

# 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.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](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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1. HEARING HELD ON HISTORIC REVIEW OF RAILROAD CORRIDORS



Maryland SHPO Rodney Little (third from the left) testifies on behalf of the NCSHPO at a June 5 hearing. Photo courtesy: NCSHPO Archives.

On June 5, the House of Representatives Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's **Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials met to hear testimony on a proposal to exempt railroad corridors from Section 4(f) and potentially 106 reviews. The proposal stemmed from Alaska and North Carolina rail developers concerned about delays and costs of engaging in the process. These interests recommended treating railroads like the interstate system based on an exemption granted to the entire interstate system.**



*Representative James Oberstar (D-MN) delivers his remarks in favor of an administrative solution to the perceived problem. Photo courtesy NCSHPO archives.*

**In his opening statement, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chair James Oberstar (D-MN) noted the complaints and testimony in support of current law. He began his statement by underscoring the role of the railroads played in shaping our country.** “Railroads are certainly deserving of historical protection, since they have been at the center of our development as a transcontinental nation and a major industrial power.”

Testimony provided to the subcommittee shaped Oberstar’s recommended approach for handling the concerns. “The testimony of the Council and others indicates a willingness to help find administrative remedies for Alaska and North Carolina. An administrative solution may be the best approach. I question the wisdom of making major legislative changes to a program that appears to be working in almost all states.”



*Subcommittee Chairwoman Corrinne Brown (D-FL) makes an aside to Ranking Member Bill Shuster (R-PA) during the June 5 hearing. Photo courtesy NCSHPO archives.*

Subcommittee Chair Corrinne Brown (D-FL) added, "I believe the committee's goal should be to ensure that any action it takes respects the valuable process of protecting our Nation's heritage while ensuring a fair process to rail providers that allows them to adapt to future needs without undue costs and delays."

The National Conference of State Historic Preservation Offices, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Preservation Action and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation submitted testimony.

Although the railroad amendment is not expected to be included in the bill for which it was intended – the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act, H.R.6003 – the idea of reducing the scope of the National Historic Preservation Act portends lively discussion next year when the transportation bill is reauthorized.

## 2. HERITAGE BILLS CONSIDERED

On June 5, the House Natural Resources Committee, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands, led by Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ), held a hearing on a number of bills including amendments to National Heritage Area and other historic resource bills. Heritage-related bills included:

**H.R. 3809** (introduced by Paul Kanjorski, (D-PA): To amend the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Act of 1988 regarding the local coordinating entity of the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor, and for other purposes.

**H.R. 4199** (introduced by Michael Turner(R-OH): To amend the Dayton Aviation Heritage Preservation Act of 1992 to add sites to the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park, and for other purposes.

**H.R. 4828** (introduced by Solomon Ortiz (D-TX): To amend the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site Act of 1991 to expand the boundaries of the historic site, and for other purposes.

A number of heritage-related bills are expected to be folded into an omnibus later this session.

## 3. UPCOMING DATES

June 11, 2008 – House Natural Resources full committee mark-up of H.R. 3981, the Preserve America and Save Americas Treasures Program Act.

June 11, 2008 – House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee mark-up.

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## IMPORTANT DATES:

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

General Membership Meeting at NTHP Conference, Tulsa, October 2008

Board of Directors Meeting, Arkansas, December 6-9, 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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