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House  
Subcommittee  
Markup Provides  
Increase for State  
Historic  
Preservation  
Offices

***FEDERAL UPDATE***

House Appropriators Set Benchmark Funding for Historic Preservation Programs in FY'09

The House Subcommittee on Interior and the Environment marked up the FY'09 Interior Appropriations Bill (HR 2643) on Wednesday to set benchmark funding levels for the national preservation program. Preliminary numbers out of the subcommittee's markup indicate that the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) will receive a major increase (+ \$5.624 million) for the State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs) over FY'08 enacted levels. Otherwise, Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs) and the Save America's Treasures (SAT) program were slightly above level funding in FY'08, but Preserve America (PA) was down (-\$2.383 million) significantly. Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and funding for a national inventory of historic properties were unfortunately zeroed out. The full Appropriations committee markup is scheduled for June 18th. Below is a summary of yesterday's markup levels compared to previous years' funding levels and the Administration's proposed FY'09 budget.

Historic Preservation Fund FY'06-FY'09 Funding Levels (\$ in millions)					
HPF Program	<i>FY06 Enacted Level</i>	<i>FY07 Enacted/ Level</i>	<i>FY'08 Enacted Levels</i>	<i>FY'09 Proposed Budget</i>	<i>FY'09 House Subcte. Markup Level</i>
States	\$35.717	\$36.007	\$39.376	\$35.717	\$45.0
Tribes	\$3.941	\$3.981	\$6.399	\$3.941	\$7.0
SAT	\$29.558	\$7.69	\$24.61	\$15.0	\$25.0
HBCUs	\$2.956	\$2.985	--	--	--
Preserve America	\$5.0	\$5.0	\$7.383	\$10	\$5.0
National Inventory of Historic Properties	--	--	--	\$2.0	--
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$72.172</b>	<b>\$55.663</b>	<b>\$70.385</b>	<b>\$66.658</b>	<b>\$82.0</b>

While the Subcommittee's mark is to be lauded for increasing the states' share of the HPF, it is still significantly less than the \$115 million requested by the National Trust and its preservation partners for the Historic Preservation Fund in FY'09, including: \$50 million for State Historic Preservation Offices; \$20 million for Tribal Historic Preservation Offices; \$30 million for Save America's Treasures; \$10 million for the Preserve America Program; and \$5 million for a National Inventory of Historic Properties.

Preservationists hope that they can improve on the House funding levels as the

PA and SAT  
Program  
Authorization  
Moves Forward in  
the House with  
Amendments on  
Funding Caps,  
Sunset Provisions  
and Prohibition  
on Using Funding  
for National  
Heritage Areas

Interior spending bill moves through the appropriations cycle.

Preserve America and Save America's Treasures Authorization Bill Approved by House Natural Resources Committee

The House Natural Resources Committee marked up and approved with amendments a bill (H.R. 3981) authorizing the Preserve America (PA) and Save America's Treasures (SAT) programs on June 11<sup>th</sup>. The three amendments, approved by voice vote, included:

- A substitute amendment from Natural Resources National Parks, Forests and Public Lands Subcommittee Chairman Raul Grijalva (D-AZ), which made technical changes and brought the bill in line with language approved by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee in the Senate companion bill (S. 2262), capping the authorization for PA at \$25 million and SAT at \$50 million annually.
- An amendment from Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT) which set the authorizations from FY09-FY13. Bishop said allowing the authorizations to expire would help Congress maintain proper oversight.
- A second amendment from Rep. Bishop prohibited any funds in the bill from being used to create a or study a National Heritage Area, the multi-state areas of conservation and historic preservation that many Republicans from western states have derided as improper land grabs by the federal government.

In previous testimony before Congress the National Trust has emphasized and highlighted the synergy between the PA and SAT programs in saving historic and cultural resources, but also noted that even with all of the tremendous success and support for these programs they remain unauthorized and are tenuously funded from year-to-year through the annual appropriations process.

To learn more about the Trust's position on authorization for these programs, please read the [testimony](#) provided to Congress in April of this year.

Amtrak Reauthorization Bill Includes Study of Rail Exemptions from Federal Preservation laws

Section 106 and  
4(f) Protections  
Considered Safe  
for Now but Issue  
Will Resurface in  
Next Year's  
Surface  
Transportation

On Wednesday, the House passed the Amtrak reauthorization bill (H.R. 6003) with an amendment directing a study to streamline federal historic preservation processes for federally-funded railroad projects. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee chairman James Oberstar (D-MN), who opposes any exemption from historic preservation reviews, proposed the study after Rep. Bill Schuster (R-PA) tried unsuccessfully to amend the bill with an exemption from Section 4(f) for railway facilities nationwide. The

### Reauthorization Bill

Railroads Subcommittee directed preservationists and the rail industry to seek compromise, if possible, on language that would deal with perceived problems with rail corridors in Alaska and North Carolina; however, neither side could agree on a proposal. The National Trust, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO), the Department of Interior, and rail industry representatives will collaborate on the study.

This is a victory for preservationists, but the issue is expected to arise again with the advent of a new surface transportation reauthorization bill next year.

### ***STATE AND LOCAL UPDATE***

#### New Technical Assistance and Grants to Encourage Community Centered Schools

### New Grant Program Will Provide Opportunity for Up to Five States to Analyze Policies and Encourage Community- Centered Schools

The National Trust Center for State and Local Policy is offering a new grant and technical assistance to encourage community-centered schools. Concerned about the abandonment of older neighborhood schools and the siting of new schools outside of communities, the National Trust is offering an opportunity for organizations and coalitions in up to five states to analyze their state's current policies and develop an educational outreach program with policy recommendations to help citizens and officials make informed choices when spending their limited dollars on school facilities.

Selected organizations will receive a year of technical assistance and a \$6,000 grant to:

1) research state policies and practices; 2) convene a policy summit to develop recommendations; 3) develop educational materials; and 4) hold a press event to announce policy findings. By participating in this program, organizations will secure community-centered schools for their state through the implementation of state-level policies. **The proposal deadline is July 14, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. eastern.**

Through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and with support from the Jessie Ball duPont Fund, the National Trust launched the Helping Johnny Walk to School: Sustaining Communities through Smart School Siting Policies program to help localities site their schools in a way that not only achieves their educational objectives, but also anchors the local neighborhood, supports better public health, creates a cleaner environment, spurs economic development, and offers additional amenities to the community.

For more information or contact Renee Viers Kuhlman, Director of Special Projects, Center for State and Local Policy, at Phone: 202-588-6234, e-mail:

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[renee\\_kuhlman@nthp.org](mailto:renee_kuhlman@nthp.org), or visit the [National Trust's website](#) for more details about applying for this new grant opportunity.

