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FEDERAL UPDATE

Interior Conference Report Passes House and Senate with Historic Preservation Funding

The Interior Appropriations Bill (HR 2996) conference report (H. Rept. 111-316), which settled final funding levels for historic preservation for FY 2010, passed the House and Senate on Thursday. The conference report also included a second continuing resolution (CR) to keep the government running through December 18th.

Regarding historic preservation funding, the conference agreement provides \$79.5 million for the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) instead of \$90.675 million as proposed by the House and \$74.5 million proposed by the Senate. The conference agreement splits the difference between the House (\$30 million) and Senate (\$20 million) funding for Save America's Treasures (SAT) and provides \$25 million for the program — a \$5 million increase over last year's amount. SAT funding includes \$14.8 million for competitive grants and \$10.2 million for earmarked projects. The conferees also agreed to fund State and Tribe Preservation Offices at \$46.5 and \$8 million, respectively, but split the difference between the House (\$6.175 million) and Senate (\$3.175) funding levels for Preserve America (PA), providing \$4.6 million for PA through the Interior Department's National Recreation and Preservation account.

Other conference items worth noting include:

- Forest Service - Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness. The conference agreement provides an increase of \$5 million to assist priority recreation operations, which includes heritage resources and keeps the report language from the Senate report urging lawmakers to comply with the National Historic Preservation Act, and to detail accomplishments and expenditures on heritage resources for FY2009 and FY2010 by September 30, 2010.
- Japanese Internment Camp Sites. Conferees provided \$350,000 for land acquisition and \$3 million for the Japanese-American Confinement Site Grants Program.
- BLM Cultural Resources Management. The conference agreement includes \$500,000 above the request for cultural resource activities in wilderness lands as authorized by the Omnibus Public Lands Act of 2009. The Senate had recommended \$1 million for this activity.
- Climate Change Adaptation. The conference report provides \$55 million for mitigation efforts for climate change affecting the national parks.
- National Foundation for the Arts and Humanities. The conference report provides \$335 million, \$12.4 million above the request and \$25

million above 2009 to support projects of excellence and foster greater access to our nation's cultural heritage, including \$167.5 million for the National Endowment for the Arts and \$167.5 million for the National Endowment for the Humanities. Many historic sites are also museums and receive NEA funding and grants.

Senate Committee Hears Testimony on Impact of Climate Change on National Parks and Historic Sites

Park Service
Director Jarvis
Outlines Plans for
Inventory and Risk
Assessment of
Priority Cultural
Sites at Risk for
Climate Change

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held a hearing on mitigating the effects of climate change in the national parks on October 28th. Senator Mark Udall (D-OH) questioned the recently-confirmed National Park Service director Jon Jarvis about how the agency was responding to climate change challenges and their affect on cultural resources contained within park boundaries. Jarvis stated that coastal issues were his biggest concern and priority at this point and cited examples of cultural sites on the big island of Hawaii that are very important to Native Hawaiians that will be lost if rising sea levels go unchecked. Jarvis also said the NPS needs to prioritize an inventory of what resources are at risk so they can document and collect information on the threats to these sites, which may require triage responses at certain sites. Jarvis also said NPS is working with the U.S. Geological Survey to do a detailed mapping of sites that could be impacted by sea-level rise and storm surge, and then mapping what regions would be impacted first.

Jarvis' written testimony also makes reference to mitigation strategies for climate change that include adaptive "green reuse" of historic structures. The House Interior Appropriations bill (HR 2996) conference report provides \$55 million for such mitigation efforts in the national parks.

To read the complete text of director Jarvis's and other witnesses' testimony from the hearing, please visit http://energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Hearings.Hearing&Hearing_ID=5a2ad7e2-0fd3-4ea2-1028-d22bfb502e87.

STATE AND LOCAL UPDATE

... Around the States

Public Question #1
Would Provide \$12
Million for Historic
Preservation
Projects Statewide

New Jersey Ballot Initiative Could Provide Significant Funding for Historic Preservation Projects

New Jersey voters will decide on a ballot initiative next week that could inject millions of dollars into historic preservation projects across the state if it passes on November 3rd.

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Public Question #1 would continue three vital New Jersey programs for another two years — the New Jersey Historic Trust, the Farmland Preservation Program, and Green Acres — and provide funding for historic preservation projects as well as the acquisition and preservation of farmland and open space. If enacted, Public Question #1 will provide \$400 million for these programs, with \$12 million going directly to support historic preservation projects statewide to invest in communities by reusing and recycling historic buildings, saving the environment, creating construction jobs, and helping to develop tourism destinations that can boost economic development.

Ohio Preservationists Advocate for Income Tax Check-Off Program for Historic Preservation

Income Tax Check
Off Provision Could
Provide Revenue to
Support Local
Preservation
Projects through
Matching Grants

The National Trust is working with Ohio preservationists in asking them to contact their state legislators in support of two bills (HR 75, SB 60) that would enact an income tax check-off program for the Ohio Historical Society. The revenue from the check-off provision would be used to establish a matching grants program for local history-related organizations could raise hundreds of thousands of dollars annually to address the need to support local preservation projects. Because the revenue is generated from individual taxpayer refunds, there would be minimal additional costs to the state for the proposed program. If enacted, House Bill 75 and Senate Bill 60 could help efforts such as the rehabilitation of older buildings, archival projects, archaeological digs, educational programs, and other history-related efforts all across Ohio.

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