

## MEMORANDUM

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**To:** Leon County Board of County Commissioners  
**From:** Patton Boggs LLP  
**Date:** January 7, 2008  
**Subject:** December 2007 Status Report

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The following will provide you with an overview of our activities during the month of December 2007 on behalf of Leon County and other developments that impact the County.

### **FY 2008 Appropriations Update**

On December 26, President Bush signed into law the FY 2008 Omnibus Appropriations bill (H.R. 2764) that Congress passed December 19. The bill would provide \$473.5 billion in discretionary funding across 11 of the 12 regular Appropriations bills for the 2008 fiscal year. The bill would also provide \$70 billion in supplemental spending for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, and \$11.2 billion in emergency funding for various programs, including veterans' benefits.

The President had objected to include the extra \$23 billion for domestic programs that Democrats had originally included in the 11 bills, and refused to accept a proposal to split the difference by increasing his cap by about \$11 billion. Since the Congressional Democratic leadership did not have enough votes to overturn a veto, they had to accept President Bush's budget limits.

In order to reduce the overall amount of discretionary spending by \$23 billion, all bills were trimmed using an (1) across-the-board reductions in most programs; (2) cut back of selected programs; and/or (3) rescissions of unused FY 2007 appropriations. For instance, the Transportation/HUD Appropriations bill - where the Mahan Drive project is included - received an across-the-board cut of 2% while there was no additional percentage reduction off earmarks in the Commerce/Justice/Science bill - where the Joint Emergency Communication Center is included.

The bill includes a total of approximately 9,000 earmarks.

### Leon County's FY 2008 Appropriations Requests

Leon County will be receiving funding for two of its Federal projects as follows:

- Mahan Drive Phase II  
Bill: Transportation/HUD Appropriations bill  
Account: DOT/Transportation, Community and System Preservation Program  
Amount: \$710,500\*
- Joint Emergency Communications Center  
Bill: Commerce/Justice/Science  
Account: DOJ/COPS-Law Enforcement Technologies  
Amount: \$188,000

\* The amount listed in the Joint Explanatory Statement for the Transportation/HUD bill (\$725,000) was reduced by an across-the-board cut of 2%. That is,  $\$725,000 - 2\% = \$710,500$ . Please note that in the case of the Commerce/Justice/Science bill there was no additional percentage reduction.

### Forest Service Legislation

H.R. 1374, which would amend the Florida National Forest Land Management Act of 2003 to authorize the conveyance of an additional tract of National Forest System land under that Act, was approved by the full House on December 17, 2007. It had been previously approved by the House Agriculture Committee on Wednesday, December 12.

The bill was considered and approved under "Suspension of the Rules." When a bill is considered under "Suspension of the Rules," the Speaker recognizes a Member who makes a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill. The House then debates both the motion and the bill for no more than 40 minutes, during which Members cannot offer any floor amendments. After the debate, they cast a simple vote on suspending the rules and passing the bill, with a two-third vote required for passage. This procedure is very effective in quickly approving legislation which is non-controversial and has bipartisan support.

We will continue to follow-up with the appropriate Senate staff in the offices of Senators Nelson and Martinez, as well as in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee to fast track their consideration of the bill.

### Grant Opportunities

Approximately every ten days, Patton Boggs continues to report on new grant opportunities, both Federal and private.

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Please let us know if we can provide any further detail on the issues discussed in this memorandum.