

# Memo

To: Kate Breen, NAATS President  
From: Wally Pike, Congressional Affairs  
CC: file  
Date: May 31, 2005  
Re: Congressional Status Update

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H.R. 1474 now has 61 co-sponsors, of which 10 are Republican. S. 776 has 11, one of which is Republican. The House bill is expected to move first, as a limiting amendment to the FY 06 appropriations. This will probably happen before the July 4 recess.

In talking with our congressional supporters a new concern has surfaced. During House debate on the Energy and Water appropriations a significant number (35) of Democrats did not continue to support the leadership goals. This is a troubling trend because we have been counting on receiving support from all the House Democrats as we move our bill along. We expect to have about 25 Republicans eventually support the bill but, obviously, it will not help if we lose Democratic support along the way. To alleviate this concern we are now concentrating more effort on shoring up the Democratic support. I recommend that you ask our members to do the same with their House representatives, especially the Democrats.

We are also working with the House to obtain the latest A76 costing figures as well as the DOTIG information. The week of June 9 we will meet with the Senate committee staff for the same reasons and also to obtain the official FAA position on the 1.7% issue. As soon as this becomes available I will pass it along to you.

We need another Republican on S. 776. Next week we will meet with Grassley's staff for this purpose and the week of June 9 we will meet with Kit Bond's staff. We still do not have a commitment from Murkowski's staff but they have not refused so we are continuing to talk.

The Connecticut delegation letter to AOA-1 has gone through several drafts but is almost complete now. We plan to use it as a template for a full congressional "Dear Colleague" letter.

Finally, we have completed our draft letter requesting the A76 hearing in the Government Reform Committee and have forwarded it to our congressional supporters for their action. As soon as they finalized it I will send you a copy.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.