

ATTACHMENT B

REPORT

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TO: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

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FROM: Thomas P. Walters

2013 ANNUAL REPORT

Many observers consider the first session of the 113th Congress to have been one of the least productive sessions ever, both in terms of quantity and of quality of legislative initiatives actually completed. As the session began, there were exaggerated expectations that work would be completed on a broad array of policy issues of significance to the County, including: immigration reform; completion of an overdue Farm Bill, reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act; Workforce Investment Act reauthorization; Water Resources Development legislation; and the Older Americans Act. But the hyper-partisanship inherited from the previous Congress quickly reasserted itself, and with the exception of the successful reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act early in the year, progress on these issues has been tumultuous and painfully protracted, if it occurred at all. And as has been voluminously documented in the media, much of Congress' time and energy was consumed in careening from one fiscal crisis of its own making to the next, including sequestration, the unfinished FY 2013 appropriations process left over from the 112th Congress, the increase in the Debt limit, and the disintegration of the FY 2014 appropriations process that culminated in the government shutdown in October.

We worked throughout the year to aggressively advocate your Board's priorities and protect the County's interests on a wide range of policies and issues impacting fiscal stability and delivery of services, as addressed in this report. We lobbied these issues on behalf of the County with Congressional members, staff and Administration representatives, and during their respective trips to Washington, D.C., we arranged meetings for Board members and various County officials to also advocate on critical issues with these officials. As appropriate, we also worked closely with other relevant stakeholders to lobby the County's positions on these issues.

Funding opportunities for specific projects in general and Santa Barbara County proposals and projects in particular were limited by the continuation of the moratorium on earmarks, as well as the uncertainty of Federal funding streams due to the multiple fiscal crises throughout the year. Nevertheless, the County was awarded several Federal grants and reimbursements, including:

- \$1.7 million under the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program;
- \$1.56 million through HUD's Community Development Block Grant program and \$914,070 under the HOME program;
- \$1.42 million to stakeholders under the jurisdiction of the Santa Barbara/Santa Maria Continuum of Care for homeless prevention programs;
- \$311,490 reimbursement for the incarceration of criminal undocumented aliens under the State Criminal Aliens Assistance Program (SCAAP);
- \$281,457 for activities under Part C of the Ryan White HIV AIDS program;
- \$233,680 for the County's Community Health Centers to help enroll uninsured Americans under the Affordable Care Act;
- \$113,312 under HUD's FY 2013 Emergency Shelter Grant program;
- \$76,329 under the FY 2013 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant program; and,
- \$54,053 for the County's Public Health Department ongoing operations and quality improvement activities at its Community Health Centers.

Comprehensive immigration reform is expected to be one of the highest and most highly-charged political and policy priorities to be tackled during the second session of the 113th Congress. In addition, Congress will attempt to address the authorization or reauthorization of a variety of programs of significance to the County, including: the Farm Bill; Water Resources Development legislation; TANF; the Workforce Investment Act; and the Older Americans Act.

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Ongoing Federal Fiscal Crises

The 113th Congress has spent most of the year careening from one fiscal crisis to another. These began with the March 1 deadline for the automatic spending cuts known as sequestration. We joined NACo and other public sector advocates in expressing concerns regarding the potential impacts of the cuts on local responsibilities and provision of services, and contacted each of the County's Congressional delegation members to apprise them of the broad spectrum of programs that would be affected, ranging from public health and safety to community and economic development, job training, and services to protect the elderly. But despite the broad opposition to and lobbying against sequestration, no Congressional action took place by the deadline, and the process began, although there was a protracted ramping up period over which the effects were manifested.

The next fiscal crisis point was the expiration of the Continuing Resolution that funded Federal programs and agencies through March 27, and efforts were undertaken to obviate some of the impacts of the sequester in the proposals to fund the government through the remainder of FY 2013. Early in March, the House approved H.R. 933, the *FY 2013 Full Year Continuing Appropriations Act*. The measure attempted to soften the impacts of sequestration by combining a CR for the balance of the Federal Fiscal Year with actual appropriations bill language for certain departments, including Defense, Agriculture, Commerce, Justice, and Homeland Security.

