

Memo

To: Kate Breen, NAATS President
From: Wally Pike, Congressional Affairs
CC: file
Date: June 15, 2005
Re: Update

The latest information is a version of H.R. 1474 will be offered as a "limiting" amendment to the Transportation Treasury HUD (TTHUD) appropriations bill which will be considered the week of June 27. Since limiting amendments are dealt with last we expect the vote on our amendment to occur late June 30 or early July 1.

It is also expected that some of our House supporters will be threatened with loss of some of their district projects if they continue to support this bill. We ask that our members contact their congressional representatives again to stress how important our issue is and how it relates to aviation safety and security.

We still expect to have around 25 House Republicans voting with us and we hope to keep all 202 Democrats. In that regard we saw a promising trend when Hinchey won an amendment on Agriculture Appropriations 218-210. This is unrelated to our issue but it does show Democratic unity on amendments, something that is critical to our success.

As we've discussed, anything we can do to convince other unions to aggressively support this amendment would be very helpful. The big public sector unions (AFGE, NTEU) could be particularly influential. It's no exaggeration to state that approximately 50% of all federal jobs might eventually hang in the balance and that we are just the tip of the iceberg.

Again, the Senate bill will follow the House lead. The importance of the constituent work in getting Olympia Snowe and then Susan Collins to sign on S.776 is impossible to overstate. Not only are they two Republicans but Collins is, of course, the Chair for Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Although this is not the committee of jurisdiction for S.776, it is almost certain that she will be important down the line.

We still expect Specter to support us as his staffer has twice recommended. If the Senate follows suit and we see an appropriations amendment then Kit Bond becomes even more crucial since he is the Subcommittee Chair. To that end we are concentrating a lot of effort to ensure his support. I know that our members have been in touch with Bond's office and I ask that they do so again and ask him to co-sponsor the bill. You will recall that Bond and Specter were the two Republican senators that stayed with us all the way through FAA Reauthorization.

We expect to have more information in the near future on the 1.7%, IG, GAO and retirement vesting issues. As soon as this becomes available I will pass it along to you.