

Legislative Update - June 7, 2001
(Broadcast #359)

House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee Passes FY2002 Funding Measure -

The House Interior Appropriations subcommittee approved a measure by voice vote this morning that would provide the Interior Department and related agencies with \$18.9 billion in fiscal 2002, approximately \$800 million more than President Bush's \$18.1 billion request and \$100 million over the \$18.8 billion provided under the FY 2001 spending law (PL 106-291).

According to budget summary numbers released at the markup, the House measure includes:

- \$1.7 billion for BIA Operation of Indian Programs, a \$52 million increase over the FY 2001 enacted level;
- \$543 million for BIA Education, a \$17 million increase over FY 2001; and
- \$2.8 billion for the Indian Health Service, a \$131 million increase over FY 2001.

The Interior Subcommittee rejected administration-proposed cuts in weatherization and state energy grants, as well as an administration request to include language in the bill that would have made it more difficult for citizens to sue the government in disputes over the addition of plants and animals to the endangered species list. We are obtaining a copy of the full Senate mark and will report to you on individual program funding levels and any legislative language of concern to tribes as information becomes available.

The full Appropriations committee is scheduled to mark up the Interior Appropriations bill on Wednesday, June 13.

For more information, please contact NCAI at (202) 466-7767.