The Washington Report

July-August 2011

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THE WASHINGTON REPORT
JULY-AUGUST 2011

CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULE

Both the House of Representatives and Senate began August recess conducting pro-forma sessions with no votes expected until they return to Washington on September 6 after Labor Day. Such Senate action prevents President Obama from making any recess appointments.

On August 2, Congress enacted and the President signed the Budget Control Act to raise the debt ceiling and cut government spending, ending a bitter partisan stalemate that had threatened to plunge the nation into default and downgrade credit ratings for many local and state governments. On August 4, congressional leaders announced a compromise to approve a short-term extension until September 16 for the Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization restoring 4,000 agency workers who were on furlough and 70,000 people in construction related jobs that were out of work.

Chairmen of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees are recalculating their budget targets for each of the 12 subcommittees based on the spending parameters included in the debt ceiling/deficit reduction package. With limited legislative days before October 1, the beginning of FY 2012, multiple continuing resolutions and an omnibus bill are likely.

Congressional leaders also are focused on efforts to boost employment and stabilize the economy. The Senate will consider three pending free-trade agreements with South Korea, Columbia and Panama, Trade Adjustment Assistance to help workers who lose their jobs due to foreign competition, infrastructure bank legislation and the House passed patent reform bill when they return. The House legislative schedule has not been announced.

For more information, please contact Debra Bryant at dbryant@tfgnet.com.

BUDGET, APPROPRIATIONS & FISCAL POLICY

Debt Ceiling/Deficit Reduction Raised and Budget Parameters Put Into Place

The Budget Control Act was reached by including significant cuts in spending levels over the next decade. On August 1, the House of Representatives voted 269-161 in support of the legislation, with 95 Democrats and 66 Republicans opposing the bill. On August 2, the Senate voted 74-26 in support of the bill, with 6 Democrats and 19 Republicans opposing the measure. The President signed the bill on August 2 and submitted the necessary documentation to avert a default.

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Details of the agreement include an immediate increase in borrowing limits for federal obligations of $900 billion, with additional increases in borrowing authority of between $1.2 and $1.5 trillion, as requested by the President that would last until after the 2012 election cycle. The Congress could block the second debt limit increase with a 2/3 vote in both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

The deal also requires a mandatory reduction in federal spending levels of at least $1.2 trillion, and if this level of cuts is not enacted, a "sequestration budget" process would be triggered to cut the difference in spending. The deal calls for a joint, bipartisan congressional committee, some are calling the super-committee, to be named in two weeks and be tasked with finding $1.8 trillion in savings that can include changes to entitlement programs and revenue increases over the next nine years that would be recommended to Congress and voted on without further amendment. Finally, as part of the deal, Congress would be required to vote on a joint resolution proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution no sooner than October 1, but before end of this year. Only a vote on the balanced budget amendment is required; passage is not.

On August 4, TFG distributed a Client Alert that provides greater detail of the Budget Control Act. A copy of this alert may also be found at our website at www.fergusongroup.us.

For more information, please contact Mark Limbaugh at mlimbaugh@tfgnet.com.

FY 2012 Appropriations Process

The FY 2012 appropriations process was put on hold as Congress and the Administration worked to resolve the debt ceiling/deficit reduction crisis. Because the debt ceiling/deficit reduction package projects spending cuts over a ten year period, and requires immediate cuts, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees must reevaluate spending targets for FY 2012. In effect, this legislation serves as a two year budget resolution for FY 2012 and FY 2013. It also establishes a firewall between security and non-security funding with savings targets from both.

To date, the House of Representatives has approved its FY 2012 Agriculture, Defense, Energy and Water, Homeland Security, Legislative Branch, and Military/Veterans bills. Appropriations bills for Commerce/Justice/Science and Financial Services have been approved by the Appropriations Committee and are awaiting floor action. The Interior/Environment bill was being considered by the House when action was suspended to consider the debt ceiling/deficit reduction bill. Consideration will continue in September. The House subcommittees have not yet considered Labor/HHS/Education, State Department/Foreign Operations or Transportation/HUD.