Despite a stated intent to return to the "regular order" of the annual appropriations process for FY 2014 funding, Congress found itself with no clear path regarding completion of the twelve appropriations bills that fund Federal agencies and programs. As has often been the case in recent years, the House approved a FY 2014 Continuing Resolution that would have funded Federal agencies and programs at FY 2013 levels through December 15, 2013 to buy more time to negotiate a funding strategy. But the decision to include provisions in the CR to defund the Affordable Care Act at a critical point in its implementation immediately doomed the effort. Senate Democrats adamantly refused to accept the ACA provisions, and after a series of back and forth offers in which both sides dug in their heels, the new Fiscal Year dawned with the first shutdown of the Federal government since 1995. The situation was compounded by the rapidly-approaching debt limit ceiling. To assist the County in dealing with the shutdown, we provided staff with various agency-by-agency summaries of potential impacts, including a comprehensive document put together by the National Association of Counties. The shutdown finally ended on October 17 with the passage of a Continuing Resolution funding Federal agencies at FY 2013 post-sequestration levels through January 15, 2014, and suspension of the debt limit until February 7, 2014.

The next stage in the continuing crisis was the work of a Joint Conference Committee convened to reconcile versions of a FY 2014 Budget Resolution passed by the House and Senate earlier in the year. While expectations quickly plummeted regarding a "Grand Bargain," negotiations carried on almost exclusively by House Budget Committee Chairman Ryan (R-WI) and Senate Budget Committee Chairman Murray (D-WA) ultimately resulted in a proposal that sets discretionary spending levels at \$1.012 trillion for FY 2014 and \$1.014 trillion for FY 2015, while

lifting half of the sequester for this year and about a quarter of it for next year. Congress must still negotiate and approve specific appropriations bills before the January 14 expiration of the current Continuing Resolution, and members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees are expected to draft one or more omnibus funding measures over the holidays to finalize FY 2014 spending.

Immigration Reform

Following your Board's action on immigration reform in April, we contacted President Obama, House and Senate Congressional leaders, the Congressional committees of jurisdiction, and the local delegation to advocate in support of the policy framework for Comprehensive Immigration Reform adopted by NACo at its March Legislative Conference. The guidelines were consistent with a much-discussed proposal developed by a bipartisan group of eight Senators, and the so-called Gang of Eight released its proposal later in April as S. 744, the *Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act*. As the Senate Judiciary Committee immediately began hearings on the legislation, we reiterated your Board's policy to committee members. Over 200 amendments were considered, many of them attempts to derail the immigration reform effort. Senator Feinstein was instrumental in the negotiations on the inclusion of the Agricultural Job Opportunity, Benefits, and Security (AgJOBS Act), which would establish a new agricultural guest worker program.

After committee approval, the *Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act* faced intense debate on the Senate floor, and we continued to advocate your Board's policy in support of maintaining the Gang of Eight's original framework. While there was some staunch opposition to any form of immigration reform, the sponsors strove to parlay with the help of a last-minute compromise that substantially increased resources for border security, S. 744 was approved by the full Senate by a vote of 68-32 just before Independence Day.

In the House, after an early July closed-door meeting of the entire Republican caucus, GOP leaders declared that they would indeed move forward on immigration reform but in a piecemeal fashion, and would not consider the comprehensive package approved by the Senate. However, they did not announce a specific timetable for action. The House Judiciary Committee did approve two measures, Chairman Goodlatte's (R-VA) H.R. 1773, the *Agricultural Guest Worker Act*, which would create a new H-2C work visa program, and Congressman Gowdy's (R-SC) H.R. 2278, the *Strengthen and Fortify Enforcement (SAFE) Act*, which would address immigration enforcement. When Congress returned from the summer recess, we once again reiterated your Board's support for comprehensive immigration reform, and expressed concern that the window of opportunity was rapidly narrowing. But Congress in general and the House in particular quickly became sidetracked by the crisis over FY 2014 Federal funding and the ensuing government shutdown debacle. Speaker Boehner announced in November that there would be no further action on immigration reform this year, and reiterated that the House would not take up the Senate-passed legislation.

High Priority Projects

With the extension of the moratorium on Congressionally-directed spending for specific local projects through the FY 2013 appropriations process, we focused our

efforts to secure Federal resources for the County's high priority projects on advocacy for potential funding streams, as well as working with appropriate Federal agencies, including through the competitive grant process. In doing so, we continued to emphasize the development of both long-term and short-term strategies for each of the projects.

