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## ***FEDERAL UPDATE***

### House Energy and Commerce Committee Begins Hearings on Draft Energy and Climate Change Proposal

The House Energy and Commerce Committee began a series of hearing this week on its draft bill, the “American Clean Energy and Security Act.” On Wednesday, the committee’s hearing included four panels with a total of 21 witnesses that represented the Obama Administration, the United States Climate Action Partnership, as well as local officials, think tanks and members of the academic and environment community.

Among the Obama administration’s witnesses was EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson who recounted the positive programs included in the recently-passed stimulus bill that include “restoring formerly polluted properties” and “new programs for energy efficient buildings.” Energy Secretary Steven Chu also referred to positive programs in the Recovery Act that will encourage people to “make homes and buildings energy efficient.” Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood pointed out that the Department of Transportation and HUD have developed a partnership to encourage “livable communities.” LaHood expressed hope that Congress will include the livable community ideas in the upcoming transportation reauthorization bill and borrow ideas from the HUD-DOT partnership and other programs that include transportation alternatives such as “building more affordable housing near transit centers.”

The National Trust is hoping its four-point energy proposal for older and historic buildings and residences will eventually be included in the draft energy bill along with Rep. Peter Welch’s (D-VT) Retrofit for Energy and Environmental Performance (REEP) bill (HR 1778), which includes a 120 percent boost as an incentive for retrofitting the cost of existing homes and buildings on the National Register.

For more details about these proposals see the April 3, 2009 issue of PPWB at [http://www.preservationnation.org/resources/newsletters/public-policy-weekly-bulletin/PPWB\\_04\\_03\\_2009\\_FINAL\\_web.pdf](http://www.preservationnation.org/resources/newsletters/public-policy-weekly-bulletin/PPWB_04_03_2009_FINAL_web.pdf) and on Preservation Nation at <http://www.preservationnation.org/take-action/advocacy-center/legislative-briefs/reep.html>.

### Congressional and Federal Agency News Roundup ... The Week in Review

#### *NPS Stimulus Funding Will Rehab Historic and Cultural Sites and Historically-Black Colleges and Universities*

The National Park Service announced on Wednesday the distribution of \$750 million in nearly 800 projects to stimulate the economy through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Projects will preserve and protect national icons and historic landscapes, improve energy efficiency and renewable energy

include rehab of  
Historic and  
Cultural Sites

use, remediate abandoned mine lands, and provide \$15 million in grants to protect and restore buildings at historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs). Additional funding through the Federal Highway Administration will improve park roads for millions of visitors. Of the six different types of projects being funded, construction projects will help build, rehabilitate, or replace facilities to help preserve natural and cultural resources. A complete list of the approved projects can be viewed at [http://recovery.doi.gov/docs/nps/nps\\_state\\_projects.pdf](http://recovery.doi.gov/docs/nps/nps_state_projects.pdf).

### *Battlefields Bill Gets Second Chance*

Original Bill  
Protecting  
Historic  
Battlefields and  
Used for Omnibus  
Land Package  
Passes House  
Again

On Capitol Hill this week, a bill (HR 146) protecting historic battlefields of American Revolution and the War of 1812 that ultimately became the omnibus public lands legislation and the vehicle for the Save America's Treasures (SAT), Preserve America (PA) and National Landscape Conservation System authorizations, passed the House by voice vote as H.R. 1694. The original bill was used to move the omnibus lands package through the House and had stripped the original battlefield protections in order for the lands package to pass free of any procedural holdups.

HR 1694 will establish an acquisition grant program for battlefields and associated sites and authorizes the Secretary of Interior to provide grants to states or local governments (eligible entities) to pay the federal share of the cost of acquiring fee-simple or lesser interests from willing sellers in such sites. The bill also permits eligible entities to acquire an interest in eligible sites using such grants in partnership with nonprofit organizations but requires the non-federal share to be at least 50% of the total.

### *Inouye Introduces Bill for Special Resource Study*

Inouye Bill Sheds  
Light on Need for  
NPS Special  
Resource Study  
on Japanese  
Internment Sites  
in Hawai'i

The National Trust joined a coalition of organizations in a letter of support to Sen. Daniel Inouye's (D-HI) proposed legislation (S. 871) to conduct a special resource study of World War II Japanese American internment camp sites in Hawai'i. While sites on the mainland have received substantial national attention, the historic significance of the Hawai'i sites — most notably the Honouliuli Gulch site — have only recently been recognized.

In addition, recent studies have underscored the need for a more thorough study by the NPS to determine whether these sites meet the criteria as additions to the National Park System. These studies will also provide the NPS with important baseline information for the proposed special resource study and reduce the cost and time needed to complete the study. In addition, the funding provided in the FY 2009 omnibus appropriations bill could be used to further this initiative as Congress made the Honouliuli Gulch site eligible for land acquisition funding through P.L. 109-441, which provides for the preservation of Japanese-American confinement sites.

***STATE AND LOCAL UPDATE***

Enhancements to Maryland State Rehab Credit Program Fail to Advance

Maryland State Rehab Credit Capped at \$7.7 Million for FY 2010

Legislative efforts re-authorize and enhance Maryland's state rehab tax credit for historic preservation (HB309/SB258) and provide up to \$100 million in credits over a five year period failed to advance. Numerous amendments were made to the Bill in the House Ways and Means Committee before it was sent to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee. In the end, the Budget and Taxation Committee was not able to pass the amended legislation late in the Session. During the 426th General Session, legislators grappled with the fact that the state's revenues were down more than expected — almost a \$500 million shortfall. In the end, a \$13.8 billion State operating budget was passed and legislators continued the tax credit program for historic preservation in its current form with an approved budget of \$7.7 million for FY2010.

To learn more about the campaign to save the Maryland state rehab credit visit <http://www.preservationnation.org/take-action/advocacy-center/action-alerts/maryland-heritage-program.html>.

Iowa Preservationists Celebrate House Passage of Raised Cap for State Historic Rehab Credit

Iowa Rehab Credit Cap More Than Doubled in House Vote

Friends of Main Street Iowa reported this week that the House voted 86 to 3 to raise the cap on historic tax credits from \$20 million to \$50 million. The Senate had previously approved raising the cap. To learn more about this campaign visit <http://www.preservationnation.org/take-action/advocacy-center/action-alerts/iowa-credits.html>.

Missouri State Parks and Historic Sites in Serious Jeopardy

Missouri Preservationists Look to House Resolution and Stimulus Funds to Save State Parks from Funding Jeopardy

The National Trust is galvanizing its members and preservation advocates in Missouri and asking them to contact legislators in support of funding for state parks. Missouri is widely recognized as having one of the finest systems of state parks and historic sites in the nation, attracting 16 million visitors a year. However, the future of state parks and the historic sites contained within are in serious jeopardy unless they receive a major infusion of capital improvement funds to maintain and upgrade aging facilities. The system currently has a backlog of more than \$175 million for such projects as the state is battling the current economic downturn.

Currently, there are several options for dealing with the capital improvement needs of state parks and historic sites in the current session of Missouri General Assembly. One is securing an amendment in the state senate to add

\$75 million and include parks in House Joint Resolution 32 (HJR 32), which would establish a \$700 million Fifth State Building Bond and Interest Fund for buildings at institutions of higher education. Another option is to include funding for state parks in any appropriation from Missouri's share of federal stimulus or stabilization funds.

The Trust is urging Missouri preservation advocates to contact their senators and representatives and ask them to support "Ten Percent for State Parks" in any capital improvements bond issue for state facilities (including HJR 32) or any appropriation for capital improvements from federal stimulus or stabilization funds.

