

In this issue ...

Historic
Preservation
Fund (HPF) and
Interior Bill
Likely to End Up
in Year-End CR
for FY'09
Appropriations
Cycle

Rehab Tax Credit
Amendments
Caught in Senate
Snafu Over
Energy-Related
Amendments
Included in
Senate Housing
Package

FEDERAL UPDATE

Committee Blow Up May Delay FY'09 Appropriations Cycle and Preservation Funding Decisions

A major flare-up in full Appropriations Committee markup on Thursday between chairman David Obey (D-WI) and Rep. Jerry Lewis (R-CA) over an energy amendment may have scuttled the appropriations process for the remainder of the year and delayed funding decisions for the national preservation program.

Rep. Lewis attempted to bring up the Interior Bill for the purpose of pushing his OCS drilling amendment instead of the Labor-HHS spending bill as scheduled during the markup, which resulted in chairman Obey promptly adjourning the committee proceedings and declaring "we've probably had our last meeting of the year and this will go on to a continuing resolution (CR)." While it is possible that tempers may cool over the July 4th recess and the markups might resume next month, it is more likely that members will take the path of least resistance and go the CR route. The Interior Bill, which governs historic preservation program spending, is the most contentious of the appropriations bill this season because of the off-shore drilling controversies that have sprung up in the wake of rocketing oil prices.

The National Trust and its partners are continuing to lobby for major funding increases for the national preservation program. The House Subcommittee on Interior and the Environment recently approved \$82 million for the Historic Preservation Fund to date. For more details, please visit http://www.preservationnation.org/resources/newsletters/public-policy-weekly-bulletin/PPWB_06-13-08_FINAL_web.pdf.

Housing Relief Bill Stalled in Senate Until After July 4th Recess

A housing relief package (HR 3221) that contains amendments to the federal historic rehabilitation tax credit has stalled in the Senate over a dispute over an amendment offered by Sen. John Ensign R-NV) that would extend a series of energy-related tax provisions. Ensign is pushing to offer the energy provision and said he was willing to use all the procedural tools at his disposal to try to force a vote on the addition, which has postponed floor action on the bill until after the July 4th recess.

In the interim, Sens. Blanche Lincoln (D-AR) and Gordon Smith (R-OR) — the sponsors of the "Community Restoration and Revitalization Act of 2007" (S. 584) — have filed the rehab tax amendments that were included in the House version of the housing relief bill, including one that tweaks the non-profit leaseback provision by extending the allowance lease period from 20 to 31.5 years. This would provide developers with an additional incentive to rehabilitate historic buildings in non-profit or governmental ownership.

To review the rehab tax credit amendments approved in the House, please

visit <http://www.preservationnation.org/take-action/advocacy-center/legislative-briefs/federal-rehab-tax-credit.html>.

Midwest Flood Disaster Assistance May Be Included Second Supplemental Spending Bill

Disaster Assistance Funding for Historic Properties Affected by Midwest Floods May Come Later in Session

The National Trust and its preservation partners have been laying the groundwork for a possible disaster assistance package for the affected flood states in the Midwest — Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri and Indiana — to address the damage to historic properties in these states. Preliminary meetings between Iowa preservationists with Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA), the chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, revealed that there is little chance for including flood disaster assistance in the current war supplemental bill pending before Congress, but there might be an opportunity for a second supplemental/disaster assistance bill to aid historic properties located along the Mississippi River later this session.

At this point, regional and local officials and preservationists are taking the lead in identifying the historic properties that may need assistance and calculating damage assessments in advance of assembling a request for disaster assistance funding for a second supplemental bill.

Conservation System Permanence Bill Included in Senate Omnibus Lands Package

OCS and Off-Shore Drilling Concerns Collide with Potential Antiquities Act Proclamations and Passage of Bill Authorizing Conservation System Lands Funding Included in Omnibus Lands Package

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources has completed its work on an omnibus public lands package that totals 93 bills, including S. 1139, a bill that would permanently authorize the National Landscape Conservation System. The National Trust has been actively supporting this bill as part of an effort to address the lack of funding provided to the Conservation System, which was listed on the Trust's Eleven Most Endangered Historic Sites List. The 26-million-acre system, which contains significant historic and cultural resources, is under threat from vandalism, overuse from off-highway vehicles (OHVs) and inappropriate mining and drilling activities.

The omnibus lands package is expected to be introduced shortly, but scheduling the bill for floor consideration has become problematic given the crowded Senate schedule for July and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid's (D-NV) insistence that the lands package won't see floor action until September. An additional storm cloud for the omnibus involves an amendment that Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-LA) plans to offer to any moving legislative vehicle (including the omnibus package) that would exempt the Louisiana coastline from some expected proclamations from the Administration under the Antiquities Act of 1906 that would create three additional "ocean monuments" later this year. The Landrieu amendment may draw fire from opponents of off-shore drilling and conservation-minded Senators, as well as trip up the omnibus package if it should become the legislative vehicle for the Antiquities exemption.

The House has passed its version of the Conservation System permanence bill (HR 2016) with amendments. For further information and details, please visit <http://www.preservationnation.org/take-action/advocacy-center/legislative-briefs/conservation-system.html>.

Carroon Testifies on Importance of Utilizing Existing Buildings in Sustainability Efforts for U.S. Capitol Complex

Preservation Architect and National Trust Sustainability Coalition member Jean Carroon, FAIA, delivered testimony on behalf of the National Trust at a June 18th hearing of the Senate Rules Committee, "Increasing the Use of Renewable Sources of Energy and Reducing the Carbon Footprint of the Capitol Complex." Carroon discussed the inherent advantages of reusing existing buildings, as "the carbon required to create a building ... has already been expended." She explained that there are many steps that can be taken to improve energy performance and reduce other environmental impacts associated with existing buildings.

In her remarks, Carroon noted that our ability to reduce the carbon footprint of our existing buildings "resides in the renewal of knowledge that comes from past generations and the incredible benefits that are coming from new technologies, new awareness, and new energy-conserving devices that are part of our building systems." She commended the Senate for steps it has already taken to green the Capitol Campus, and offered some specific recommendations about how to further improve performance.

To read the complete text of Ms. Carroon's statement please visit the Senate Rules Committee website at <http://rules.senate.gov/hearings/2008/0618carroon.pdf>.

STATE AND LOCAL UPDATE

Pennsylvania Advocates Press for Rehab Grant Incentives

The National Trust and preservation advocates in Pennsylvania are pressing their state legislators and the governor to pass HB 221, a bill that would provide grant incentives to buyers and sellers of historic homes, homes in historic neighborhoods, or commercial properties in downtown areas throughout Pennsylvania when they are rehabilitated for reuse. Advocates are being urged to contact their senators and representatives, as well as Governor Ed Rendell (D), to express their support for the bill which provides \$5 million in grants for rehabbing residential properties and \$10 million for commercial projects. Maximum project grants would be \$15,000 for residential and \$500,000 for commercial properties. In addition, advocates are encouraging a line item in the Governor's budget to implement funding for HR 221's

Advocates Urge
Legislators and
Governors to
Approve \$15
Million Grant
Incentives for
Historic
Commercial and
Residential
Properties

preservation incentives.

To learn more about this bill or participate in this campaign, visit <http://www.preservationnation.org/take-action/advocacy-center/action-alerts/help-pass-historic.html>.

