

# Memo

To: Kate Breen, NAATS President  
From: Wally Pike, Congressional Affairs  
CC: file  
Date: July 22, 2005  
Re: Update

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The Senate Appropriations Committee Markup of the TTHUD bill did not result in the amendment from Senator Johnson. We tried some aggressive measures yesterday to try to convince him at the last minute but we were unsuccessful. The markup, however, was interesting.

The only amendment offered was one by Chairman Bond regarding “imminent domain”. Senator Bond promptly withdrew his amendment so that it could be considered when the bill reaches the Senate floor. We consider this to be a strong indication that the bill will be debated after the August recess and that is when our amendment will be offered. It now appears the Committee did not want any amendments on the bill – ours or anyone else’s.

We have much work to do before September. We are scheduling a meeting with Senator Murray and/or her staff to determine what, if any, objections she has to the amendment. Her support is obviously critical as we can’t afford to lose any Democratic votes. We still have bi-partisan support and, of course, we have the House bill containing the amendment.

We will meet with our Senate and House supporters next week to plan our next steps and I will report the results of that meeting promptly to you. Our initial feeling is that matters are not as grim as they appeared a few days ago.

It is still very important that our members contact their Senators and solicit their support for the amendment. We know that the Administration has weighed in with strong opposition to the inclusion of the amendment but no one realistically believes that the President will veto the bill.

I’ll have an update for you next week. It promises to be a busy August for all of us.