**Appropriations: Senate Passes CR Through October; Extends SAFETEA-LU For One Month**

The Senate on September 30, 2009, passed a Continuing Resolution to keep the government running through October 31. The House passed the CR, by a vote of 217-190, on September 25, 2009.

The language was included in the Conference Report for the FY 2010 Appropriations for the Legislative Branch (HR 2918 — H Rept 111-265), as it was in the House. The CR will continue most discretionary spending at FY 2009 levels. Additional funding was added for the Census Bureau and the Veterans Health Administration.

In addition, the Conference Report also extends SAFETEA-LU for one month after objections were raised to a bipartisan deal to extend surface transportation programs for three months and repeal a previously enacted $8.7 billion budget cut set to take effect October 1, 2009.

**Education: House Ed & Labor Looks At Teacher Equity & Effectiveness**

The House Education and Labor Committee, chaired by Rep. George Miller (Martinez), held a hearing on September 30, 2009 on “Teacher Equity: Effective Teachers for All Children.” Witnesses were: Layla Avila, Vice President, Teaching Fellows Program, The New Teacher Project, Brooklyn, NY; and Linda Murray, Ph.D., Acting Executive Director, Education Trust-West, Oakland, CA; Latanya Daniels, Assistant Principal, Edison High School, Minneapolis, MN; Rick Hess, Resident Scholar and Director of Education Policy, American Enterprise Institute, Washington, DC.; Dennis Van Roekel, President, National Education Association, Washington, DC; and Marguerite Roza, Ph.D., Research Associate Professor, College of Education, University of Washington, Seattle, WA.

In his opening remarks, Chairman Miller said: “It is unacceptable that poor and minority students in schools that are struggling academically are twice as likely to be taught by inexperienced teachers as their peers in more affluent schools. The very students who could benefit the most from the very best teachers are the least likely to get them.” He noted that the No Child Left Behind Act requires states and school districts to address inequities in the distribution of teachers and to ensure that low-income and minority children are not taught at higher rates than other children by inexperienced, unqualified, or out-of-field teachers.
However, he said, this requirement has not been adequately enforced in the past.

Dr. Murray, who had been superintendent of schools in San Jose, California for eleven years before joining the Trust, noted that one of the first things she did as superintendent was to work to eliminate the history of distrust that existed between the administration and the teacher’s union. And, she said, it worked and the teachers were total partners in improving student learning. But, Dr. Murray stated, when unions or local administrators drag their feet about redistributing the teacher population that is when federal government assistance can be useful. She stated: “...federal law can provide the excuse that education leaders need to question the longstanding practice of assigning our weakest teachers to the poorest children—and the leverage that we need to change a pattern of unfairness...” Noting the requirement in NCLB that schools districts address teacher inequities, Dr. Murray called for federal enforcement of those requirements. She also urged replacing outmoded methods of teacher evaluation with evaluation systems that draw on longitudinal data that link teachers and the growth of the students they teach. She noted that California has not been a leader in making this switch. “Our lowest-performing schools up and down the state have more than their fair share of the weakest teachers,” Murray said.” In fact, I fear we may be a poster child for irresponsibility in this regard, with a legislated firewall between the student and teacher data systems.”

For the testimony of all the witnesses, go to: http://edlabor.house.gov

APPROPRIATIONS: HOUSE PASSES CONFERENCE REPORT ON FY 2010 APPROPRIATIONS FOR ENERGY & WATER

On October 1, 2009, the House passed the Conference Report on H.R. 3183, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for FY 2010 (H.Rpt. 111-278). The vote was 308-114.

The bill provides $33.5 billion in funding, splitting the difference between the House level of $33.3 and the Senate level of $33.8. The 2009 enacted level was $33.3 billion and the President’s request was $34.4 billion.

Among the key provisions in the bill are the following:

Army Corps of Engineers: $5.4 billion, $43 million above 2009 and $320 million above the request, to address the nation’s water resource investment needs.

- Operations and Maintenance: $2.4 billion, $198 million above 2009, to address the over $1 billion backlog of operations and maintenance needs of navigation infrastructure critical to the U.S. economy.

- Construction: $2.0 billion, $313 million above the request for projects including on-going flood protection efforts.

- Investigations: $160 million, $60 million above the request, to plan and design America's next generation of water resource infrastructure.

Department of Energy: $27.1 billion, $318 million above 2009 and $1.3 billion below the request, to fund the five primary mission areas for the Department: science, energy, environment, nuclear nonproliferation, and national security.

- Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy: $2.2 billion, $314 million above 2009, to increase investments in technologies that use energy more effectively and produce clean, inexpensive energy from domestic sources.
- Solar Energy: $225 million for research, development, and demonstration projects to make solar energy more affordable.
- Biofuels: $220 million for grants to improve production of alternative fuels such as cellulosic ethanol and biodiesel.
- Vehicle Technology: $311 million to collaborate with industry to improve fuel efficiency with better engines, better batteries and engines that burn clean, domestic fuel.
- Hydrogen Technology: $174 million to develop the next generation of hydrogen and fuel cell technologies.
- Energy Efficient Buildings: $200 million to research conservation technologies for buildings and industry to reduce energy demand.
- Industrial Technologies: $96 million to help businesses improve energy efficiency.

**Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability:** $172 million, $35 million over 2009, to modernize and secure the nation's electricity grid. The conference agreement provides funds for smart grid and clean energy transmission research and development to increase the efficiency of the grid and enable the widespread deployment of clean, domestic renewable energy. The conference agreement more than triples funding for grid-connected energy storage and for cyber security research and development, to secure the nation's electric power system as cyber attacks increase worldwide and the grid becomes increasingly network-connected.

- **Office of Science:** $4.9 billion, $131 million above 2009, for scientific research critical to addressing long-term energy needs. This funding, in addition to the $4.8 billion appropriated in fiscal year 2009 and $1.6 billion in the Recovery Act, exceeds the goals in the America COMPETES Act.
- Basic Energy Sciences: $1.6 billion for basic research primarily on materials sciences and on chemical sciences, energy biosciences and geosciences. This work places heavy emphasis on advancing the frontiers of using ever-faster tools, including $394 million in the Advanced Scientific Computing Research program, to better understand ever-smaller and more detailed phenomena.

**Environmental Clean-up:** $5.6 billion to clean up contamination from historical nuclear weapons research and production activities. $245 million for non-defense clean-up associated with civilian nuclear energy activities. $574 million from the Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommissioning Fund for clean-up at three uranium processing facilities.

**Department of the Interior:** $1.13 billion, $67 million above the request and $12 million above 2009, to continue to support and improve the nation's water infrastructure, including $1.1 billion for the Bureau of Reclamation for dams, canals, water treatment and conservation, and rural water projects.

For more information, go to: [http://appropriations.house.gov](http://appropriations.house.gov).

**HOMELAND SECURITY: DHS EXTENDS DEADLINE FOR REAL ID EXTENSION**

Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano announced on September 28 that the Department has extended the deadline for states to apply for an extension of their compliance with the Real ID driver’s license rule. The original deadline to apply for an extension was October 11; it will now be December 1, 2009.

The Real ID driver’s license standards are supposed to go into effect on January 1, 2010, but none of the states are capable of implementing the rule at this point, despite substantial progress made by many of them. Also, a different set of driver’s license security standards is being considered by Congress at this time. S 1261, the PASS ID bill, was reported by the Senate Homeland Security Committee on July 29th. It would repeal parts of the Real ID Act and ease some other requirements. The National Governors Association, as well as Secretary Napolitano herself, have backed the alternative driver’s license law. The states have argued that Real ID would be prohibitively expensive to implement, as well as require very invasive and burdensome documentation requirements for drivers.
RESOURCES: ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES EXPANDED RESPONSE TO CALIFORNIA WATER PROBLEMS

Citing the importance of the Bay-Delta water estuary and the three year drought that has contributed to the crisis it now faces, six federal agencies announced a Memorandum of Agreement on September 29, 2009 calling for an expanded and re-energized federal response to the water crisis confronting California. The six agencies, Interior, Commerce, EPA, Agriculture, the Council on Environmental Quality, and the Army Corps of Engineers, committed to working in partnership with the State and other stakeholders to re-establish a federal leadership role in addressing the Bay-Delta’s problems and working toward a healthy and sustainable Bay-Delta ecosystem. Part of the new leadership role will be active involvement of the federal agencies in the Bay Delta Conservation Plan.

In announcing the agreement, Department of Interior Secretary Ken Salazar said: “In this third year of drought, with the California Bay Delta in a state of environmental collapse and California’s water infrastructure unable to meet the state’s needs, we need all hands on deck to respond to the growing water crisis. The federal government is now moving record amounts of water to areas that have been hardest hit, investing over $400 million to upgrade California’s water infrastructure, and – after eight years of neglect – re-engaging as a full partner in California’s water future.”

