

*News!*

NEWSLETTER DATE

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**HOUSE INTRODUCES STIMULUS PACKAGE**

On Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, the House Appropriations Committee released the first draft of their economic stimulus package entitled “The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.” The \$825 billion dollar proposal is divided into \$550 billion in proposed spending for health care, energy saving projects, public works, school construction, and assistance for jobless and the remaining \$275 billion for proposed tax cuts. House and Senate committees are expected to begin marking-up the bill next week.

The House proposal does not include money from the Historic Preservation Fund for the NCSHPO proposed rehab grant program, nor does it include stimulus money for the Land and Water Conservation Fund or State Wildlife Grants. The House bill does include \$100 million for a one-year installment of the NPS Centennial Challenge program, \$200 million for NPS Historic and Cultural Preservation of federal properties, and \$1.8 billion for NPS construction.

The Senate is expected to make significant changes to the House proposal which offers SHPOs an opportunity to continue advocating for the rehabilitation grant program! In the next few days please contact your Senator in support of the proposed grant program. (see attached).



**FY09 Appropriations Update**

Federal programs are currently operating under a Continuing Resolution until March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Completing work on the nine outstanding appropriations bills, including Interior, appears to have taken a backseat to stimulus legislation. However,

once a stimulus is passed, Congress is expected to return its attention to completing FY09 appropriations. House Appropriations full committee chairman, David Obey (D-WI) said the House could consider an FY09 omnibus spending bill as early as the week of February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The House FY09 Interior subcommittee bill, which passed in June 2008, proposed \$45 million for SHPOs. According to a Senate Interior subcommittee staffer, SHPO funding in the unreleased FY09 Senate Interior bill was “in the ballpark” of the House.



**Senate Passes Omnibus Public Lands Package**

The Senate passed the “Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009” by a vote of 73-21 on Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup>. The package, which failed to pass at the end of the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, contains 161 public lands and National Park Service bills. The legislation would designate over 2.2 million acres as wilderness, codify the National Landscape Conservation Service, designate three new national parks, designate several national trails, and designate more than 1,000 miles of wild and scenic rivers.

The bill would also authorize the following programs: Save Americas Treasures Program, Preserve America Program, American Battlefield Protection Program,

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Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program, Sangre De Cristo Heritage Area – CO, Cache La Poudre River Heritage Area – CO, South Park Heritage Area – CO, Northern Plains Heritage Area – ND, Baltimore Heritage Area – MD, Freedom’s Way Heritage Area – NH, Mississippi Hill Heritage Area – MS, Mississippi Delta – MS, Muscle Shoals Heritage Area – AL, Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm Heritage Area, AK.

### New Members of the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee

House Appropriations full committee chairman, David Obey (D-WI), and ranking member, Jerry Lewis (R-CA) have announced the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee. Rep. Norm Dicks (D-WA) will retain his position as subcommittee chairman and Rep. Mike Simpson (R-ID) will replace Rep. Todd Tiahrt (R-KS) as the new ranking member. The number of Minority committee members was reduced from 5 seats to 4. New members on the subcommittee are David Price (D-NC), Mike Simpson (R-ID), Steve LaTourette (R-OH), and Tom Cole (R-OK).

#### Majority – 8 seats

**Chair: Norman D. Dicks, Washington**  
 James P. Moran, Virginia  
 Alan B. Mollohan, West Virginia  
 Ben Chandler, Kentucky  
 Maurice D. Hinchey, New York  
 John W. Olver, Massachusetts  
 Ed Pastor, Arizona  
 David E. Price, North Carolina

#### Minority – 4 seats

**Ranking Member: Mike Simpson, Idaho**  
 Ken Calvert, California  
 Steve LaTourette, Ohio  
 Tom Cole, Oklahoma



### Salazar Hearing

On January 15, 2009, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held a hearing on the nomination of Senator Ken Salazar (D-CO) to be the Secretary of the Interior. Discussions during the two and a half hour hearing covered many subjects. Although no Senators asked Secretary-designate Salazar about historic preserva-

tion, he did mention historic preservation in a list of Interior responsibilities in his opening remarks. He also said he wanted the Interior Department to be the nation’s department not just the west’s.

The Secretary-designate laid out five priorities.

- “Clean up the mess” in the Department of the Interior relating to previous ethical violations and illegal activities.
- Energy independence: set America free of dependence on foreign oil. The “moon shot” initiative has several components:
  - Conservation,
  - Renewable Energy Development,
  - Technology Development
  - Responsible Development of Natural Resources
- Landscape protection, the preservation and enhancement of nationally significant parks and monuments, historic preservation, farm and ranch land protection, a new initiative to strengthen the Land and Water Conservation Fund
- Address challenges to the national water supply
- Address the needs of the First Americans including appropriate consultation, health care and law enforcement

The Senators’ questions of Salazar focused on energy development, improvements to the energy transmission infrastructure, off shore oil leasing, reforms to the 1872 mining act, renewable energy, endangered species, Ellis Island, and tribal issues. Salazar’s responses had a constant theme of decisions based on fact, balanced consideration of options, common sense approaches and solutions, elimination of bureaucratic delays. His responses also had a common thread about the needs of rural America.

Thanks to the SHPOs who sent the Secretary-designate congratulatory letters!

	<h2 style="text-align: center; background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 5px;">MARK YOUR CALENDARS</h2> <p><b>January 28-29:</b>        NCSHPO Executive Committee Meeting, Washington D.C.</p> <p><b>March 8-11:</b>        NCSHPO Annual Meeting/Advocacy Day, Washington D.C.</p>
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