



2011 (FY12) Federal Agenda

PRIORITIES

| | PROJECT | POSITION STATEMENT(S) | RECOMMENDED STRATEGY |
|---|---|--|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA) / Florida Recovery | <p>SUPPORT revisions to OPA providing greater participation from local governments as a primary first responder in an effort to protect local communities. More specifically, enhancing local government's role regarding planning & preparation for oil related events, enhancing local government's responsibility in strategic mitigations efforts and clean up response and reducing the timeline for reimbursement costs to 30 days or less.</p> <p>SUPPORT revisions to OPA that establish an independent third party administrator for processing government claims with an escrow account separate from individual and business claims.</p> <p>SUPPORT changes to OPA that factor current and future revenue estimates when determining "net" loss of revenues for government claims.</p> | Coalition with NACo, FLC & SBA |
| 2 | Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) | SUPPORT federal legislation which ensures that the underwriting standards of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac facilitate the use of property assessed clean energy programs to finance the installation of renewable energy and energy efficiency improvements. | |
| 3 | New Market Tax Credits | The American Infrastructure Investment Act, HR 6181, allows new market tax credit investments made after March 15, 2010 and before January 1, 2012 to offset the alternative minimum tax. It also extends the Recovery Zone Bond Program through 2011 and the Build America Bond Program through 2012. SUPPORT legislation that extends the new market tax credit, the Recovery Zone Bond Program and the Build America Bond Program through 2012. | |

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| 4 | Three (3%) Percent Withholding Tax on County Purchases | SUPPORT repealing requirement for counties beginning in 2011 to withhold federal taxes on payments for services or products. | |
| 5 | Water Quality – Numeric Nutrient Criteria | SUPPORT the development of science-based numeric nutrient criteria for Florida’s waters. Any numeric standards should be technically and economically feasible. FAC encourages the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and DEP to ensure that any rulemaking processes rely upon sound science and include meaningful stakeholder participation. FAC encourages EPA to utilize the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) to the maximum extent possible in order to help ensure that the best science is used in developing water quality standards. | |

APPROPRIATIONS/AUTHORIZATIONS

| | PROJECT | POSITION STATEMENT(S) | RECOMMENDED STRATEGY |
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| 1 | Airport & Aviation Reauthorization | SUPPORT reauthorization of federal airport and aviation programs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Airport Improvement Program • Rural Airports | Monitor and Report |
| 2 | Transportation Reauthorization | SUPPORT reauthorization of federal transportation programs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution formula • Mass transit/Rail • Port Construction Funding | Monitor and Report |
| 3 | Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) | SUPPORT reauthorization of the Federal Water Resources Development Act. | Monitor and Report |

ADDITIONAL ISSUES

| | PROJECT | POSITION STATEMENT(S) | RECOMMENDED STRATEGY |
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| 1 | Patient Protection & Affordable Care Act of 2010 | <p>SUPPORT legislation that would reduce the impact of, or repeal, section 9006 of the Patient Protection & Affordable Care Act of 2010. This section requires all private and public entities to 1) obtain and maintain a Taxpayer Information Number (TIN) on every vendor paid more than \$600 in any given tax year, and 2) issue an IRS Form 1099 to those vendors including corporation for certain services, both of which are exempted under current law.</p> <p>OPPOSE the requirement to issue IRS Form 1099's to all entities providing goods and/or services in excess of \$600 in any given tax year.</p> | Monitor and Report |
| 2 | Tourist Development Tax (TDT) / Sales Tax | <p>SUPPORT legislation that enhances the collection of existing TDT revenue not currently remitted by online travel companies.</p> <p>OPPOSE legislation that would exempt online travel companies' room sales from TDTs.</p> | Monitor and Report |
| 3 | Sales Tax Deduction | <p>For taxpayers in states with no state or local income tax, Congress has annually authorized changes in the IRS code to allow the ability to deduct sales tax paid for purchases of goods and services. The applicable deduction is generally based on a tax table adopted by the IRS, but the law also allows a deduction for major purchases (e.g., car, boat etc.). The deduction became effective through P.L. 110-343. SUPPORT Continued extension of the deduction.</p> | Monitor and Report |
| 4 | Access to Federal Contracts | <p>SUPPORT expanding authorization for local governments to use approved federal contracts and vendors to include conservation and green projects. We do not see anything specifically pertaining to local governments. There is legislation relating to expanding access to federal contracts for small businesses. In July 2010, Senators Landrieu (D-LA) and Cardin (D-MD) introduced S. 3458, the Section 8(a) Improvements</p> | Monitor and Report |

