

News!

MARCH 20, 2009

VOL. III No. 11

...and House of
 Congress assembled.
 The Congress finds and declares-
 (a) that the spirit and direction of the Nation are
 founded upon and reflected in its historic past.

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS DEAR COLLEAGUES UPDATE

As of Friday afternoon there are a total of 22 co-signers on the Historic Preservation Programs funding letter. Please continue to contact your congressional offices over the next week and a half and ask that they co-sign the letter. The deadline is **THURSDAY, APRIL 2nd**. We have a long way to go to exceed last year's total of 74 co-signers! The attached table details the latest list.

**UPDATE ON PUBLIC LANDS/
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE OMNIBUS**

On Thursday the Senate passed the omnibus public lands package (S.22) as an amendment to the Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Battlefields bill (H.R.146). Next week the House is expected to vote on a motion to agree with the Senate changes. Passing the omnibus public lands/national park service package has been a challenge to both House and Senate leadership. Of greatest controversy in the package is the codification of the National Landscape Conservation System. S.22 contains 161 individual measures including permanent authorization of the Save Americas Treasures and Preserve America. It also would designate three new national parks, several national trails, more than 1,000 miles of wild and scenic rivers, 2.2 million acres of wilderness, and 10 national heritage areas.

**COMPLETE STREETS LEGISLATION
INTRODUCED**

U.S. Representative Doris Matsui (D-CA) and U.S. Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) introduced the Complete Streets Act of 2009, H.R.1443 and S.584, respectively. The Complete Streets Act would direct State and metropolitan transportation authority's to adopt and implement complete streets policies for upcoming federally-funded transportation projects. These policies would promote the design of streets that would increase safety and efficiency for motorists, public transportation, pedestrians, bicyclists and people with disabilities.

**HOUSE NPS SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING**

On Tuesday, March 24 the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands will receive and hear testimony on H.R.1078. This bill, introduced by Rep. Arcuri (D-NY), would establish the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park in Auburn, New York, and the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park in three Maryland counties. It would authorize \$11 million in grants to restore and rehabilitate resources within the Auburn park boundaries and for maintenance and the creation of interpretive exhibits. It also authorizes another \$11 million for grants to the State of Maryland to purchase land or land easements within HT Underground Railroad National Park's boundaries and for the construction of a Visitors Center.

