

# Legislative Update

for State Historic Preservation Officers

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## PRESERVATION LEGISLATION

### H.R. 1043/S.584

Community Restoration and Revitalization Act

For a list of co-sponsors, go to:

<http://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:

[www.preservationaction.org/](http://www.preservationaction.org/)

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

## 1) HISTORIC PRESERVATION CAUCUS TO BE RECOGNIZED AT NTHP GALA

Next week, the Congressional Historic Preservation Caucus will receive a Restore America award from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and HGTV. The award ceremony will be held at the Library of Congress. The caucus, now exclusively in the House of Representatives, numbers 120.

The caucus was established in 2003 by Representatives Brad Miller (D-NC) and Michael Turner (R-OH). Both continue to serve as caucus chairs and have great hopes for its future. Members of the caucus join together to support and encourage the preservation and thoughtful economic development of historic places in their districts, states, Indian reservations and as a matter of national policy. The caucus also hopes to serve as a clearinghouse for members seeking information and sharing ideas on national, tribal, state, and local issues and opportunities in historic preservation.

The caucus has provided a base of support for key preservation legislation such as funding for State Historic Preservation Offices, Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, Preserve America and Save America's Treasures. The caucus helped fight threats to the National Historic Preservation Act in the last Congress. The caucus has also rallied support for the Community Restoration and Revitalization Act (H.R.1043/S.584). The caucus provides primary House of Representatives sponsorship for the Preserve America Save America's Treasures Act (H.R.3981). That bill would authorize the Preserve America and Save America's Treasures programs and now has 58 cosponsors.

Preservation Action conducted interviews with the caucus chairs in 2006. Excerpts illustrating their strong commitment to historic preservation ethics:

Representative Brad Miller (D-NC):

"Preservation is something I really care about, and have cared about for a long time. I have always felt some sense of connection with the past. It's hard not to when you work in a place where our nation's great leaders have walked. Walking the same halls as past leaders creates a real sense of continuity. Feeling that connection with the past helps create an understanding of our founding fathers' idealism. This is something our nation has always had. This history has been around much longer than us."

"People get a sense of connection from places that have been a part of history, that are important to the nation, or just important to communities. What's important isn't just grand national American history, or great moments."

"

And I think that old buildings, old houses, are just kind of cool."

Representative Michael Turner (R-OH)

"My background is in public service; my preservation work started when I worked with community development organizations in Dayton Ohio. There we have the historic story of the Wright Brothers and the beginning of the industrial age. I lived in a Victorian Italianate house there."

"As mayor, I saw historic preservation as an economic development tool. The heritage of the place tells the story of the common community, and everyone can enjoy the city's architectural accomplishments. We have a greater connection to each other, and the past to the extent that we preserve the fabric of the community."

"When we get members together who have a love for preservation, they have the enthusiasm to mobilize. The (caucus members) have the experience to educate other members, so in that way they act as a liaison for preservation when issues arise."

Full interviews (among PA's first in what is now a leadership series) appear online at:

Rep. Brad Miller:

<http://www.preservationaction.org/states/nc-interview%20miller.htm>

Rep. Michael Turner:

<http://www.preservationaction.org/states/oh-interview%20turner.htm>

## 2) OFFSETS CONSIDERED TO SUPPORT CENTENNIAL CHALLENGE

The National Park Service's (NPS) primary initiative, the Centennial Challenge, serves as a guide for growth and planning leading up to the NPS's 100 year anniversary in 2016. Representative Raul Grijalva (D-AZ), chair of the House Resources Committee, introduced legislation on July 19 last year to create a special fund outside of the appropriations process for the Centennial Challenge (H.R. 3094). The bill proposes \$100 million per year until 2017 to carry out the initiative's aims (Note: the NPS's website on this issue contains park-by-park plans, including proposed preservation projects. That link:

<http://www.nps.gov/2016/>)

When first proposed by the Administration, the President called for significant private investment in the planned upgrading of National Parks. The issue has been a top Administration priority since early last year. Democratic leadership balked at the lack of a more structured funding mechanism for such a significant public project. Their response is H.R.3094.

\$100 million, within this economic environment, has been a tough sell. A number of ideas have been tossed around to offset this sizable price tag. Ideas include an America the Beautiful Passport to be sold in Europe; \$90 million from Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas revenues that exceed anticipated income from that source; a 2% levy on the state share of federal oil and gas royalties; and authorization of oil and gas drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Reserve. None of these ideas is hugely popular.

The full House of Representatives may consider the bill in June, but offset debates may push its passage further into the year.

## IMPORTANT DATES:

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.*

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