The Senate has only voted to approve its FY 2012 Military Construction/Veterans Affairs bill. Some subcommittees may actually see improved spending targets for FY 2012 based on the Budget Control Act and Chairman Daniel Inouye (D-HI) is preparing a markup schedule for September to consider the remaining bills.

For more information, please contact Debra Bryant at dbryant@tfgnet.com.

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HUD to Provide $95 Million for Sustainable Planning Projects

On July 28, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released Notice of Funding Availabilities (NOFAs) for its Sustainable Communities Regional Planning and Community Challenge Planning Grant Programs. These programs support local and regional planning efforts in order to expand housing choices, improve connections between employment centers and homes, and reduce barriers to achieving affordable, economically vital and sustainable communities. All applicants that receive a minimum threshold score in their submissions to either programs will receive Preferred Sustainability Status, which will provide these entities with bonus points on future funding opportunities from HUD, and potentially the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Transportation (DOT) sustainable community programs.

NOFA and application forms for both grants are currently available on www.grants.gov. A press release on both programs is available at HUD. A TFG Client Alert has been distributed and a copy may also be found at our website at www.fergusongroup.us.

For more information, please contact Jon Wisbey at jwisbey@tfgnet.com.

Prepare for 3% Withholding Requirement - IRS Holding Phone Seminar

The effective date of implementation of the local government 3% withholding requirement has been delayed until January 2013, but it is not too soon to prepare. The Internal Revenue Service is conducting a phone seminar in order to provide a brief update on the enactment of required 3% withholding on payments by certain government entities, which will include a question and answer session. The forum will focus on which governments are required to withhold under these rules, what payments are subject to the withholding and procedures for reporting and paying the withheld amounts.

A session will be held on August 18. For more information and to register for the sessions please visit IRS.

Efforts are still underway to repeal this withholding requirement, but these sessions will serve as a valuable opportunity to get up to speed on the requirements should Congress prove unable to enact a full repeal. House legislation, H.R. 674, has 218 cosponsors. The Senate has two slightly different bills, S. 89 and S. 164, and a total of 29 Senators have cosponsored the legislation.

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EDUCATION

Pell Grant Funding

The Budget Control Act approved by Congress does include $17 billion for Pell Grants for FY 2012 and FY 2013, which still puts it several billion dollars short of what will be needed to give everyone who is eligible for the $5,550 per year benefit that helps them pay for college. The funding gap has severely hindered House and Senate Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations Committees which must find annual appropriations to pay for the entitlement. If a student meets eligibility requirements, then the funding must be available. In the economic recession, more students are going to college and meet the eligibility requirements.

With this funding, the Pell Grant shortfall over the next two years would be just under $3 billion if the annual congressional appropriation for FY 2012 and FY 2013 remain stable. By closing most of that gap, the deal makes it easier for appropriators to maintain the maximum award at $5,550 in FY 2012 without slashing other programs. To pay for Pell Grants, the debt ceiling/deficit reduction package will end subsidies for interest on graduate students' loans while they are still in school, and eliminate the interest-rate reduction for on-time loan repayment for all borrowers. Lawmakers have already sacrificed several student-aid benefits to preserve the Pell Grant program. In April, Congress abolished the Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership program, or LEAP, which bolstered states' need-based aid programs, and ended a policy that allowed students to receive two Pell Grants in a single year.

For more information, please contact Debra Bryant at dbryant@tfgnet.com.

Charitable Deductions

So many educational institutions depend on charitable contributions, and while the Budget Control Act did not make any changes in the tax deduction that donors receive for making charitable gifts, there is certainly concern that the newly appointed super-committee will put the tax deduction on the table for consideration. Both the White House and members of Congress are looking at a cap on deductions as a way to reduce the budget deficit. The Bowles-Simpson Commission suggested replacing the charitable deduction with a 12 percent tax credit saying it would be more fair because the credit would apply the same way to all taxpayers. The current charitable deduction applies only to donors who itemize and gives bigger savings to those in higher tax brackets. Many fundraisers say the charitable deduction is a key motivation to persuade affluent donors to give large sums of money.

