



Executive Director's Watch

CALIFORNIA
Counties

January 27, 2009

The U.S. House of Representatives is scheduled to vote on the Economic Stimulus Package tomorrow. The package totals \$825 billion and California stands to receive a little over \$20 billion of that if all of the items in the House version of the package survive.

The Senate Finance Committee is due to release its version of the package today, and it is reported that the Senate proposal is very similar in size and scope to the House version of the package. The goal of the Congressional leadership is to have the package approved and on President Obama's desk by February 16.

NACo has sent out an alert to some 21,000 county officials throughout the country urging them to call their member(s) of the U. S. House of Representatives and ask that they vote FOR H. R. 1, "The American Reinvestment and Recovery Plan." CSAC has sent a letter to each member of the California House delegation urging their AYE vote for the package ([letter](#)). It would be helpful for you, too, to express your support of this important package.

If you have ever wondered what the benefits of your membership in NACo may be, there has never been a better example. NACo has tirelessly advocated on behalf of counties on this stimulus package since its inception. When President Obama was elected, NACo immediately began working with members of his transition team to ensure county voices were heard and that our needs were part of this package.

I was in Washington DC earlier this month with NACo and personally saw the regard that the Transition Team members as well as the senior staff of Speaker Pelosi paid to the NACo staff. Last week, NACo asked me to participate in a conference call with Speaker Pelosi's Chief of Staff to wrap up county concerns on the stimulus package. So if I sound like I am an advocate for NACo, I am. They have been a tremendous asset and advocate in this process and deserve a great deal of credit – and will prove to be well-worth our membership dues.

But the stimulus package is unique and does not reflect NACo's day-to-day benefit to its members. California benefits greatly from NACo's advocacy on such things as the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP), HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME), Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT), just to name a few. In addition, NACo coordinates the US Communities purchasing program, which saves California counties hundreds of thousands of dollars in the purchase of goods and services each year. Finally, NACo provides a forum for California counties to be heard on the national stage and to join with our county brethren on issues of importance to counties.

While it is true that many of these benefits may accrue to a county regardless of their payment of dues, your support ensures that those efforts can be accomplished at a quality level.

Registration is now open for the annual NACo Legislative Conference in Washington DC, March 7-11 ([Register Here](#)). I hope to see you there.

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