

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:

[http://www.preservation
action.org/
08lobbying/tax2008.htm](http://www.preservationaction.org/08lobbying/tax2008.htm)

HPF APPROPRIATIONS

The President signed the
FY2008 omnibus spending
bill on December 26. SHPOs
received \$39,376,000. The
President proposes
\$35,717,000 in FY2009

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)

To access legislative
information including

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NEW YORK

Ruth Pierpont, Deputy New York State Historic Preservation Officer - "Our district meetings in Western New York were a huge success. Bringing the issues closer to home makes it both easier and more effective to demonstrate the value of our programs and services to specific communities. The meetings were more relaxed, the staff or representative able to spend more time discussing issues, and there were even opportunities to physically point out buildings that have or could benefit from our programs or the proposed legislation. In addition to the value of having local preservationists take the lead in these meetings, on two of our visits, we were joined by local developers, who made a better case for enhanced tax credits than we could make ourselves. Clearly, this participation is much more likely to occur on the district office level. I came away with the distinct impression that we were really heard and would see results - and, indeed, within a week both of our senators signed the Dear Colleague letter!"

Advocates met with House of Representative Rules Committee Chair Louise Slaughter (D-NY) in her Rochester office. Slaughter is a perfect candidate for co-sponsorship -- she's on the Historic Preservation Caucus and signed onto the House Dear Colleague letter supporting Historic Preservation Fund programs. Slaughter spent 45 minutes talking to the group. She's a great advocate and had her own list of preservation priorities printed before the meeting!

The meeting with Senator Charles Schumer's (D-NY) regional staff in Buffalo provided an opportunity to engage his local office to get his signature on the Senate Dear Colleague letter (he signed). Schumer's staff were so interested in S.584 that they suggested the legislation be included as a regional policy priority. Schumer's district director Deborah Lynn Williams explained that all funding requests for the four surrounding counties go through her office. The district office is very locally focused and needs to know what's going on locally to make good decisions. She said that the trend toward preservation as an economic development solution was becoming more and more apparent. Christopher Hawley, staff in Schumer's office, attended a get together in Buffalo that evening put together by local advocate and architect Clinton Brown.

During the Buffalo leg of the trip, they were joined by National Trust for Historic Preservation Advisor, Catherine Schweitzer. The meeting with Rep. Higgins resulted in enlisting his help to get Ways and Means Committee Chair Charlie Rangel to include provisions within HR1043 into a larger tax vehicle. Higgins is already a cosponsor of the bill.

The meeting with Senator Hillary Clinton's (D-NY) staff included Joseph Eicheldinger, a Vice President of KeyBank in Buffalo who could talk about the impact of the Community Restoration and Revitalization Act in the Buffalo area. The more he talked, the more enthused Clinton's staff, Laura Krolczyk became. The group worked very well together selling the need for Clinton to support amendments to the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program.

NEVADA

Thanks in part of the good work of Nevada SHPO Ron James, Preservation Action interviewed Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) in his Las Vegas, NV office and

discussed big picture issues facing preservation in Las Vegas, Nevada, the West in general, and what preservation advocates might do to protect the region's history in the midst of rising development pressures. He was also asked how preservation advocates could effectively communicate with elected officials about key values and legislation within this environment. The interview with Harry Reid will be sent to you in the next few weeks. Reid wrote a history of his hometown, Searchlight, NV a few years ago and has just completed his autobiography featuring his hometown's story. Most of the Las Vegas trip was spent with the preservation community to facilitate grassroots connection to elected officials after the events. (see more on this below). Much more awareness for grassroots lobbying was raised on this trip thanks in large part to supportive press

Ron and Preservation Action now are working together on a fundraiser in Las Vegas on June 14 to raise funds to support more PA outreach in Western states.

Great Press!

Terrific press in Las Vegas significantly boosted awareness of the need for grassroots lobbying for historic preservation. Here are links to coverage of the district efforts:

"Preservation Group Leader to Visit Vegas: Head of D.C. Organization Will Discuss Lobbying With Locals

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2008/mar/17/preservation-group-leader-visit-vegas/>
Joe Schoenmann, Las Vegas Sun, March 17, 2008.

Nevada National Public Radio, live interview

<http://www.knpr.org/son/archive/detail.cfm?programid=1291>, March 21, 2008.

"Las Vegans' Voices Cry Out: Build a Community

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2008/mar/25/las-vegans-voices-cry-out-build-community/>," Joe Schoenmann, Las Vegas Sun, March 25, 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.