For more information, please contact Debra Bryant at dbryant@tfgnet.com.

ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Parks and Recreation

The Department of Interior announced $37.4 million from the FY 2011 Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) for grants to establish and renovate parks and open spaces nationwide. This funding is distributed by formula to each state and then awarded by competitive

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grant to the local level. Funds may be used to establish urban parks and community green spaces; to restore and provide public access to rivers, lakes and other water resources; and to conserve natural landscapes, among other things. Grant-assisted areas are to remain available in perpetuity for public outdoor recreation use, or be replaced by lands of equal market value and recreation usefulness. For more information on how to apply for these funds, contact your state department or your TFG client manager can assist you.

Funding for the FY 2012 State Assistance program is in danger. The House Appropriations Committee provided only $2.8 million for LWCF stateside funding compared to $40 million in FY 2010-2011. A floor amendment has been approved to provide $20 million for LWCF. The bill is pending completion of floor action in the House. Senate Appropriators have not determined the FY 2012 funding levels for this program, so your Senators need to hear from you immediately in order to save this funding.

Also under threat is future funding for the Department of Transportation's (DOT) Recreational Trails Program (RTP) and the set aside for Transportation Enhancements (TE), the program that has provided the majority of trail, walking and bicycling funding in the nation. The Surface Transportation Act, currently known as SAFETEA-LU, is due to expire in September. Congressional efforts to reauthorize the law are still developing, but the outlines provided by House and Senate Committee leaders would have a detrimental impact on these programs. The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman John Mica (R-FL) has announced his intention to eliminate the current 10 percent set-aside for TE and would also consolidate dozens of existing programs, including RTP, into about five or six main priority areas. The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Chairman Barbara Boxer (D-CA) has publicly stated continued support for recreational trails, but the Senate proposal would also consolidate dozens of programs and eliminate existing set-asides. Overall, the result of both proposals would be tougher competition for funding between eligible activities such as trails, highways and bridges and for substantially less money.

The No Child Left Inside Act (NCLI) legislation, S. 1372 and H.R. 2547, which would amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) to provide grants to states for the development and implementation of state environmental literacy plans, teacher professional development grants and an Environmental Education Grant Program, has been reintroduced by Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) and Representative John Sarbanes (D-MD). The legislation defines park and recreation agencies as eligible funding partners, but only for the Environmental Education Grant Program. Ideally, local park and recreation agencies should be eligible funding partners in all components of the bill, which would not increase the cost of the bill. Getting NCLI included in the reauthorization of the ESEA, however, will be a heavy lift and having it passed as a stand-alone bill will be a more difficult task since it calls for increased spending.

For more information, please contact Leslie Mozingo at lmozingo@tfgnet.com.

HEALTH CARE

Medicare and Medicaid

The Budget Control Act does not enact any immediate cuts to Medicare or Medicaid due to the strong grassroots lobbying efforts of advocacy groups, hospitals and health care provider

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associations. However, the process established in the debt ceiling/deficit reduction package sets up the super-committee and establishes automatic spending cuts if an agreement on spending cannot be reached by December 2011. Without agreement, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is tasked with trimming Medicare payments to hospitals, doctors and insurance companies.

Any automatic cuts triggered by the stalemate could reduce established payment formulas to hospitals, doctors and other providers, such as nursing homes, with a cut of two percent or less to reimbursement. It could also reduce payments to Medicare Advantage plans and prescription-drug plans under Medicare Part D by two percent or less. The debt ceiling/deficit reduction package also does not address a scheduled 29 percent cut to Medicare doctors' reimbursement payments that are scheduled for January 1, 2013. The package does protect Medicaid by making it exempt from any automatic cuts, if the deficit committee fails to get $1.2 trillion in savings. The debt ceiling/deficit reduction deal also protects one of the few Medicare items Democrats and Republicans can agree on: protecting the program from fraud and abuse.

For more information, please contact Debra Bryant at dbryant@tfgnet.com.