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| | | Act of 2010. The bill would make key improvements to the SBA's Section 8(a) contracting programs, to improve access to federal contracts for socially and economically disadvantaged small businesses. | |
| 5 | Energy | <p>SUPPORT fully funding the Federal Green Jobs Act of 2007. The Green Jobs Act of 2007 became Title X of H.R. 6, the Energy Independence and Security Act, which Congress passed and the President signed in late 2007. Congress appropriated \$500 million for the Green Jobs Act through the ARRA. In late April 2010, Senators Chuck Grassley (R-IA) and Kent Conrad (D-ND) introduced the GREEN Jobs Act of 2010, S.3231. The new Green Jobs Act would extend, through 2015, tax credits for ethanol and biofuel producers. The bill is currently pending before the Senate Committee on Finance. The House companion legislation, H.R. 4940, was introduced by Representatives Earl Pomeroy (D-ND) and John Shimkus (R-IL). H.R. 4940 is currently pending before the House Subcommittee on Trade.</p> <p>SUPPORT federal legislation that adopts stricter fuel efficiency standards at the national level to ensure uniformity of regulation. We did not see pending legislation on this.</p> | Monitor and Report |
| 6 | Federal Benefits for Eligible Medicaid and Medicare Eligible Prisoners | <p>SUPPORT allowing persons charged and incarcerated, but not convicted, to continue to be eligible for federal medical benefits until such time as they may be convicted and sentenced to a prison facility. HR2209 would amend titles XVI, XVIII, XIX, and XXI of the Social Security Act to remove limitations on Medicaid, Medicare, SSI, and SCHIP benefits for persons in custody pending disposition of charges. Currently has 26 co-sponsors.</p> | Monitor and Report |
| 7 | National Commission on Intergovernmental Relations | <p>SUPPORT creation of the National Commission on Intergovernmental Relations to facilitate the fullest cooperation and coordination between federal, state and local governments. In July of 2009, Representatives Gerry Connolly (D-VA) and Leonard Lance (R-NJ) introduced the Restore the Partnership Act, H.R. 3332, which would establish a permanent, bipartisan National Commission on Intergovernmental Relations to facilitate cooperation between all levels of government.</p> | Monitor and Report |

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| | | The bill is currently pending before the House Subcommittee on Government Management, Organization, and Procurement and has 5 cosponsors. | |
| 8 | Water Quality – Clean Water Restoration Act | <p>SUPPORT legislation that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarifies the basis and scope of the Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction, including a more descriptive definition of the jurisdictional waters included within the term; • Maintains Congress’ policy and CWA provisions that recognize, preserve, and protect the primary responsibilities and rights of states to prevent, reduce, and eliminate pollution and to plan for the development and use (including restoration, preservation, and enhancement) of land and water resources; • Establishes specific standards that protect wetlands having significant ecological functions or hydrological connection to navigable waters; • Clarifies that CWA jurisdiction does not include isolated, intrastate, non-navigable waters such as isolated ponds, ditches, and other channels containing intermittent or ephemeral water flows occurring during less than 3 months of the year as “navigable waters” or “waters of the United States”; and • Relies upon CWA jurisdiction under Congress’ commerce power to accomplish the objectives of the CWA and does not add the phrase “activities affecting such waters” to the definition of “navigable waters” or “waters of the United States”. | Monitor and Report |