



City of Phoenix

To: Mayor and Council
Executive Team

Date: December 4, 2008

From: Karen Peters
Government Relations Director

Subject: FEDERAL UPDATE: NOVEMBER 28 – DECEMBER 4, 2008

This memorandum provides an update of the past week's federal activities – Congressional action, lobbying and national meetings. Please let me or Tom Remes know if you have any questions or need further information on specific legislation or issues.

NOVEMBER 28 – DECEMBER 4, 2008

Congress to Resume Work Next Week

Members are still on Thanksgiving break; they are expected to return next week to finish the business of the 110th Congress, but we do not expect any final action on the outstanding FY 2009 appropriations bills this year.

Economic Stimulus

President-Elect Barack Obama, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid have made it clear that the first order of business in the 111th Congress will be to pass an economic stimulus package. Staff and our federal lobbying team continue to work with the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National League of Cities and other local government groups to ensure that funding included in the economic stimulus package, which is currently being drafted by House and Senate leadership, provides funding directly to local governments.

Fair Share of CDBG and LIHEAP

The federal lobbying team met with House Transportation-HUD Appropriations Subcommittee staff to discuss the City's recommendations for improving the CDBG program via the economic stimulus package. It is unclear at this point whether the stimulus bill will include CDBG funding. There was also a meeting with the National Community Action Foundation to discuss FY 2010 funding for the LIHEAP program and the strategy for reaching out to the transition team to advocate providing enough funding in the formula program to give warm weather states an equitable share.