PUBLIC SAFETY and HOMELAND SECURITY

FY 2012 Homeland Security Appropriations

The Ferguson Group has been working with a broad array of stakeholders to reverse cuts that were included in the House of Representatives' FY 2012 Homeland Security Appropriations bill. Proposed funding for state and local governments would be $2 billion less than the FY 2010 and FY 2011 enacted levels. Furthermore, the House proposed to consolidate several programs including UASI, State Homeland Security Grant Program, Metropolitan Medical Response Systems (MMRS), etc. into a single stream of funding and would allow the Homeland Security Secretary to determine which individual programs would receive funding. TFG has been working with a coalition that includes the National League of Cities, National Association of Counties, International City/County Managers Association, National Emergency Managers Association, and others to oppose these cuts. Our advocacy will continue and intensify when Congress returns from the August recess.

For more information, please contact Kareem Murphy at kmurphy@tfgnet.com.

Next Generation 9-1-1 Bill Introduced

Representatives Anna Eshoo (D-CA) and John Shimkus (R-IL) recently introduced legislation, H.R. 2629, to provide grants to local governments for next generation 9-1-1 equipment, services and training, including sensors and alerting devices. If passed and funded, this program will provide $50 million annually in grants to state and local governments to update local equipment and training to ensure reliability and improve emergency response times. These flexible funds will support a wide range of technologies from communications infrastructure to gunshot location systems.

For more information, please contact Amanda Wood at awood@tfgnet.com.

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TRANSPORTATION

FAA Reauthorization Extended

As the issue of raising the federal debt ceiling/deficit reduction swirled around the Capital, the latest extension of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reauthorization legislation was allowed to expire on July 23, thereby shutting down the activities at FAA supported by the Airport and Airway Trust Fund. This included furloughs for more than 4,000 FAA employees and halting major airport construction projects around the country estimated to impact more than 70,000 workers. On August 4, congressional leaders announced an agreement for the Senate to approve H.R. 2553 extending the authority until September 16. Although the House passed bill includes $16 million in cuts to the Essential Air Service (EAS) Program, Department of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood will then use his authority to waive the rural subsidy reductions. This will restore funding from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund and the collection of taxes that supports the Trust Fund.

For more information, please contact Bill Hanka at bhanka@tfgnet.com.

General Aviation Airport Coalition

As the congressional stalemate continued over subsidies to rural airport and certain labor issues, the General Aviation Airport Coalition (GAAC) initiated a robust advocacy campaign urging House and Senate leaders to join forces and deliver a complete reauthorization bill to provide the greatest user benefits possible to general aviation airports. General Aviation (GA) airports, struggling to remain operational in a much-troubled economic climate, have experienced sharp decreases in local fiscal support. Many struggle to simply raise the five-percent local matching funds required to take part in the FAA's Airport Improvement Program (AIP) program. And now, just when money is the tightest in decades, the House bill increases the local cost share to 10 percent, making GA airport participation in AIP programs even less likely. GAAC supports the Senate language to maintain the current AIP 95/5 cost-share, as well as the $8.1 billion in AIP funding included in Senate passed bill, S. 223. These issues must be resolved in the long-term reauthorization bill; they are not addressed in the short-term extension to September 16.

The TFG-managed General Aviation Airport Coalition preserves and promotes general aviation airports across the United States, with a unifying voice to support appropriate legislation and policies. GAAC also helps airports clearly communicate their economic value to all constituents, and provides a forum for GA airport stakeholders to share best practices and materials to help in the day-to-day operations and management of GA airports. To read more about our efforts related to FAA reauthorization and other hot button issues, visit www.gaairportcoalition.org.

For more information, please contact Jennifer Imo at jimo@tfgnet.com.

Transportation Reauthorization Bills Outlines Released

On July 7, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman John Mica (R-FL) released an outline of a bill to reauthorize federal surface transportation programs, currently known as SAFETEA-LU, and also pledged to release the legislative language and to markup the bill in July. However, the transportation bill was another victim of the debt ceiling/deficit

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reduction debate which delayed consideration. The outline of the bill proposes a six year bill containing $230 billion in spending for surface transportation programs, which represents a 19.5% cut from the $286 billion in the SAFETEA-LU legislation. The outline further provides that Chairman Mica would consolidate and eliminate nearly 70 of the existing 100 transportation programs.

