

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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BREAKFAST WITH CHARLIE RANGEL: On Improvements to the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit (H.R. 1043)

As a young man, Charlie Rangel (D-NY) had a crush on Billie Holiday. At a November 8 breakfast, the Chair of the House Ways and Means Committee shared the story of his love for the blues singer, and how she had been a part of his life, as had the historic Apollo Theater. The building was and is the anchor of his history-rich district. For the Congressman, the Harlem Renaissance, the civil rights movement, and his district's transformation over the last few decades resonates in his memory and actions. Currently in his 19th term – he's been representing New York's 15th District since January 3, 1971.

Timing and Chances for the Community Restoration and Revitalization Act (H.R.1043)

During the breakfast gathering, brought together as a part of the annual historic tax credits conference hosted by the Institute for Professional and Executive Development (IPED), Rangel provided a small group with insights about the Community Restoration and Revitalization Act (H.R.1043) and its timing. He advised not to be optimistic about the bill passing right away. The issue wasn't lack of support for historic preservation, but rather, the current "pay go" rules conceived to deal with the country's massive budget problems. The "pay go" rules proscribe that every reduction in federal revenue (tax incentives, spending increases) must be offset somewhere else. This somewhere else is known as the "pay for."

It is good to have solid support in this environment, not only to increase the chances that legislation like ours will pass, but also to prevent being a "pay for." Rangel said we weren't going to lose any ground.

Rangel's Republican counterpart Representative Jim McCrery (R-LA), Ranking Minority Member of the Ways and Means Committee provided his insights about the bill in a recent interview available online at:

<http://www.preservationaction.org/states/la-interview%20mccrery.htm>

Rangel is an Advocate

While advising that we check our expectations, Rangel expressed clear understanding of the tax credit program's relevance to the revitalization of his district, and support for historic preservation in general. Rangel is a part of his local history, and this sense of himself and his place comes through clearly in his distinctive and candid personal style.

In his autobiography published earlier this year *And I Haven't Had a Bad Day Since: From the Streets of Harlem to the Halls of Congress*, the Congressman paints a picture of his experiences that track very closely with the unfolding civil rights movement and neighborhood problems and solutions well known to urban preservation advocates. He writes about the Apollo Theater:

“(Percy Sutton) bought the Apollo Theater, dark and bankrupt, in 1981, and it almost became his life. He went all over the world for the marble, the crystal chandeliers, the carpeting. I helped get it federal, state, and city landmark status, and when it still didn’t work out as a for-profit venture, I was able to get grants and other public funding for it as a nonprofit foundation, keeping it alive today.”

Talking About Our Bill

Rangel provided insights about messaging for H.R. 1043 and perspective on values within the legislation we would do well to highlight. His best phrase: “neighborhoods should inspire confidence in their residents.” This confidence is tied to the health of the place and the success of the people who live there.

Our bill has been in play for a few years now, and is often described as a bill of amendments to the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit. Different legislators are connecting with different elements of the bill, and we now have 82 sponsors in the House and 8 in the Senate. Between now and the beginning of the next session in January, we have a little time to think and strategize to incorporate what we’re learning about how the bill is perceived and what is resonating within Congress and the tax committees.

Right now, both the House and the Senate bill sponsors are circulating "Dear Colleague" letters asking fellow chamber members to sign onto the bill. If your legislator has already signed onto the bill, be sure to thank them. If not, ask them contact the following:

For the House bill, H.R.1043

Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D-OH) staff Darrell Doss, 202-224-7032 Phil English (R-PA) David Stewart 202-225-5406.

For the Senate bill, S. 584

Blanche Lincoln's (D-AR) staff, Anna Taylor, 202-224-4843 Gordon Smith's (R-OR) staff, Kara Metz, 202-224-5364

For Your Reference

Preservation Action's "layman's explanation" of the bill:

<http://www.preservationaction.org/07lobbying/taxexplained.htm>

H.R.1043 sponsors:

(Ways and Means members in red): Reps. Mike Ross (D-AR), Jo Bonner (R-AL), Bud Cramer (D-AL), Artur Davis (D-AL), Adam Schiff (D-CA), Bob Filner (D-CA), Christopher Shays (R-CT), Christopher Murphy (D-CT), Jeff Miller (R-FL), Kendrick Meek (D-FL), Jim Marshall (D-GA), Danny Davis (D-IL), Rahm Emanuel (D-IL), Mark Steven Kirk (R-IL), Jan Schakowsky (D-IL); Ray LaHood (R-IL), Donald Manzullo (R-IL), Julia Carson (D-IN), Mark Souder (R-IN), Dennis Moore (D-KS), Nancy Boyda (D-KS), Ben Chandler (D-KY), Rich Neal (D-MA), Vernon Ehlers (R-MI); Timothy Walberg (R-MI), Betty McCollum (D-MN), Jim Ramstad (R-MN), Shelley Berkley (D-NV), William Pascrell (D-NJ), Rush Holt (D-NJ), Brian Higgins (D-NY), Maurice Hinchey (D-NY), Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY), Michael McNulty (D-NY), Vito Fossella (R-NY), Mike McIntyre (D-NC), Brad Miller (D-NC), Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D-OH), Michael Turner (R-OH), Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), Phil English (R-PA),

Todd Russell Platts (R-PA), Patrick Kennedy (D-RI) Rep. James Langevin (D-RI), Stephanie Herseth (D-SD), Steve Cohen (D-TN), Bart Gordon (D-TN), Henry Cuellar (D-TX), Ron Paul (R-TX) Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX), Alan Mollohan (D-WV), Nick Rahall II (D-WV), Barbara Cubin (R-WY), Randy Kuhl (R-NY), Rep. John Larson (D-CT), Jim Gerlach (R-PA), Elijah Cummings (D-MD), Jim Moran (D-VA), Diane Watson (D-CA), John McHugh (R-NY), James McGovern (D-MA), Collin Peterson (D-MN), Thomas Allen (D-ME), David Scott (D-GA), Neil Abercrombie (D-HI), Donna Christiansen (D-VI), Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), Keith Ellison (D-MN), Leonard Boswell (D-IA), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Michael Michaud (D-ME), Joe Courtney (D-CT), Jose Serrano (D-NY), Jason Altmire (D-PA), Bruce Braley (D-IA), Betty Sutton (D-OH), Yvette Clarke (D-NY), Raul Grijalva (D-AZ), David Loebsack (D-IA), and Virgil Goode (R-VA)

S. 584 sponsors

Senator Blanche Lincoln (D-AR), Gordon Smith (R-OR), Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX), Joe Lieberman (I-CT), Mary Landrieu (D-LA), Wayne Allard (R-CO), Mark Pryor (D-AR), Tim Johnson (D-SD)

IMPORTANT DATES:

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

Board of Directors Meeting, Wisconsin, July 21-24, 2008

General Membership Meeting at NTHP Conference, Tulsa, October 2008

Board of Directors Meeting, Arkansas, November 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.