

Your Action is Needed Now!

8.9.2007

The NJOMA Board of Directors is seeking your help in contacting your Senator's serving in Congress. The FY 2008 JOM Allocation is in peril, as the Senate has only given 8 million dollars to tribal JOM Programs and 6 million to compact tribes. We need to act fast, as the Senate appropriations may be reviewed after the August recess. The following is information on what you can do. For contact with your Senator's it's best to e-mail or fax, and all addresses may be found on our website. Follow the link that says How to contact congress under the newsletter button the home page.

FY08 Appropriation Concerns - At a Glance August, 2007

President's Recommendation

The President recommended no funding for the Johnson-O'Malley (JOM) program for fiscal year 2008

House

On June 27, 2007, the House passed the Interior and Environment Appropriations Bill, restoring JOM assistance grants to the level of \$16.5. In addition, the Committee provided an additional \$7.7 million for JOM in the consolidated tribal compact and governance budget. In total, the House provided \$24.2 million for JOM programs.

In addition, in the conference report the House states:

The Committee has once again rejected the Administration's proposal to eliminate the Johnson-O'Malley Education Assistance grants. Every attempt by this Administration to terminate this program has been resoundingly rejected by Congress. The feckless justification for the termination of this program that Department of Education programs can take the place of these grants has never been substantiated or explained to any level of adequacy. The Committee implores the Administration to include this program in future requests.

Senate

On June 21, 2007 the full Senate Committee on Appropriations passed the Interior and Environment Appropriations bill, partially restoring JOM education assistance grants to the level of \$8.0 million. An additional \$6,689,000 is provided in the self-governance compacts portion of the budget. In total, the Senate provides \$14,689,000 million for JOM programs. The full Senate has yet to pass the Interior and Environment Appropriations Bill.

What's next?

The Fiscal Year ends on September 30, 2007. If the President does not receive a reconciled appropriation Interior and Environment bill from Congress contending with the fiscal year 2008 budget - either as a stand-alone or part of a larger omnibus package by September 30, 2007, either the government will not continue to be funded or the government will be funded by a "Continuing Resolution". Most likely, a Continuing Resolution would keep the funding levels at current levels until the Congress and the President can work out the fiscal year 2008 numbers.

Plan of Action

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Contact congressional delegation and key members of the Interior and Environment subcommittee of appropriations:

1. Thank the members for their continued support of this vital program;
2. Reiterate the value of the JOM program in your community; and,
3. Offer to provide any additional information the member may need in urging the appropriators to sustain the numbers provided in the HOUSE bill.