



STIMULUS UPDATE

Late Thursday evening the House and Senate reached agreement on H.R. 1, the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act. The conference agreement passed the House on Friday afternoon by a vote of 246-183, with no Republicans supporting the measure. Timing of the final vote in the Senate, which must garner 60 votes, has been complicated by death, serious illness and religious considerations but the Majority Leader is still hopeful a final vote will take place Friday evening. Unfortunately the final package does not include the \$55 million for State and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers. A summary of the bill is provided below:

Interior Programs

- \$15 million for preservation activities at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (an amendment added by Rep. Clyburn (D-SC) to the House bill)
- \$50 million for the National Endowment for the Arts
- \$146 million for NPS Park Operations
- \$589 million for NPS Construction – including preservation and repair of historic resources
- \$125 million for BLM land & resource management
- \$180 million BLM for construction, reconstruction, decommissioning and repair of roads, bridges, trails, property and facilities

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- \$165 million for FWS resource management
- \$115 million for FWS construction
- \$450 million for BIA construction
- \$25 million for Smithsonian

Other Programs

- \$27.5 billion for highways
- \$9.3 billion for rail transportation
- \$14.2 billion for health investments
- \$53.6 billion for a state fiscal stabilization fund
 - Including \$8.8 billion marked for various state needs including “modernization, renovation and repairs of public school facilities.”
- \$37.5 billion for energy programs
 - Including \$4.5 billion for energy efficiency upgrades to federal buildings; \$5 billion for home weatherization and \$6 billion in loan guarantees for renewable energy projects
- \$2 billion for a Neighborhood Stabilization Program

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- \$24.7 billion to subsidize COBRA health insurance premiums

Individual Tax Breaks

- Payroll tax credit - \$400 per person or \$800 per married couple
- First time homebuyer tax credit - \$8,000 and dropped the repayment requirement
- Tax deduction for state and local sales taxes on new car purchases
- Temporarily suspend taxes on the first \$2,400 of unemployment benefits
- Suspension the Alternative Minimum Tax for one-year




FY09 Appropriations Update

Completing a stimulus bill has consumed Congress’s attention the past several weeks, delaying the wrap-up of FY09 appropriations. Given the lack of attention to finishing last year’s appropriations it is increasingly probable that Congress will extend the current CR until September 30th, holding the majority of federal programs to their FY08 spending levels. However, appropriators have largely reached agreement on the details of the remaining FY09 appropriations bills and are hopeful of wrapping them into one omnibus spending measure and passing it within the next several weeks.

The Obama administration is expected to lay out an abbreviated fiscal 2010 budget request in late February or early March with details being provided sometime in April. Introduction of the President’s budget may derail the potential of completing FY09 appropriations this year.



	<p>MARK YOUR CALENDARS</p> <p>March 8-11 – NCSHPO Annual Meeting/Advocacy Day, Washington D.C.</p>
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