Federal Transportation Funding

Although Congress enacted the *Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) Act* last year to reauthorize surface transportation programs, the legislation only covers a two-year period. With program authorizations scheduled to again lapse at the end of fiscal year 2014, we began lobbying the County's reauthorization priorities as soon as the new 113th Congress was convened, and continued to reiterate those priorities throughout the year.

In January, we arranged and participated in meetings for Supervisor Carbajal and Works Director McGolpin to advocate the County's MAP-21 reauthorization priorities with key House and Senate Committee staff and the local Delegation. During those meetings and at subsequent opportunities, we briefed Congresswoman Capps and the personal staff for Senators Feinstein and Boxer regarding the ongoing need for Federal resources for the County's high-priority transportation projects. We also requested their support and that of the committees of jurisdiction for robust funding for bridge projects. While MAP-21 consolidated the number of highway programs by two-thirds, the final bill set aside a pot of funding for off-system bridges that essentially preserves the program at the FY 2009 level. We emphasized the necessity to preserve this funding in the next reauthorization, and to ensure that on-system bridges are protected as well. We stressed that on-system bridges – those that are on Federal-aid routes but not on the National Highway system – amount to about one-half of the bridge inventory in Santa Barbara County. We also advocated for an aggressive Federal pavement preservation program. The County has been a leader in Pavement Preservation since 1994, which includes both preventive and corrective non-structural actions to provide cost-effective alternatives to local roadways. Efforts to draft MAP-21 reauthorization legislation will begin in earnest in 2014, and Senator Boxer will once again have a key role as Chair of the Environment and Public Works Committee.

Army Corps of Engineers Projects

We lobbied the House and Senate Appropriations Committees throughout the FY 2014 appropriations processes in support of adequate funding in the *Energy and Water Appropriations Acts* for the Army Corps of Engineers to fund critical projects in the County.

Lower Mission Creek

We worked with the Army Corps of Engineers and County staff on efforts to move the Lower Mission Creek Project further into the construction phase. In January, we arranged and participated in meetings for Supervisor Carbajal, Public Works Director McGolpin and Assistant Public Works Director Fayram with Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters staff to advocate in support of the project. We emphasized the significant investment in the project by both the Corps and the County, and the importance of these improvements to protecting lives and property in Santa

Barbara. We also discussed the potential for refocusing the project on the most cost-effective improvements. As part of our efforts, we briefed House and Senate Appropriations Committee staff on the project and worked with Senator Feinstein in her role as Chair of the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee. Throughout the appropriations process we continued to work with Congresswoman Capps, the City of Santa Barbara's lobbyist and County Staff to seek ways to advance the project. When the House and Senate Appropriations Committees drafted their respective versions of the *FY 2014 Energy and Water Appropriations* bill, both severely restricted funding for additional "new starts" for Corps projects, citing the existing backlog of needs.

Goleta Beach

We arranged and participated in meetings for Supervisor Carbajal during his January advocacy trip to brief the House and Senate Appropriations Committees on the need for Army Corps assistance to preserve the Goleta Beach Park and shoreline. We urged the committees, Senators Boxer and Feinstein, and Congresswoman Capps to support future funding opportunities for construction of the project. We also continued to facilitate discussions on potential approaches and resources for the project throughout the year as County began considering alternative approaches to the effort.

Bureau of Reclamation

In January, we arranged for Supervisor Carbajal and County staff to meet with the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to discuss a variety of issues related to Lake Cachuma, including upgrades to the Federal facilities that serve the recreational users. We also assisted the County throughout the year in advocating these issues with the local Delegation. Resources to address additional facility upgrades continue to be scarce in the environment created by Federal deficit reduction efforts and the earmark moratorium.

Other Priority Projects

Despite the moratorium on Congressionally-directed spending, we apprised our local Congressional delegation of the County's other high priority projects, and arranged and participated in meetings for Supervisor Carbajal to discuss those projects during his January advocacy trip. These included the Santa Barbara County Courthouse renovation, Santa Barbara Health and Human Services campus upgrades, open space preservation and acquisition, and renovations at the Santa Barbara and Lompoc Veterans Memorial Building. We researched Federal programs that could provide potential resources and advocated for those programs through the FY 2014 appropriations process. We also monitored the appropriate Federal agencies throughout the year as they announced competitive grant opportunities, and provided information regarding those opportunities to County staff for analysis, consideration, and potential action.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

FY 2014 Federal Funding

We contacted the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to reiterate the County's homeland security and emergency response priorities in anticipation of

action on the *FY 2014 Homeland Security Appropriations* bill urging them to adequately fund local emergency response and disaster preparedness activities, including funding to address the needs of public safety, public health, emergency management personnel, and communications infrastructure. We also asked them to fund the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program at the highest possible level, and emphasized the critical importance of Emergency Management Performance Grants to the County's emergency preparedness responsibilities.

