

## Weekly Legislative Update for State Historic Preservation Offices

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President-elect Barack Obama will have a lot on his plate very early. Job creation -- specifically "green" jobs -- federal investment in alternative and renewable energy sources, economic stimuli, infrastructural improvements, and homeowners' assistance figured into Blueprint for Change, and were key platform items during the election.

Congressional staff have received countless requests for ideas for the next stimulus bill. The full House Appropriations Committee has solicited insight from state governments and the nonprofit sector to better understand how they will prioritize these ideas. Congress's focus has been jobs creation, infrastructural improvements, increased support for proven state/federal partnerships, and helping those who are least able to help themselves, specifically related to housing.

The NCSHPO is requesting \$50 million from the Historic Preservation Fund for historic preservation development grants. This request mirrors the \$25 million received for development grants in the 1983 Jobs Act. (see attachment for request details).

The stimulus package will move quickly. During what is generally the slowest time of the year on the Hill, staff are working around the clock. The Senate is scheduled to resume on January 6, the House will reconvene on January 3. Given the work necessary for a bill that may represent as much as a trillion, Congress and staff will be hitting the ground running in early January to complete the bill in time for signature only weeks into the New Year.

**Your help is needed to make this request a reality!** Please set time aside on your calendar the first week in January to make calls to your Congressional delegation supporting the NCSHPO stimulus request.

### President-elect Obama nominates new Secretary of the Interior!

On Wednesday, President-elect Barack Obama nominated Colorado Senator, Ken Salazar, as the next Secretary of Interior. **We are requesting that each State write a short, one page, congratulatory letter to the Senator.** Please include a little known, attention getting historic factoid about your State or Nationally (i.e. Sect. of Interior can claim credit for creating xxx affordable housing units in X State, or Sect of Interior's National Register program recognized X landmark in the national civil rights movement).

In order to avoid delivery delays and radiation treatments the letter should be sent to the following address:

The Honorable Ken Salazar  
United States Senator  
2300 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 450  
Denver, Colorado 80202

**2009 Upcoming Events:**

January 28-29 – NCSHPO Executive Committee Meeting, Washington D.C.  
March 8-11 – NCSHPO Annual Meeting/Advocacy Day, Washington D.C.