

Legislative Update - June 28, 2001
(Broadcast #365)

Senate Committees Mark Up FY2002 Interior Appropriations – The Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee marked up their version of the FY2002 Interior Appropriations measure this morning, with the full committee expected to vote on the measure later this afternoon.

Thanks to the efforts of tribal advocates and staff on the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, the contract support moratorium and restrictions on IHS direct contract support that were included in the House bill **were not** included in the Senate version.

We will report on details of the measure after final full Committee passage, but according to information we have obtained at this time, the Senate mark includes an increase over the House mark for BIA Operation of Indian Programs from \$1,790.781 million to \$1,804.332 million, but would hold Tribal Priority Allocations at the President's request level of \$750.48 million. Other Recurring Programs would receive a small increase to \$587.053 million.

The IHS would be funded at \$2,388.614 million under the Senate mark, less than the House request of \$2,390.014 but an increase over the President's request. IHS Contract Support would be funded at the President's request level of \$288.234 million, and would include funding for Navajo conversions to tribal operation.

We also understand that the Senate measure includes \$161.59 million for BIA School Facilities Improvement and Repair and \$130.799 million for BIA School Replacement (six schools), as well as \$3 million for a tribal school construction demonstration program within that budget.

On June 21, the House passed, by a 376-32 margin, its FY2002 Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations bill (H.R. 2217, H.Rept. 107-103). With a few exceptions, H.R. 2217 mirrors the President's FY2002 budget request for Indian programs. For an analysis of the President's budget request for BIA and IHS programs, see Legislative Update #343, dated April 9, 2001. The House bill is summarized in Legislative Update #362, dated June 14, 2001.

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