The Homeland Security Appropriations bill is traditionally one of the first spending measures drafted, and the House Appropriations Committee marked up its FY 2014 DHS spending bill in late May. The committee provided a total of \$1.5 billion for State and Local Programs - a slight, \$35.4 million increase over FY 2013 - but proposed consolidating several of those programs. It also included \$350 million for EMPG, essentially providing level funding for the program. The National Pre-Disaster Mitigation Fund was cut by 10% to \$22.5 million. The full House approved the legislation in June, largely along party lines. The Senate Appropriations Committee began working on its version of the DHS spending bill in July. The Senate measure would provide \$1.502 billion for State and Local programs, including \$406.4 million for State and Local Homeland Security Grants. It proposes \$675 million for Firefighter Assistance Grants and \$350 million for EMPG - the same as the House bill - but would fund the National Pre-Disaster Mitigation Fund at \$25 million, the same as was allocated for FY 2013. The committee-approved bill also proposes \$350 million for EMPG. The National Pre-Disaster Mitigation Fund would be funded at \$25 million, the same level as FY 2013. The final *FY 2014 Homeland Security Appropriations* bill will almost certainly be included in the omnibus appropriations package being negotiated to replace the Continuing Resolution that expires in January.

Firefighter Grant Program

We provided information to County staff regarding the Department of Homeland Security's FY 2013 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG) and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Program. . Funding under these competitive grant programs can be used to address a variety of firefighting-related needs. Last year, the Santa Barbara County Fire Department was awarded \$599,870 under the FY 2012 AFG Program for Operations and Safety activities, which include professional training, wellness and fitness programs, equipment, personal protective equipment, and modifications to facilities. DHS has just begun the process of announcing awards under the FY 2013 competitive process.

We also lobbied throughout the year in support of FY 2014 funding for the firefighting grants. The House Appropriations Committee provided \$675 million for Firefighter Assistance Grants in its version of the *FY 2014 Homeland Security Appropriations* bill, including \$337.5 million for SAFER, and the Senate provided the same funding levels for the programs in its version of the DHS spending bill. This is essentially level funding compared to the previous year, and is likely to be the amount included in the final FY 2014 omnibus appropriations

Wildfire Suppression

We continued to advocate for increased Federal resources to assist in the suppression of local wildfires. In particular, we lobbied in support of efforts to help the U.S. Forest Service modernize its air tanker fleet. During Senate consideration of the FY 2014 National Defense Authorization Act just before Christmas, Senator Feinstein joined with Senator McCain (R-AZ) in cosponsoring language transferring 22 military aircraft to the Forest Service to battle major wildfires. This includes the transfer of seven large air tankers (LATs) from the Coast Guard, doubling the number of LATs available to USFS for wildfire suppression.

Environment and Land Use

Tribal Gaming Compacts and Land Use

We provided Congresswoman Capps and Senators Boxer and Feinstein with the County's comments letter to the Bureau of Indian Affairs in opposition to the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians' Fee-to-Trust Application for the Camp 4 Property. We also followed up with their respective staffs, and in particular brought Senator Feinstein's new Indian Affairs staffer up to speed on the County's concerns. When Congressman LaMalfa (R-CA) introduced H.R. 3313 as a legislative vehicle to take the Camp 4 land into trust on behalf of the Santa Ynez Chumash, we provided the County with the draft legislative language and discussed it with Congresswoman Capps' staff, who reiterated that the Congresswoman does not support the proposal. We also urged Chairman Young (R-AK) of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indian Affairs to not take action on the legislation, and contacted each member of the subcommittee to lobby against the bill. Congressman LaMalfa is a member of the subcommittee, but no hearings have been scheduled so far.

