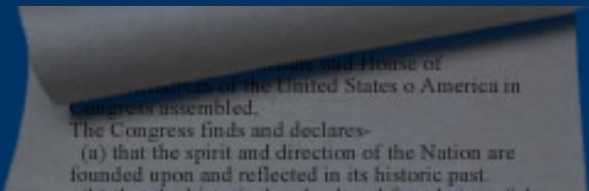


News!

MARCH 12, 2010

VOL IV, NUMBER 9



FY11 DEAR COLLEAGUE LETTER

NCSHPO is again coordinating the FY11 Dear Colleague funding letter which asks that in FY11 Congress fund SHPOs at \$55 million (including \$5 million for a survey/records digitization program), THPOs at \$12 million, SAT at \$25 million and PA at \$4.6 million. So far there are only 38 co-signers - a far cry from the 86 members who signed on last year! Please contact your member of Congress and ask that they sign. The deadline is this **Monday, March 15th**. The current list of co-signers and the FY11 letter is attached.



SENATE HEARING ON BUDGET WITH SECRETARY SALAZAR

On Tuesday, Secretary Salazar testified before the Senate Interior appropriations subcommittee chaired by Congresswoman Diane Feinstein (D-CA). Senator Feinstein had strong opinions on the proposed budget and said that she may not be willing to go along with the proposed major increases in spending for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Feinstein stated "Each of these is an important priority, we understand that. My concern is in order to pay for these the administration is proposing cuts elsewhere that may well be untenable."

Among the reductions she worried about were \$164 million in construction costs at the Park Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Reductions to the HPF were not mentioned. She also worried about unfunded fixed costs of \$108 million that Interior Department agencies would be forced to absorb.

Ranking subcommittee Republican Lamar Alexander (Tenn.) had a different LWCF concern. He wondered why the federal side of LWCF would receive \$384 million and the state side only \$50 million, given that the law treats them roughly as equivalents. In a separate budget hearing on March 3, the ranking Republican on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) criticized the Obama administration for proposing an \$106 million increase for the program in its fiscal year 2011 budget request. "Rather than increasing LWCF in order to obtain more federal property we ought to focus more on the lands we currently have in our possession," she told Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar. "We need to ask the question, how we can afford to obtain more lands when we can't maintain the lands that we currently have entrusted in the department?"

To Murkowski's criticisms Salazar said the LWCF funding is a crucial part of an administration initiative to protect Treasured Landscapes around the country. "The fact is we lose about two million acres of land every year to development here in the United States of America," he said. "The fact is we are seeing declines in many of our species. We have sportsmen and anglers

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who are concerned about conservation around the world. Treasured Landscapes is a response to that great need. So the increases in the LWCF tend to be a part of moving that conservation agenda forward.”



TAX EXTENDERS BILL SUPPORTS PRESERVATION

On Wednesday, the Senate passed a nearly \$140 billion tax extenders package that includes extensions of tax credits that complement preservation efforts including the New Markets Tax Credit and expanded federal low and moderate income housing tax credits in the Gulf Opportunity Zone. The tax extenders bill now goes back to the House with the possibility of a conference next week.



HISTORIC SCHOOLS LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

The Rehabilitation of Historic Schools Act of 2010, H.R. 4133/S.2790, introduced by Rep. Eric Cantor (D-VA) and Sen. Jim Web (D-VA), respectively would exempt public school rehabilitation from the tax exempt use exception to the federal rehabilitation tax credit. There have been no major legislative actions taken on the bills.

“Many of our nation’s historic schools are in need of significant repairs,” said Senator Webb. “Rehabilitating schools will drive revitalization in some of our most economically vulnerable neighborhoods, while providing our students access to safe, modern schools.”

“Nearly one-third of our country’s public school buildings were built a half century ago, and this common-sense legislation will allow state and local governments to leverage private capital to upgrade and modernize these facilities in a time of

limited public resources,” Senator Warner said. “This simple change to the 1986 IRS Code supports public education and promotes economic activity and the creation of jobs.”



TWO ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION/LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES BILLS INTRODUCED

On March 2, Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) introduced The Active Community Transportation (ACT) Act of 2010 (H.R 4722). This bill would establish a \$2 billion discretionary grant program at the Department of Transportation to provide competitive funding for communities seeking to create active transportation networks for pedestrians and bicyclists. Selected communities would receive annual grants ranging from \$5 million to \$15 million for three years.

On February 25, Rep. Ed Perlmutter (D-CO) introduced the Livable Communities Act of 2010 (HR 4690). This legislation would authorize a portion of the Sustainable Communities partnership between the Department of Transportation, Department of Housing and Urban Development and U.S. EPA. The bill would establish an Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities at HUD and a competitive Livable Communities grant program, which would be administered by the new office. The Livable Communities grant program funds competitive planning grants to create long-term livability plans and challenge grants to support the implementation of those plans. The 2010 budget included \$150 million for the office and programs authorized by this legislation. The Administration's request for FY 2011 includes an additional \$150 million.

This bill is the House companion to the Senate's Livable Communities Act of 2009 (S. 1619), introduced by Senator Chris Dodd (D-CT) last August. Rep. Perlmutter was joined by 19 of his colleagues in introducing the bill, which was referred to three committees: Financial Services, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Energy and Commerce.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 28-30, 2010 – NCSHPO Summer Board Meeting, Grand Rapids, MI

November 10-13, 2010 – NCSHPO Winter Board Meeting, San Diego, CA