

FTA NEW STARTS/SMALL STARTS PROGRAM

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Highways and Transit held a hearing on Federal Transit Administration's Proposed Rule on the New Starts and Small Starts Programs. Testimony was heard from James S. Simpson, Administrator, Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation; and public witnesses.

VA IT REORGANIZATION

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Held a hearing on VA IT Reorganization: How Far Has VA Come? Testimony was heard from the following officials of the GAO: Valerie Melvin, Director, Human Capital and Management Information Issues; and Gregory C. Wilshusen, Director, Information Security Issues; and the following officials of the Department of Veterans Affairs: Robert T. Howard, Assistant Secretary, Information and Technology; Arnaldo Claudio, Executive Director, Office of IT Oversight and Compliance; Paul Tibbits, M.D., Deputy Chief Information Officer for Development, Office of Information and Technology; and J. Ben Davoren, M.D., Director, Clinical Informatics, San Francisco VA Medical Center.

HOME MORTGAGE AID; MENTAL HEALTH COVERAGE

Committee on Ways and Means: Ordered reported, as amended, the following bills: H.R. 3648, To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude discharges of indebtedness on principal residences from gross income, and for other purposes; and H.R. 1424, Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act of 2007.

FORGING A GLOBAL SOLUTION FOR GLOBAL WARMING: INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

Select Committee on Energy Independence: Held a briefing entitled "Forging A Global Warming: International Perspectives." The Committee was briefed by the following officials of the UN Special Envoy on Climate Change: Gro Harlem Brundtland; Ricardo Lagos; and Han Seung-soo; and a public witness.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2007

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Gen. William E. Ward, United States Army, for reappointment to the grade of General and to be Commander, United States Africa Command, Gen.

Kevin P. Chilton, to be General, United States Air Force, for reappointment to the grade of General and to be Commander, United States Strategic Command, Lt. Gen. James N. Mattis, United States Marine Corps, to be General and to be Commander, United States Joint Forces Command and Supreme Allied Commander for Transformation, and Admiral Gary Roughead, United States Navy, for reappointment to the grade of Admiral and to be Chief of Naval Operations, 9:30 a.m., SH-216.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security, to hold hearings to examine congestion and delays impacting travelers, focusing on possible solutions, 10:30 a.m., SR-253.

Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 1578, to amend the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 to establish vessel ballast water management requirements, S. 1889, to amend title 49, United States Code, to improve railroad safety by reducing accidents and to prevent railroad fatalities, injuries, and hazardous materials releases, S. 1453, to extend the moratorium on taxes on Internet access and multiple and discriminatory taxes on electronic commerce imposed by the Internet Tax Freedom Act, S. 1965, to protect children from cybercrimes, including crimes by online predators, to enhance efforts to identify and eliminate child pornography, and to help parents shield their children from material that is inappropriate for minors, S.J. Res. 17, directing the United States to initiate international discussions and take necessary steps with other Nations to negotiate an agreement for managing migratory and transboundary fish stocks in the Arctic Ocean, and S. Con. Res. 39, supporting the goals and ideals of a world day of remembrance for road crash victims, and a promotion list in the United States Coast Guard, 2:30 p.m., SR-253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine hard-rock mining on federal lands, 9:30 a.m., SD-366.

Subcommittee on National Parks, to hold hearings to examine S. 148, to establish the Paterson Great Falls National Park in the State of New Jersey, S. 189, to decrease the matching funds requirements and authorize additional appropriations for Keweenaw National Historical Park in the State of Michigan, S. 697, to establish the Steel Industry National Historic Site in the State of Pennsylvania, S. 1341, to provide for the exchange of certain Bureau of Land Management land in Pima County, Arizona, S. 128, to amend the Cache La Poudre River Corridor Act to designate a new management entity, make certain technical and conforming amendments, enhance private property protections, S. 1476, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct special resources study of the Tule Lake Segregation Center in Modoc County, California, to determine suitability and feasibility of establishing a unit of the National Park System, S. 867 and H.R. 299, bills to adjust the boundary of Lowell National Historical Park, S. 1709 and H.R. 1239, bills to amend the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act of 1998 to provide additional staff and oversight of funds to carry out the Act, S. 1808, to authorize