Resource Recovery Project - Conversion Technology

We arranged and participated in meetings for Supervisor Carbajal to advocate in support of resources for conversion technology efforts such as the County's Resource Recovery Project. During the 112th Congress, Congressman Doggett (D-TX) introduced the *Waste-to-Energy Technology Act*, which would have provided an investment tax credit for waste-to-energy facilities. However, he has not yet reintroduced the proposal in the current Congress, and Supervisor Carbajal learned during the meetings that under the current atmosphere of tight budget restraints, exacerbated by sequestration, there are very few opportunities for these types of projects at the Federal level. However, later in the year we became aware that the Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficient Improvements under USDA's Rural Energy for America program might be a competitive funding opportunity for conversion technology. We provided information on the program to the County for review and potential follow-up action.

Coastal Issues

We provided County staff with Senator Boxer's S. 45 the *West Coast Ocean Protection Act* for analysis regarding potential local impacts. S. 45, which was referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Senate Committee on Natural Resources, would prohibit the Secretary of the Interior from issuing a lease for the exploration, development, or production of oil or natural gas in any area of the outer Continental Shelf off the coast of California, Oregon, or Washington.

Senator Feinstein is an original cosponsor of the bill. The committee did not schedule hearings on the measure this year.

In anticipation of a June hearing by the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, we provided County staff with the draft version of the *Offshore Energy and Jobs Act*. The measure includes provisions that would allow for new exploration in the Santa Barbara/Ventura Basin OCS Planning Area. Full Committee Chairman Hastings (R-WA) subsequently introduced the proposal as H.R. 2231, and we contacted the committee to discuss the provisions of the bill in advance of its markup. The committee approved H.R. 2231 by a 23-18 vote. During floor consideration of the measure, Congresswoman Capps offered an amendment that would have stripped out the provisions related to the Santa Barbara/Ventura Basin OCS Planning Area. Her proposal was not approved and H.R. 2231 passed on a largely partisan vote, with Congresswoman Capps opposing the bill. The measure was referred to the Senate, but we do not anticipate that it will take any action on the bill.

Hydro-Fracking

We arranged and participated in meetings for Supervisor Carbajal to discuss the regulation of hydraulic fracturing (hydro-fracking) during his January trip, including with now-EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy.. We subsequently provided County staff with information regarding EPA's formation of an independent body to peer-review its research for a Congressionally-ordered report looking at the potential health impacts of hydraulic fracturing on drinking water. The draft report is due out next year. In July, Senate Energy Committee Chairman Wyden's (D-OR) released the outline of a proposal to allow states to regulate hydraulic fracturing underground, while allowing the Federal government to set reporting and disclosure requirements. We contacted Chairman Wyden, Ranking Minority Member Murkowski, Senators Boxer and Feinstein, and the California members of the House Natural Resources Committee to advocate the County's support for monitoring groundwater quality both before and after fracking operations, as well as the disclosure of chemicals used during, and resulting from, fracking. We also reiterated the County's position that any Federal action should not preempt local jurisdictions from maintain control of land use policy within their boundaries. In addition, we provided Congresswoman Capps and Senators Boxer and Feinstein with the California Coastal Commission's concerns regarding not being made aware of fracking that has occurred offshore of the County. In November, Congresswoman Capps requested a moratorium and a study of offshore fracking by the Department of the Interior and EPA.

Vandenberg Air Force Base Drilling Study

At the County's request, we researched the background on the Department of Defense's (DoD) decision to undertake a study regarding the feasibility of leasing land on Vandenberg Air Force Base for private companies to extract offshore oil and gas utilizing slant drilling. We also contacted Congresswoman Capps' office regarding the County's interest in keeping abreast of the study. DoD typically undertakes 30-40 of these types of studies a year at a variety of bases, looking at what the impacts of any such project would be on the mission of the base, as well as the revenue that could be generated. The study began in the fall and was projected

to take 2 to 3 months to complete. Congresswoman Capps wanted to ensure that relevant stakeholders were involved - including the County, other State and local officials, and environmental groups – her District office took the lead as the local liaison with DoD. As the three month timeframe approached in December, we followed up with the Congresswoman’s staff here in Washington regarding the report’s status. We were informed that DoD had notified them that the study was nearing completion and that a draft report would be available for internal review in the near future.

Health Care

Funding for Health Care Programs

In anticipation of this fall’s rollout, Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Sebelius announced \$150 million in grant awards to health centers across the country to help enroll uninsured Americans in new health coverage options made available by the Affordable Care Act. We were informed that the County of Santa Barbara has been awarded \$233,680 for its Outreach and Enrollment efforts.

