



## City of Phoenix

**To:** Mayor and Council  
Executive Team

**Date:** December 19, 2008

**From:** Karen Peters  
Government Relations Director

**Subject:** FEDERAL UPDATE: DECEMBER 12 – DECEMBER 19, 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.

### **DECEMBER 12 – DECEMBER 19, 2008**

#### **Federal Immigration Discussion**

Mayor Phil Gordon, together with representatives from the Major Cities Chiefs of Police and our federal lobbying team, participated in a meeting with the Obama Transition Team on the topic of immigration and its impact on state and local governments. The meeting included Mr. Tino Cuellar, who is leading President-elect Obama's working group on immigration and is on the short list to lead the Citizenship and Immigration Services division at DHS. Also in the meeting was Mr. Daniel Sepulveda, who was a member of his Senate staff and has been a campaign advisor and now is working with Mr. Cuellar on the Transition Team. The Mayor presented the City of Phoenix's position on state and local cooperation and talked in detail about the 287(g) program. Additionally, the Mayor presented five points on "realistic immigration reform":

1. Increased border security and enforcement.
2. More support for city and state governments which are disproportionately shouldering the costs of the current broken immigration system.
3. The use of new technologies to match up foreign workers with jobs in this country that are going unfilled (guest worker program).
4. The elimination of current obstacles to citizenship that have resulted in 10-12 million undocumented immigrants living in the shadows.
5. The protection of human and civil rights of both citizens and non-citizens being detained.

#### **Energy and Water Economic Stimulus Projects**

The City's federal lobbyists met with Taunja Berquam, House Energy and Water Development appropriations staffer, and Roger Cockrell, Senate Energy and Water Clerk, to talk about the stimulus funding for Army Corps of Engineers programs. The House has \$5 billion set aside for Corps programs (\$2.5 b for construction, \$2 b for operations & maintenance and \$500 m for the Mississippi and tributaries) and the

Senate has allocated \$1.5 billion for Corps programs. The numbers in the two proposals reflect instructions to the subcommittees on both sides of the Hill to come up with a spending blueprint in preparation for a potential stimulus bill.

It is not clear how the stimulus spending might impact the FY 10 energy and water appropriations, but some say that OMB might determine to hold down FY 10 funding because of the money spent on the stimulus package in FY 09 and FY 10.

### **More Economic Stimulus Discussions**

GR Staff participated in a conference call coordinated by the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) on the proposed federal economic stimulus package. The USCM is advocating for direct funding to cities to address local infrastructure projects.

### **LIHEAP Update**

The City's federal lobbyists spoke with Cynthia Zwick, Director of the Arizona Community Action Association, about the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) program. The team is arranging a meeting with Senator Sanders's office about FY 10 funding and is reaching out to other state community action directors to emphasize the importance of pushing with their respective delegations for full funding of the LIHEAP formula in FY 10. Ms. Zwick said that she would discuss the issue with her colleagues from Western states at a meeting coming up in early January. She also expressed an interest in gathering a group of folks when they are in Washington D.C. in March for the National Community Action Foundation meetings. The federal lobbyists are also working with Southern Governor's Association to find another sponsor of the LIHEAP reform legislation drafted by Senator Dole.

### **US Secretary of Transportation Secretary Candidate**

Retiring Rep. Ray LaHood (R-IL) is rumored to be the candidate for the next U.S. Secretary of Transportation, despite not being on any of the earlier candidate lists publicized by the media or talked about by industry insiders. President-Elect Obama is likely to make the announcement by Friday before he heads to Hawaii for his Christmas vacation this weekend. Any Cabinet announcements that are not made by Friday may wait until after the New Year.

Rep. LaHood is the classic small-town Chamber of Commerce moderate Republican, having served as longtime chief of staff to former House Minority Leader Bob Michel (R-IL) before winning the seat in his own right upon Michel's retirement in 1994. LaHood initially sought a seat on the Appropriations Committee but was reportedly barred from that panel by Speaker Gingrich. LaHood instead wound up on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee from 1995-2000 before joining Appropriations from 2001-present. On Appropriations, LaHood has not been particularly active on transportation issues (he did not serve on the transportation subcommittee) but has been a moderate voice within his own party who sided with organized labor on occasion during tough floor votes.

President-Elect Obama pledged to put at least one Republican in his Cabinet, and though Defense Secretary Bob Gates is considered by many to be a Republican, he is actually a registered Independent and does not really "count". Since the last two Cabinet positions available are Labor and Transportation, Transportation is the more likely fit for a Republican candidate.

### **House Republican Caucus Names Committee Chairs**

The House Republican caucus announced its ranking Committee chair appointments for the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress. The ranking position for the House Natural Resources Committee, which has jurisdiction over the Bureau of Reclamation, has not yet been assigned. There are rumors that Don Young of Alaska, who currently holds the position, won't be reappointed, but this issue has yet to be resolved. Following are Ranking Republican Members for the 111th Congress:

#### **Standing Committee**

**Agriculture**

**Appropriations**

**Armed Services**

**Budget**

**Education & Labor**

**Energy & Commerce**

**Financial Services**

**Foreign Affairs**

**Homeland Security**

**Select Committee on Intelligence**

**Judiciary**

**Oversight & Government Reform**

**Rules**

**Science & Technology**

**Small Business**

**Transportation & Infrastructure**

**Veterans' Affairs**

**Ways & Means**

#### **Ranking Member**

Frank Lucas (OK)

Jerry Lewis (CA)

John McHugh (NY)

Paul Ryan (WI)

Howard P. "Buck" McKeon (CA)

Joe Barton (TX)

Spencer Bachus (AL)

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (FL)

Peter T. King (NY)

Pete Hoekstra (MI)

Lamar S. Smith (TX)

Darrel Issa (CA)

David Dreier (CA)

Ralph M. Hall (TX)

Sam Graves (MO)

John L. Mica (FL)

Steve Buyer (IN)

Dave Camp (MI)

### **Economic Bailouts**

