

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

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1. PRESERVE AMERICA AND SAVE AMERICA'S TREASURES AUTHORIZATION LEGISLATION HEARING IN HOUSE
2. BLUE RIBBON PANEL NAMED TO CONSIDER FEDERAL PRESERVATION PROGRAM
3. PROGRESS IN CONGRESS!

### 1) ELIZABETH I. BELLEVILLE JOINS NCSHPO STAFF AS GOVERNMENT RELATIONS DIRECTOR

#### 1. PRESERVE AMERICA AND SAVE AMERICA'S TREASURES AUTHORIZATION LEGISLATION HEARING IN HOUSE

On April 24, the House of Representatives Subcommittee on National Parks heard testimony on H.R. 3981, the Preserve America Save America's Treasures Act. The bill would authorize the two historic preservation grant programs. New York state deputy preservation officer Ruth Pierpont testified on behalf of the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, as noted in last week's update.

Here is a summary of other witnesses' testimony.

#### **The Administration's Message**

John L. Nau, III, Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, gave the Administration's testimony in support of the bill. He noted that the Save America's Treasures program supports bricks and mortar preservation efforts while Preserve America grants support advocacy and sustainability of historic resources. Both programs have been very successful, and both should become permanent. Both are able to leverage private money.

In addition to leading the President's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Nau heads Silver Eagle Distributors that is the largest distributor of Anheuser Busch products in the nation. Nau brought his perspective as a businessman to bear within his testimony. He explained that Preserve America grants represent a wise investment for the future. Heritage tourism is an expanding market and a key economic component within many communities. In Texas, for example, a \$1 investment returns \$19.

He explained that the heritage tourism industry has grown 13% since 1996, twice the rate of growth of any other type of travel. Four in ten heritage tourists are baby boomers; this will rise as more boomers retire. Saving important resources with Save America's Treasures is not singly sufficient. Preservation must make rehabilitated and protected resources viable part of a sustained effort. In this way, Save America's Treasures and Preserve America are essential elements of a collaborative community effort.

Chairman Grijalva asked Nau if there were any competitors for Preserve America and Save America's Treasures grants. Representative Rob Bishop (R-UT), who is on the larger Resources committee, but not the subcommittee, attended and expressed concern that Preserve America grants would be used for lobbying. Nau replied that he had not heard of this concern before, but that lobbying activity would be prohibited.

### **The National Trust's Message**

Emily Wadhams, on behalf of the Trust, expressed support for H.R.3981, and stressed that both programs are mutually supportive. She noted that both programs need to be authorized to work with programs already in place. The programs have bipartisan support, which demonstrates their strength. The programs enable protection of resources that are quickly disappearing. The subcommittee chair asked, "if we aren't ready to preserve today, what is the potential that tomorrow things will be gone?" She replied that loss will be more extensive the longer we wait, and that the longer the delays, the more difficult and costly things are to preserve. Ruth Pierpont noted that such delays contribute to loss of community heritage and sense of place.

### **Preservation Action's Message**

Heather MacIntosh, President of Preservation Action, provided written testimony for the April 24 hearing. On behalf of Preservation Action, she noted that both programs provide federal support for local action and leadership. Given that preservation is primarily a local enterprise, these programs provide a means by which the federal government can strengthen underlying community values. These programs are also complementary to the larger federal program, and are a logical next step.

### **Status**

Currently, 57 Representatives sponsor the House legislation. 8 Senators have signed onto the Senate legislation. The Senate's equivalent subcommittee met on April 9th to hear testimony on that chamber's companion bill, S.2262. Since the House hearing, draft amendments have been crafted. A mark up of the bill is expected soon, possibly on May 7<sup>th</sup>. Mark up of the Senate bill is expected next week.

## **2. BLUE RIBBON PANEL NAMED TO CONSIDER FEDERAL PRESERVATION PROGRAM**

One of the recommendations from the Preserve America Summit Report was the creation of an expert panel to examine the structure of the federal historic preservation program. Panel members were chosen by the co-chairs of the Preserve America Steering Committee--John Nau, Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and Lynn Scarlett, deputy secretary of the Department of the Interior. The panel will meet May 8 to begin its work.

The panel members are the following: Susan Barnes, Vice Chairman, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and President and Chief Executive Officer, The Landmark Group of Companies; Philip Grone, former Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Installations and Environment, Department of Defense; Dan Jordan, President, The Thomas Jefferson Foundation and Trustee, National Trust for Historic Preservation; Frank G. Matero, Professor of Architecture and Chair of the Graduate Program in Historic Preservation, University of Pennsylvania; Richard Moe, President, National Trust for Historic Preservation; David Morgan, former Kentucky State Historic Preservation Officer and panel member, National Academy of Public Administration; Brian Patterson, Council Member of the Oneida Indian Nation and Chairman of the United South and Eastern Tribes; Joseph P. Riley, Jr., Mayor of Charleston, South Carolina; Jay D. Vogt, South Dakota State Historic Preservation Officer and President, National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers; and Doug Wheeler, Partner, Hogan & Hartson.

## **3. PROGRESS IN CONGRESS!**

In-district lobbying efforts in New York state have paid off! House Rules Committee Chair Louise McIntosh Slaughter has signed onto H.R.1043 after promising to review the bill at a March 27 meeting with local preservationists, Ruth Pierpont, Deputy Historic Preservation Officer of New York State and Preservation Action's President Heather MacIntosh. Representative Slaughter, and bill new-comer Representative

Niki Tsongas (N-MA) have brought H.R.1043's sponsorship number up to 107. 18 new sponsors have signed on since Advocacy Day on March 4.

The Congressional Historic Preservation Caucus now numbers 120.

For an updated Congressional Report Card, visit:

<http://www.preservationaction.org/states/5.1.2008report%20card.htm>

#### 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

*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.*

*National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers*

*444 North Capitol Street NW*

*Suite 342 Hall of the States*

*Washington, DC 20001-1512*

*202-624-5465*

*202-624-5419 FAX*

*www.ncshpo.org*

*The Legislative Update is prepared by:*

*Preservation Action*

*National Building Museum*

*401 F Street NW*

*Room 324*

*Washington, DC 20001*

*202-637-7873*

*202-637-7874 FAX*

*www.preservationaction.org*

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