On July 21, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Chairman Barbara Boxer (D-CA) held a hearing titled Legislative Issues for the Transportation Reauthorization, where she announced that she would be introducing a two year reauthorization bill (MAP-21) and having a markup on July 27, but no bill and no markup happened due to the debt ceiling/deficit reduction debate. Senator Boxer's bill will be $12 billion above current Highway Trust Fund revenues.

With the debt ceiling/deficit reduction debate now ended, most observers expect a renewed attempt by the House and Senate to re-engage on this issue in September when Congress returns from its August recess. Few expect that a reauthorization bill can be enacted this year, which will necessitate a further extension when current funding expires on September 30, 2011.

For more information, please contact Bill Hanka at bhanka@tfgnet.com.

Transportation Infrastructure

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman John Mica's (R-FL) transportation reauthorization bill focuses on leveraging private sector dollars by expanding programs such as the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA), which provides direct loans, loan guarantees and lines of credit for infrastructure projects of national and regional significance. The bill would increase funding from the current estimated $122 million to $1 billion annually over six years. Additionally, the House bill will endorse the principle of infrastructure banks, but use a different approach than the one taken by the Administration and the Senate. The bill would direct funds to State Infrastructure Banks (SIBs) using traditional apportionment formulas and raise the amount that states can currently allocate for SIBs from 10% to 15%. States that do not have an infrastructure bank would not receive any of this money.

With Congress gearing up to begin work on the authorization bill in earnest, we are seeing increased activity in the introduction of bills that would provide innovative financing for transportation infrastructure. Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) introduced legislation, S. 1436, on July 28 that would create a tax credit bond program specifically for transportation infrastructure, including roads, bridges, transit, rail, and ports. The Transportation and Regional Infrastructure Project Bonds Act, or TRIP Bonds Act, provides $50 billion in tax credit bonds over six years. States would be required to provide matching contributions of at least 20 percent of the cost of the project and these bonds would be issued by SIBs, which have been in place since the mid-1990s, avoiding the need to establish a new federal agency. Earmarks are prohibited under this program. Rather, states determine the eligible uses within the parameters established in the legislation. This concept has been endorsed by a wide range of state and local officials, as well as business and labor leaders and may be considered in the context of the upcoming reauthorization of the Transportation Authorization bill.

For more information, please contact Amanda Wood at awood@tfgnet.com.

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TIGER III Grant Notice Released

On July 1, the Department of Transportation (DOT) published an interim notice for the third round of the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER III) grant program, which awards competitive funds for highway, bridge, transit, port infrastructure, and freight infrastructure project. The DOT has a total of $562 million to award. As in the last round, a pre-application is required, which is due by October 3, 2011, and a final application is due by October 31, 2011.

There are three significant changes from the TIGER II round: no funding is available solely for planning of capital projects; any applicant that is applying for a TIGER Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) payment must also submit a TIFIA letter of interest along with the application; and eligible applicants may only submit three applications as the lead applicant, under this round of TIGER.

TIGER III awards are expected to be announced in early 2012.

For more information, please contact Bill Hanka at bhanka@tfgnet.com.

WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES

FY 2012 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill

On July 15, the House of Representatives approved H.R. 2354, a $30.6 billion FY 2012 spending bill for the Energy Department, Army Corps of Engineers and Interior Department water programs after a week of floor amendments and debate. The Appropriations bill provides $24.7 billion for the Department of Energy (DOE), $4.8 billion for the Army Corps and $934 million for the Department of Interior's Bureau of Reclamation, and was passed by a vote of 219-196. The Senate subcommittee has not yet met.

Overall, H.R. 2354 cuts the President's budget request by $6 billion, or 19 percent. The measure provides $934 million for the Bureau of Reclamation, $117.3 million less than the President's budget request and a reduction of 12.5 percent. The Corps of Engineers on the other hand, received approximately $4.8 billion, $195.5 million more than was provided in the President's budget request.

