

*News!*

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**APPROPRIATIONS UPDATE**

*Transportation and Housing*

On Thursday the Senate passed the Transportation and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill by a vote of 73 to 25. Amendments to strip funding for museums and allowing states to opt out of the Transportation Enhancements program failed. However, these amendments may indicate future attempts to weaken or eliminate the Transportation Enhancements Program during the reauthorization process. The current legislation expires September 30<sup>th</sup>. The Senate and Administration are pursuing an 18<sup>th</sup> month extension of the current law and this week the House announced support for a 3 month extension.

*Interior and Environment*

Late Thursday, the Senate began consideration of the FY10 Interior and Environment Appropriations Bill. Consideration is expected to resume Monday afternoon. Senator Feinstein (D-CA), Chairperson of the Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, indicated she expects to see similar amendments to what was offered in the House, including attempts to strip funding for earmarks such as individual Save Americas Treasures Grants (all of which failed in the House). Proposed SHPO funding in the Senate bill is \$46.5 million, the same amount provided in the House passed Interior bill and Administration's Request.

**H.R. 3534 THE CLEAR ACT**

Late last week the House Natural Resources Chairman, Rep. Rahall (D-WV) introduced H.R.3534, the Consolidated Land, Energy, and Aquatic Resources Act of 2009 (CLEAR ACT). This bill would make significant changes to cur-

rent law to create greater efficiencies, transparency, and accountability in the development of federal energy resources, with heavy emphasis on offshore and onshore oil and gas drilling and mining. Title IV of the bill would provide full and guaranteed funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund and create a new Oceans Trust Fund, also using oil and gas leasing revenues. Unfortunately, the bill does not include full and guaranteed HPF funding. (For more info on H.R.3534 visit <http://resourcescommittee.house.gov/> )

On Wednesday and Thursday the House Natural Resources Committee held two days of hearings. While no Congressional member asked about the absence of the HPF, Secretary Salazar mentioned the need for greater historic preservation funding and that historic sites need to be preserved. NCSHPO and our preservation partners are developing a grassroots campaign to incorporate full and permanent HPF funding in the bill. We are also working with the Administration to shape and include permanent HPF funding in the historic and cultural component of Secretary Salazar's Treasured Landscape Initiative.

**A sincere Thank You to all S(D)HPOs who reached out, and continue to reach out, to your members on the House Natural Resources Committee and for the great feedback you've provided!**



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## CHESAPEAKE GATEWAYS AUTHORIZATION

On September 10<sup>th</sup>, the H.R. 965 sailed through the House, approving permanent authorization for the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Program and eliminating the \$3 million cap on its annual budget. The Senate passed companion legislation in June and will now conference with the House. The Chesapeake Bay Gateways Program supports citizen involvement and education, critical factors in preserving the Bay, which has seen dramatic decline in water quality and aquatic life due in part to extensive development along its shores. The bill's sponsor, John Sarbanes (D-Md) is the son of former Senator Paul Sarbanes (D-Md), who sponsored the original bill, signed into law by President G.W. Bush, in 1998.



## NEW THPO

On September 9<sup>th</sup> the NPS formally approved the Tohono O'odham Nation as the 84<sup>th</sup> Tribal Historic Preservation Office. Historically, the O'odham inhabited an enormous area of land in the southwest, extending South to Sonora, Mexico, north to Central Arizona (just north of Phoenix, Arizona), west to the Gulf of California, and east to the San Pedro River.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- October 13-17, 2009 – National Preservation Conference, Nashville, TN
- October 14-15, 2009 – NCSHPO Meeting and Strategic Planning, Nashville, TN
- March 1-5, 2010 – NCSHPO annual meeting and Advocacy Day