

# 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](http://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](http://www.preservationaction.org/caucus/caucus07.htm)

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## AN ADVOCACY DAY CHECKLIST

Advocacy Day is only ten days away! Whether or not you're able to make it to D.C., we've prepared a checklist of key items related to March 4's meetings and district lobbying efforts:

**Advocacy Day Materials:** One page briefs are now available online.

<http://www.preservationaction.org/08lobbying/2008lobbydayagenda.htm> or

<http://www.ncshpo.org/HPFPreservation>

**Dear Colleague Letters In Process:** By our day on the Hill, "Dear Colleague" letters should be circulating to support what we're requesting for Historic Preservation Fund programs: State Historic Preservation Offices (\$50 million); Inventory Funding (\$5 million); Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (\$20 million); Save America's Treasures (\$30 million); and Preserve America (\$10 million).

**The Latest Congressional Report Card:** A chart including who signed onto the "Dear Colleague" in the House of Representatives and the Senate last year is available here:

<http://www.preservationaction.org/states/2.1.2008report%20card.htm>

**Advocacy Day Numbers:** As of now, 191 have registered for Advocacy Day through Preservation Action and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Offices.

**District Lobby Days:** Preservation Action is looking for help in coordinating district lobbying work in key states. PA will be taking grassroots lobbying "on the road" between March 17 and 28. As of now, the trip includes up-state New York and Las Vegas, Nevada. At the same time and throughout the year, PA will be working with its membership (including SHPOs) on a series of district lobbying meetings. PA is targeting the following states this year for district outreach: **California:** Senator Diane Feinstein (D-CA), **Tacoma area, WA:** Representative Norm Dicks (D-WA), **Vermont:** Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT), **Maryland:** Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), **West Virginia:** Senator Robert Byrd (D-WV), Alan Mollohan (D-WV), Nick Rahall II (D-WV).

**Supplementals to Help You Plan:** To help with your last minute planning – or to support your district work, here's a short list of key supplemental documents on the issues:

## 2) HPF APPROPRIATIONS FY 2008

Historic Preservation Fund appropriations for the current fiscal year remained stalled in Congress. While a continuing resolution keeps the government operating through November 16, the full Senate has not acted on the Interior appropriations bill. A date for Senate action is not known. The President has indicated he may veto appropriations that exceed his budget requests. Talk continues on Capitol Hill of folding several appropriations bill into an omnibus bill. SHPOs message to Representatives is to "hold tight" to the \$45 million for States approved by the full House. SHPOs should ask Senators to support the House figure.

## 2) FOLLOW UP: VACANT BUILDING BILL OPPORTUNITY FOR ENGAGEMENT

In last week's legislative update, Preservation Action reported on the **Neighborhood Reclamation and Revitalization Program Act of 2007** introduced by Representative Brian Higgins (D-NY) in the House of Representatives and Senators Harry Reid (D-NV) and Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY). The bill seeks to remedy the problems caused by vacant housing in depopulated urban areas, and grew from Representative Higgins' experience in Buffalo, NY. Many of the bill's initial cosponsors, including the former First Lady, are preservation advocates. Preservation Action looked into the thinking and leadership behind the bill, and we're now working with Representative Higgins' office and other groups on development of the underlying pro-preservation idea: sorting out how to revitalize neighborhoods with extensive vacant housing stock. Our opportunity is huge: bill leadership wants to work with the preservation community to come up with legislation to solve the problem. And within our membership, we've got many groups already working with cities to revitalize urban neighborhoods by rehabilitating urban housing stock.

Now is a good time to pool our examples of effective pro-preservation vacant housing programs to aid in improving the vacant housing bill. It's also a good time to work with your local press on publicizing success stories of vacant housing revitalization.

(On October 10, 2007, Baltimore Mayor Shelia Dixon announced a land banking program to expedite the transfer of vacant housing for re-use.)

Who is considering the bill:

House cosponsors: Rep. Michael Arcuri (D-NY), Rep. Michael Doyle (D-PA, and on the Historic Preservation Caucus), Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-NY, HP Caucus member), Rep. Tim Holden (D-PA), Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH), Rep. Carolyn Kilpatrick (D-MI), Rep. Michael McNulty (D-NY), Rep. Gwen Moore (D-WI), Rep. James Oberstar (D-MN), Rep. Tim Ryan (D-OH), Rep. Linda Sanchez (D-CA), Rep. Betty Sutton (D-OH).

The latest Historic Preservation Fund Report (FY2006) from the National Park Service

<http://www.preservationaction.org/07lobbying/HPF%202006%20Annual%20Report%20print%20version.pdf>

Tribal Historic Preservation Office Report

<http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/tribal/download/THPOpamphletfinalFY05.pdf>

The latest Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit Report (FY2006)

<http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/TPS/tax/download/2006report.pdf>

Save America's Treasures Report

[http://www.preservationaction.org/06lobbying/SATfinal\\_eBook.pdf](http://www.preservationaction.org/06lobbying/SATfinal_eBook.pdf)

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#### IMPORTANT DATES:

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

Board of Directors Meeting, Wisconsin, July 2008

General Membership Meeting at NTHP Conference, Tulsa, October 2008

Board of Directors Meeting, Arkansas, November 2008

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*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](mailto:Harbeson@sso.org) for this information.*