



PRESIDENT OBAMA TAKES OFFICE

On Tuesday, Barack Obama was sworn in as the 44th President before a crowd of an estimated 2 million people, wedged onto the National Mall, and an additional 38 million watching on television. His address, like that of every President since Reagan, pledged an end to divisiveness and partisan conflict within government, and called for a return to what he called the truths that have been the “quiet force of progress throughout our history:” honesty and hard work, courage and fair play, tolerance and curiosity, loyalty and patriotism.

The address provides the incoming President with an opportunity to place himself within the historical framework of those who have held the office before him, and to provide broad brushstrokes of the priorities he will set for his administration. None of the initiatives he outlined come as a surprise, since they are largely (and appropriately) reiterations of his statements issued since the election.

- **Infrastructure investment.** This has been a widely reported priority of President Obama over the past two months, and we have been tracking it closely for the significant effect it will have on the operations of SHPOffices.
- **Green technology.** Job creation and

energy independence have been hallmarks of recent political dialogues. We will continue to advocate strongly for the importance of historic preservation within the sustainability initiative, and push for the development of green building technology compatible with historic houses and districts.

- **Government program reform.** Given the 2007 report on the Historic Preservation Program by the National Academy of Public Administrators, and the subsequent report recently completed with recommended performance measures, we hope to be viewed favorably as the new administration examines the programs for efficiency and success.

The new President is anxious to hit the ground running. We will be watching closely to make sure that we don’t miss any opportunities to push for the interests of the States in the days, weeks, months, and years ahead.

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Economic Stimulus Update

On Wednesday, January 21, the full House Appropriations Committee approved the \$358.1 billion discretionary portion of the stimulus package by a vote of 35-22. The House discretionary proposal does not include money for the NCSHPO proposed rehab grant program, nor does it include funding for Historic Preservation disaster assistance. House Republicans argued that parts of the package should be narrowed to focus on infrastructure projects guaranteed to create jobs quickly.

On Thursday, January 22, the House Committee on Ways and Means voted in support of the tax portion of the economic stimulus by a 24-13, party-line vote. The tax proposal includes tax, health and unemployment relief to families while also encouraging businesses to create new jobs. Related energy and broadband initiatives cleared the House Energy and Commerce Committee as well.

House Democratic Leadership expects passage of the entire \$825 billion two-year package on Wednesday. The Senate is expected to make significant changes to the House proposal which offers SHPOs an opportunity to continue advocating for our rehabilitation grant program proposal. **If you have not done so, please contact your Senators in support of the proposed SHPO grant program. (See attached).**



New Faces on House Natural Resources Committee

House Natural Resources Committee Chairman, Nick J. Rahall (D-WV) has announced the official Committee roster for the 111th Con-

gress. The committee ratio is now 29-20 and there are 17 new faces amongst the committee members. Democratic departures include: Solomon Ortiz (TX), Mark Udall (CO), Hilda Solis (CA), and Heath Shuler (NC). New Democratic members include: Gregorio Sablan (MP), Martin Heinrich (NM), Diana DeGette (CO), Carol Shea-Porter (NH), Niki Tsongas (MA), Frank Kratovil, Jr., (MD) and Pedro Pierluisi (PR).

Republican departures include: Jim Saxton (NJ); Chris Cannon (UT), Thomas Tancredo (CO), Steve Pearce (NM), Luis Fortuno (PR), Tom Cole (OK), Dean Heller (NV), and William Sali (ID). New Republican committee members include: Ranking Member, Doc Hastings (WA), Adrian Smith (NE), Robert Wittman (VA), Paul Brown (GA), John Fleming (LA), Mike Coffman (CO), Jason Chaffetz (UT), Cynthia Lummis (WY), Tom McClintock (CA) and Bill Cassidy (LA).



Interior Secretary Salazar Takes Office

Hours after President Obama was sworn in on Tuesday, the Senate confirmed Ken Salazar as the nation's 50th Secretary of Interior. In a memo to Interior employees, Secretary Salazar said "I look forward to sharing my vision for the Department, including how I believe we can strengthen our stewardship of our Nation's land and water resources, how we can help build a clean energy economy for the twenty-first century, and how we can restore the integrity of our nation-to-nation relationship with Native American communities."

He also pledged to "lead the Department with openness in decision-making, high ethical standards, and respect for scientific integrity. I will work hard on your behalf every day to make you proud." The Department of Interior has more than 67,000 employees and a \$15.8 billion federal

budget.

His Senate replacement, Denver Public School Superintendent, Michael Bennet, was sworn in on Thursday. Bennett will fill the remaining two years of Salazar's Senate term and will be up for reelection in 2010.



NPS Director Bomar Retires

NPS Director Mary Bomar retired on January 20th after 25 years of federal service. She is succeeded on an acting basis by Dan Wenk, who had been her deputy. Bomar told NPS employees in a memo, "Directors will come and go, but the places are timeless – and the hearts of those who care for them are bigger than the 84 million acres in the system." One of the first orders of business for Secretary Salazar is nominating a new Director, which must be confirmed by the Senate. One environmental group, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, has recommended John Donahue, superintendent of Big Cypress National Preserve.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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