the exchange of certain land in Denali National Park in the State of Alaska, S. 1969, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of designating Estate Grange and other sites related to Alexander Hamilton's life on the island of St. Croix in the United States Virgin Islands as a unit of the National Park System, and S. 1039, to extend the authorization for the Coastal Heritage Trail in the State of New Jersey, 2:30 p.m., SD-366.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine the efficacy of national border security, 10 a.m., SD-215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (T. Doc. 103-39), 2:30 p.m., SD-419.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security, to hold hearings to examine cost effective military strategic airlift requirements in the 21st century, 3:30 p.m., SD-342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: business meeting to consider pending calendar business; to be immediately followed by an oversight hearing to examine the prevalence of violence against Indian women, 9 a.m., SD-628.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine S. 2035, to maintain the free flow of information to the public by providing conditions for the federally compelled disclosure of information by certain persons connected with the news media, S.J. Res. 13, granting the consent of Congress to the International Emergency Management Assistance Memorandum of Understanding, S. 980, to amend the Controlled Substances Act to address online pharmacies, S. Con. Res. 45, commending the Ed Block Courage Award Foundation for its work in aiding children and families affected by child abuse, and designating November 2007 as National Courage Month, S. Res. 258, recognizing the historical and educational significance of the Atlantic Freedom Tour of the Freedom Schooner Amistad, and expressing the sense of the Senate that preserving the legacy of the Amistad story is important in promoting multicultural dialogue, education, and cooperation, and the nomination of James Russell Dedrick, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Tennessee, 10 a.m., SD-226.

Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights, to hold hearings to examine the Google-DoubleClick merger and the online advertising industry, focusing on the risks for competition and privacy, 2:30 p.m., SD-226.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Paul J. Hutter, of Virginia, to be General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, 9:30 a.m., SD-562.

House

Committee on Agriculture, hearing to review H.R. 1011, Virginia Ridge and Valley Act of 2007, 11 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, to mark up the following bills: H.R. 20, Melanie Blocker-Stokes

Postpartum Depression Research and Care Act; H.R. 2295, ALS Registry Act; H.R. 507, Vision Care for Kids Act of 2007; H.R. 1727, Christopher and Dana Reeve Paralysis Act; H.R. 970, Dextromethorphan Distribution Act of 2007; H.R. 814, Children's Gasoline Burn Prevention Act; H.R. 1699, Danny Keysar Child Product Safety Notification Act; H.R. 2474, Product Safety Civil Penalties Improvement Act; and H.R. 1721, Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, hearing entitled "DEC Proxy Access Proposals: Implications for Investors," 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Capital Markets, Insurance, and Government Sponsored Enterprises, hearing entitled "The Role of Credit Rating Agencies in the Structured Finance Market," 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Intelligence, Information Sharing and Terrorism Risk, hearing entitled "The Way Forward with Fusion Centers: Challenges and Strategies for Change," 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, hearing on H.R. 2128, Sunshine in the Courtroom Act of 2007, 1 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans, oversight hearing entitled "Aquatic Nuisance Species and Activities of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force," 2 p.m., 1334 Longworth.

Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands, hearing on the following bills: H.R. 830, Denali National Park and Alaska Railroad Land Exchange Act of 2007; H.R. 2094, To provide for certain administrative and support services for the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission; and H.R. 3111, Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial Enhancement Act of 2007, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Science and Technology, Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight, hearing on the National Security Implications of Climate Change, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, hearing on Management and Authorization legislation, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management, hearing on the John F. Kennedy Center Reauthorization, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Health, hearing on VA Grant and Per Diem Program, 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Subcommittee on Terrorism, Human Intelligence, Analysis, and Counterintelligence, executive briefing on Overview On CIA Activities, 10 a.m., H-405 Capitol.

Select Committee to Investigate the Voting Irregularities of August 2, 2007, to meet for organization purposes; to consider an Interim Report, required by H. Res. 611, Raising a question of the privileges of the House, to be filed with the House of Representatives by September 30, 2007, followed by a hearing on Voting in the House of Representatives, 9 a.m., H-313 Capitol.