10:00 - 11:30am

**WHERE:** Macalester College

1600 Grand Avenue (Snelling and Grand)

Weyerhaeuser Chapel

Saint Paul, MN

For more information, please call (651) 224-9191.

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

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