

Memo

To: Kate Breen, NAATS President
From: Wally Pike, Congressional Affairs
CC: file
Date: July 20, 2005
Re: Update

As we've discussed the Senate Appropriations committee markup is 3pm tomorrow (Thursday). This is how it looks right now.

As you know the appropriations bill contains funding for the Lockheed transition so a limiting amendment is necessary. Senator Johnson is willing to offer the amendment (similar to the House version) if we get a Republican Committee member to co-sponsor. We thought we had Senator Specter but we are not certain now. Many thanks to Ron Consalvo and the Pennsylvania folks for their continuing work on this. We are working Specter's office here as well as Conrad Burns and Ted Stevens.

Senator Johnson's staff has indicated that he will offer the amendment on the Senate floor if we don't get a Republican but our concern is that the TTHUD approps bill may be rolled into an omnibus thereby eliminating any chance of floor amendments. So, we are asking Senator Johnson to offer the amendment in committee regardless of whether there is a Republican co-sponsor. We feel fairly confident of a favorable committee vote if we can just get the amendment offered. The latest estimate is a September timeframe for full Senate consideration so timing is also critical.

We have not given up on Senator Bond. Originally we were supposed to meet with his staff on Monday but that fell through. We are trying to reschedule but we do not know definitively how he stands.

We had a meeting with Senator Stevens' staff today and they appear supportive although unwilling to take a leadership role on the amendment.

Needless to say, a favorable announcement by the FAA Administrator today would be helpful.

More details as I get them.