In mid-September, Secretary Sebelius also announced awards to a variety of health centers nationwide designed to support ongoing operations and quality improvement activities. We were informed that the County’s Public Health Department has been awarded \$54,053 for these activities.

We urged members of the House and Senate Labor, HHS, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittees to support public health programs in the *FY 2014 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies* bill, including tuberculosis control and prevention, Ryan White Part B (ADAP) funding, substance abuse and mental health block grants, community health centers, immunizations, preventative health services, health care safety net grants; and community-based health and nutrition services for older Americans. We also urged them to provide adequate funding for State and local bioterrorism preparedness and bioterrorism hospital grants. In June, the Senate Committee approved its version of the FY 2014 spending bill, providing the following levels for programs of significance to the County: \$1.6 billion for Community Health Centers; \$1.8 billion for substance abuse prevention and treatment; \$943 million for ADAP; \$1 billion for the Prevention and Public Health Fund; \$483 million for mental health grants; \$579 million for Section 317 immunizations; \$327 million for family planning; and \$140 for tuberculosis control and prevention. The House Appropriations Committee never took action on the measure, which is often one of the last appropriations bills considered because of its size and frequent attempts to add controversial riders. House and Senate conferees negotiating final FY 2014 spending levels may include Labor/HHS spending in an omnibus appropriations bill, or simply extend current funding levels through a year-long Continuing Resolution.

Ryan White CARE Act

In November, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released its allocations for FY 2013 Ryan White HIV/AIDS funding. We were notified by HHS that Santa Barbara County will receive \$281,547 under the Part C of the program.

We contacted the House and Senate committees of jurisdiction to reiterate the County's support for the Ryan White CARE Act, and to urge them to take action on legislation to reauthorize its programs. The current authorization for Ryan White expires on September 30, 2013. While neither the House Energy and Commerce nor the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committees have scheduled hearings on the CARE Act, Ranking Minority Member Pallone (D-NJ) of the House Subcommittee on Health introduced H.R. 2699, which would extend hold harmless provisions pending reauthorization of the overall program.

Childhood and Women's Health Issues

We contacted the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to advocate the County's support for funding for the Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Block Grant in the *FY 2014 Labor, HHS, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations* bill. When the Senate committee drafted its version of the bill, it proposed \$643 million for MCH, the same level at which it was funded in FY 2013. The House committee never took action on the FY 2014 Labor/HHS spending measure, and current year spending for Title V will be determined by the conference committee drafting the omnibus appropriations measure.

Homelessness, Housing and Community Development

Homelessness

During the spring, HUD Secretary Donovan announced the release of \$1.5 billion in FY 2012 Continuum of Care (CoC) funding. We were informed that stakeholders in Santa Barbara County will receive a total of \$1.42 million under the program, which is used to administer street outreach, client assessment, and direct housing assistance.

We lobbied members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, our local Congressional delegation, and Senators Boxer and Feinstein in support of adequate funding for homeless programs in the *FY 2014 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations* bill. The House committee proposed \$2.0 billion for homeless assistance grants, while the Senate has proposed \$2.2 billion. The grant program was funded at \$2.03 billion in FY 2013. House and Senate conferees are currently negotiating final funding levels for FY 2014.

Housing and Community Development Resources

As work began on FY 2014 appropriations, we contacted the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, our local Congressional delegation, and Senators Boxer and Feinstein to advocate for funding for housing and community development programs of significance to the County in the *FY 2014 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and Related Agencies Appropriations* bill. We also asked our delegation to sign on to "Dear Colleague" letters in support of funding for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME programs. When the House and Senate committees drafted their respective versions of the spending measure, there were significantly different amounts proposed for a variety of programs. The most egregious of these differences related to CDBG, with the Senate increasing CDBG slightly over FY 2013 to \$3.15 billion, and the House measure slashing the program to \$1.64 billion. Similarly the HOME program would be funded at \$1 billion by the Senate, but would receive only \$700 million in the House

bill. Other Senate-proposed funding included: \$2.26 billion for Homeless Assistance grants, \$332 million for Housing for People with AIDS (HOPWA), \$75 million for HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Program (HUD-VASH), and \$400 million for elderly housing. The House bill included the following levels for those programs: \$2.09 billion for Homeless Assistance grants, \$300 million for HOPWA, \$75 million for HUD-VASH, and \$375 million for elderly housing. The joint House/Senate Conference Committee working over on a FY 2014 omnibus spending package will determine the final funding levels for these programs.