The House Energy and Water Appropriations bill includes many controversial provisions, such as cuts for DOE renewable energy and energy efficiency research programs, but provides funding boosts for traditional energy research. Another provision would block funding for the Administration's draft Clean Water Act guidance that expands federal protections over wetlands and streams. The bill also would provide $45 million in new funding for the shuttered Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository, setting up a conference fight with Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV). The bill also includes a provision that would provide $1 billion in emergency funding for this year's floods in the Mississippi and Missouri river basins at the expense of high-speed rail funds.

The House approved several amendments, most of which pertained to funding for specific programs, such as an amendment by Representative John Shimkus (R-IL) to boost funding by

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$10 million to advance a federal review of the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository in Nevada.

For more information, please contact Mark Limbaugh at mlimbaugh@tfgnet.com.

FY 2012 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill

On July 25, the House of Representatives began consideration of the FY 2012 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, but suspended work on the bill on July 28 in order to deal with the debt ceiling/deficit reduction issue.

During the course of the week, over 40 amendments were offered to the bill. Among the amendments adopted are the following:

- An amendment offered by Representative Cedric Richmond (D-LA) which would increase funding for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement by $5 million to quicken the pace of permit approval and, in turn, promote the rate of oil and gas investment in the Mississippi Gulf region. The increase was offset by a reduction to the Rangeland Management Fund of $6 million.

- An amendment offered by Representative Charles Bass (R-NH) to restore $20 million to the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The increase is offset by a $20 million reduction from the Department of the Interior salaries and expenses.

- An amendment offered by Representative Scott Tipton (R-CO) which would increase funding for Bureau of Land Management land acquisition by $2.5 million and land acquisition for National Forests Special Acts by $2.5 million. The increases are offset by a decrease of $5 million in the Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Programs and Management account.

- An amendment offered by Representative Norm Dicks (D-WA) which removed a provision in the bill which would have blocked the Fish and Wildlife Service from listing new candidate species as either threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act, as well as designation of new critical habitat necessary for species recovery.

- An amendment offered by Representative Tim Griffin (R-AK) to increase funding by $3 million for the North American Wetlands Conservation Fund. The increase is offset by a reduction in the Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Programs and Management account.

- An amendment offered by Representative Tom Reed (R-NY) to increase funding for the National Forest System by $8.3 million. The increase is offset by a reduction in the Office of the Secretary of the Department of Interior.

The House of Representatives will not complete work on the bill until after Labor Day.

For more information, please contact Bob Schmidt at bschmidt@tfgnet.com.

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House Restricts EPA Authority Over State Water Standards

The House dealt a stinging rebuke to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to rewrite the Clean Water Act to give states the final say in decisions concerning water pollution regulation, wetlands protection and mountaintop-removal mining. In a 239-184 vote, the House approved the Clean Water Cooperative Federalism Act of 2011, H.R. 2018, a bill sponsored by Representative John Mica (R-FL) and Representative Nick Rahall (D-WV), the top Republican and Democrat on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

The bill stands little chance of becoming law given that it faces strong opposition from Democrats who control the Senate and a veto threat from President Obama made the day before the bill went to the House floor. Representatives Mica and Rahall championed the measure as an antidote to what they characterized as regulatory overreach in their home states that has cost jobs, stifled economic recovery and upset the balance of state-federal responsibility for enforcing the Clean Water Act.

For more information, please contact Mark Limbaugh at mlimbaugh@tfgnet.com.

Flood Insurance Rewrite Passes House

On July 12, by a vote of 406 to 22, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved H.R. 1309, the Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2011. The bill would give authority to temporarily suspend mandatory purchase requirements for those in special flood hazard areas and provide a five year phase in of flood insurance rates for newly mapped areas. Under the measure, local governments may request an extension of 12 months, with the opportunity to receive up to two extensions. During consideration of the measure, the House approved an amendment offered by Representative Doris Matsui (D-CA) that would ease the impact of flood insurance rate increases over the next five years.

For more information, please contact Mark Limbaugh at mlimbaugh@tfgnet.com.

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