The MOU calls for the agencies by December 15, 2009 to develop a coordinated federal work plan, in consultation with the State and other interested stakeholders, which will outline near-term Federal actions to be taken to further the purposes of the MOU. The work plan may include:

- Developing an interagency science program to address key uncertainties in scientific information
- Expediting habitat restoration projects that are ready to move forward
- Taking an aggressive approach to addressing water quality threats
- Advancing measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change
- Coordinating processes for undertaking regulatory actions by federal agencies in the Bay-Delta including, but not limited to, the potential co-location of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service personnel.

In addition to the MOU, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar announced that Interior and the Department of Commerce are asking the National Academy of Sciences to conduct additional scientific analysis of the Bay-Delta ecosystem and help identify whether there are scientifically defensible alternatives to current water management plans in California. Salazar also urged Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and state legislative leaders to convene a special session of the Legislature to deal with the crisis at the state level.

For more information, go to: http://www.doi.gov.

BRIEFING: UCLA WILL REPORT ON PRISONS AND CRIME CONTROL

On October 8, 2009, the University of California Los Angeles School of Public Affairs will present its first Rosenfield Forum, which brings together UCLA scholars and national and local leaders to address pressing national problems. The first forum will be on “Escaping the Prison Trap: How to Have Less Crime and Less Incarceration.”

The forum will take place on Thursday, October 8, 2009, from 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in Room 2168 Rayburn House Office Building (the Gold Room.)

The Agenda will consist of three sessions: At the first, “Prevention and Reentry: Community-Based Strategies to Reduce Juvenile Crime and Incarceration,” the speakers will be Laura Abrams, Associate Professor of Social Welfare, Director of the UCLA Juvenile Justice and Reentry Project; and Barry Krisberg, President, National Council on Crime and Delinquency. At the second session, “The Consequences of Mass Incarceration,” participants will be Michael Stoll, Chair and Professor of Public Policy, UCLA, co-author of Do Prisons Make Us Safer?: Jeremy Travis, President, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York; and David F. Weiman, Alena Wels Hirschorn ’58 Professor of Economics, Barnard College, Columbia University. Speakers at the third session, “Pulling Levers: Getting More Crime Control with Less Punishment,” will be: Mark Kleiman, Professor of Public Policy, UCLA, author of When Brute Force Fails: How to Have Less Crime and Less Punishment; David Kennedy, Director, Center for Crime Prevention and
Control, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY; and Susan Ginsburg, Director, Mobility and Security Program, Migration Policy Institute.

Opening remarks will be made by Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr., Dean of the UCLA School of Public Affairs and Professor of Public Policy and Political Science. Rep. Adam Schiff (Burbank) will make closing remarks.

For further information and to RSVP, go to: http://www.spa.ucla.edu/rosenfield/main.cfm?f=program.html.

**REPORT: USC RELEASES REPORT ON FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR UNIVERSITY RESEARCH; WILL DISCUSS AT ITIF EVENT ON OCTOBER 7**

The University of Southern California has released a report, developed after collaboration with other major research universities, industry partners and the non-profit sector, outlining a proposal for the federal government to accelerate the marketing of breakthrough innovation arising from academic research. The report, *IMPACT: Innovation Model Program for Accelerating the Commercialization of Technologies*, was authored by Krisztina "Z" Holly, Vice Provost for Innovation at USC.

Provost Holly will address her report at an Information Technology and Innovation Foundation briefing on October 7, 2009. The event will be from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Congressional Meeting Room - South. Other participants include: Congressman David Wu (OR); and Tom Kalil, Deputy Director for Policy, Office of Science & Technology Policy, Executive Office of the President. To RSVP, go to: http://www.itif.org/rsvp/event.php?id=4.

Called IMPACT, the Holly's proposal calls for a pilot initiative that would invest $2 million per year, per university, for five years to encourage moving existing research results into the U.S. commercial marketplace through ten local demonstration sites. The purpose of these local sites would be to nurture a culture of entrepreneurship within each university, create and enhance the innovation ecosystem around each university, and provide the resources necessary for researchers to effectively translate their ideas into societal impact. The three key components of each program would be: gap funding, community-building, and mentoring and education. The proposal calls for results that would be measurable, reproducible, and scaleable.

Ultimately, Provost Holly envisions, a successful demonstration program would lead to a Phase II where the program is institutionalized on a wider scale across the country, successfully accelerating existing efforts to turn university research into economic and societal impacts in the form of innovations that improve the lives of American citizens.

To obtain the report, go to: http://stevens.usc.edu/reports_impact.php.