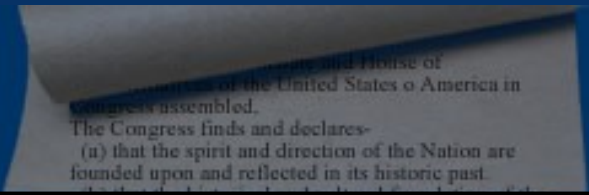


News!

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HOUSE DEAR COLLEAGUE RESULTS

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS DEAR COLLEAGUE RESULTS

Congratulations and a sincere thank you for your efforts to secure co-signers on the FY10 House historic preservation programs funding letter. The results are in and this year there was a record number of 86 co-signers, 12 more than last year! Signing onto this year's letter for the first time is the Chairman of the House Natural Resources committee, Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV). Other notable co-signers include Chairman of the House National Parks Subcommittee, Rep. Raul Grijalva, Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Henry Waxman, Chairman of the Financial Services Committee, Barney Frank, and Ranking Member of the Financial Services committee, Spencer Bachus. There were also a total of 12 members of the House National Parks Subcommittee that signed.

A final copy of the signed letter is attached. (There was a mistake in collecting Rep. Lumis's signature but she will also be added.)

FY10 BUDGET UPDATE

Last week the Senate approved their version of a \$3.53 trillion FY10 budget resolution and the House adopted their \$3.55 trillion version. The two biggest issues for the chambers to resolve in conference are whether to use the filibuster-proof reconciliation process to move an overhaul of health care policy and

how much funding should be dedicated to writing the 12 annual appropriations bills.

The budget resolution is non-binding, but it does set the parameters for considering tax and spending bills later in the year. The House plan would provide \$1.089 trillion in discretionary spending, which is about \$8 billion more than the Senate proposed and \$7 billion less than the president requested. While this difference is small compared with the overall level of funding, it could prove to be a sticking point as leaders of the Appropriations panels fight for every dime. The House and Senate Budget committee staff are working during the next two weeks to come up with a final budget deal to bring to the floor after Congress returns the week of April 20th.

We are hearing that President Obama may release his complete FY10 budget late April or early May. At this point the funding levels he will propose for the historic preservation programs are unknown.

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CONSERVATION TAX BILL INTRODUCED

On March 31st, Reps. Mike Thompson (D-CA) and Eric Cantor (R-VA) introduced the Conservation Easement Assessment Act, H.R.1831. This bill makes permanent an expiring incentive that allows modest-income landowners to receive tax deductions for donating conservation easements that permanently protect important natural or historic resources on their lands. The enhanced tax incentive allows working family ranchers and farmers, to deduct up to 100% of their income for as many as 16 years. First passed in 2006 and extended in the 2008 Farm Bill, this incentive is set to expire on December 31, 2009. Congressmen Thompson and Cantor anticipate that their bill will help more families afford to conserve their land.

The bill enjoys broad support from a national coalition of farmers, ranchers, conservationists, outdoor recreation and sportsmen's groups, historic preservation organizations, including NCSHPO and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and government officials. The bill was introduced with 93 original co-sponsors and was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee.



CONGRESS RECESSES FOR TWO WEEKS – IN-DISTRICT OPPORTUNITY

On Friday, April 3rd Congresses recessed until April 20th for their two week spring district work period.

If you were unable to participate in this year's Washington DC Advocacy Day we encourage you to use these two weeks to schedule in-district meetings. Planning for in-district advocacy activities can take very little time and congressional outreach is especially important this year. For more details on planning in-district meetings please visit Preservation Action's website at www.preservationaction.org



MARK YOUR CALENDARS



UPCOMING EVENTS

July 8-11, 2009 – NCSHPO Summer Board Meeting, Big Bend, Texas