

Legislative Update

for State Historic Preservation Officers



PRESERVATION LEGISLATION

H.R. 1043/S.584

Community Restoration and Revitalization Act

For a list of co-sponsors, go to:

www.preservationaction.org/07lobbying/tax.htm

HPF APPROPRIATIONS

Continuing Resolution in effect until November 16.

To access legislative information including bill text, summary, and status, go to THOMAS at: <http://thomas.loc.gov>

HISTORIC PRESERVATION CAUCUS

For a list of members, go to: www.preservationaction.org/caucus/caucus07.htm

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This week on the Hill has been legislatively light, and the snow and ice of the latter part of the week sent some legislators home early. The legislative activities will not likely pick-up until after President's State of the Union Address scheduled for January 29th and the Administration's budget recommendations are released on February 5th. One page briefs and briefing materials on key historic preservation issues will be available shortly after that time.

As we begin 2008, listed below are updates on where several historic preservation initiatives stand:

The Community Restoration and Revitalization Act, H.R.1043/S.584

We're hearing different things about the chances that our amendments to the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit will be folded into a larger tax vehicle. The bill improves the way the historic tax credit works with the low income housing credit, so could be added (in part) to a nascent affordable housing bill. The bill might also be added to an economic stimulus package – given its general modus operandi as an urban revitalization tool.

Henry Waxman (D-CA) and Diane DeGette (D-CO) brought the number of cosponsors for HR1043 up to 86 this past week.

Preserve America and Save America's Treasures, H.R.3981/S.2272

The Preserve America and Save America's Treasure's programs' authorizing legislation has a chance of passing this year considering 1) majority leadership behind the bill, 2) strong Administrative support for Preserve America, and 3) the relatively uncontroversial nature of the proposal. The President's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation worked with the National Trust for Historic Preservation on the legislation.

Based on Preserve America Summit discussions in 2006, a centralizing Preserve America nonprofit association is being considered as one way to help the program thrive in future Administrations.

Preservation in the Farm Bill

Preservation advocates from the American Cultural Resources Association, the Society of Historical Archaeologists and the National Trust for Historic Preservation met with Representative Leonard Boswell's (IA) office this week to discuss including Senate-passed preservation-friendly language in the final Farm Bill. Important to preservationists is that the House reauthorized the Farm and Ranchlands Protection Program (FRPP) in its version of the Farm Bill. The Senate also retained the FRPP and also added eligibility of historic and archaeological sites to the Grasslands Protection Program. It is hoped that the House will accept the Senate Grasslands proposal in conference.

The FRPP program has helped preserve significant historic places like the Sabbath Day Shaker Village in Maine. The Senate language strengthens the existing connection between the FRPP program and its role as a tool for protecting historic cultural landscapes and archaeological resources. The final Farm Bill is expected to be completed and submitted to the President for approval shortly after the January 29 State of the Union address.

Final Tax Credit Report Issued

The National Park Service has adopted a plan to improve the administration of the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit. The implementation report is available online:

<http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/tps/tax/download/implementation.pdf>

Related new guidance material for those using the FRTC are available online as well:

<http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/tps/tax/guidance.htm>

IMPORTANT DATES:

Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, March 1-5, 2008

Board of Directors Meeting, Wisconsin, July 2008

The National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers is the professional association of State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs) who carry out the national historic preservation program as delegates of the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. Membership in the NCSHPO is limited to states and territories.

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The NCSHPO Weekly Legislative Update is available only to members of the NCSHPO. An update archive is located in the Members Only section of the NCSHPO website. You will need a user name and password to access this section; email Harbeson@sso.org for this information.