Workforce Development

We contacted the House and Senate committees of jurisdiction to advocate the County's support for the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and provided them with a white paper addressing specific proposals from your Board's 2013 Legislative Platform, including: program enhancements that strengthen local governance; improvement of partner program investment for coordinated services through local One-Stop systems; and enhancement of flexibility in the uses of funds for services to employed workers and youth jobs programs. We also met with staff from the House Education and Labor Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training and the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee to discuss WIA reauthorization and their respective plans for the 113th Congress. Early in the session, House Subcommittee Chairwoman Foxx (R-NC) introduced H.R. 803, *Supporting Knowledge and Investing in Lifelong Skills (SKILLS) Act*, which was essentially a re-introduction of her WIA legislation from last year. In March, H.R. 803 was marked up and approved by the full committee and the full House narrowly approved the SKILLS Act on March 15 by a vote of 215-202, with numerous members indicating that the bill could be improved in negotiations with the Senate.

In the Senate, we reiterated the County's support for WIA reauthorization to members of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee, and attended the committee's July 31 markup of Senator Murray's (D-WA) S. 1356, the *Workforce Investment Act of 2013*. The measure, which was approved by a bipartisan vote of 18-3, would enable local workforce agencies to more effectively tailor their programs to specific needs, maintain locally-driven workforce development systems and the local elected officials' role in administration of WIA, and closely align workforce systems with regional economic development and labor market conditions. The committee's report to accompany its approval of S. 1356 is still pending, impeding the scheduling of floor action on the bill. This fall, we joined NACo and a consortium of national workforce organizations in encouraging the Majority and Minority leadership of the HELP Committee to push for full Senate consideration of S. 1356 as soon as possible.

Public Safety

Immigration Impacts on Public Safety

We provided the County with the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) requirements for seeking reimbursements for costs associated with the incarceration of illegal alien criminals under the FY 2013 State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP). Applications were due in May, and this fall we were informed by BJA

that the County of Santa Barbara was allocated \$311,490 in FY 2013 funding under the program.

During the Senate Judiciary Committee markup of S. 744, the *Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act*, we were alerted by Senator Feinstein's staff that she would be offering an amendment that would reauthorize the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP), and confirm the ability for local governments to be reimbursed for costs associated with pre-adjudicated as well as convicted criminal illegal aliens. This provision is very significant to the County of Santa Barbara. In 2003, the Department of Justice reinterpreted the SCAAP statute and no longer allowed local governments to file claims for incarcerated undocumented aliens not yet convicted, causing the County's SCAAP reimbursements to plunge from \$865,000 to under \$400,000 the next year, and in that range in subsequent years. We immediately began working with CSAC and other County advocates in support of the Senator's amendment, and it was ultimately adopted by a close, 10-8 margin. Senator Feinstein also successfully offered a variety of other amendments to the legislation, including the authorization of funding for immigration-related criminal prosecution costs borne by State and local governments, and the requirement that funding to local law enforcement under the Operation Stone Garden program be awarded through a competitive process.

Public Safety Funding

When the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) announced its funding under the FY 2013 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program, we provided the application package to County staff. Under the allocation for JAG, Santa Barbara County is eligible for \$76,329 in conjunction with the City of Santa Maria. The funding can be used for a variety of public safety activities.

We contacted the House and Senate Appropriations Committees regarding the County's public safety funding priorities, and urged them to provide the highest level of funding possible for local law enforcement activities when they draft the *FY 2014 Commerce, Justice and Science (CJS) Appropriations* bill, including youth delinquency prevention, local law enforcement technology needs, domestic abuse programs, and drug treatment. When the House committee approved its bill in July, it proposed a significant increase in the Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program to \$465 million, but did not include any funding for Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring Grants. It also proposed: \$165 million for SCAAP, which was funded at \$240 million last year; \$413 million for the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA); \$125 million for DNA and forensic-related programs; \$55 million for re-entry programs authorized under the Second Chance Act; \$41 million for drug courts; and, \$7.5 million for mental health courts.

While the House bill did not include funding for COPS programs, the version drafted by the Senate Appropriations Committee would provide \$393.5 million for the grants, an 80% increase over FY 2013. It would also provide: \$385 million for the Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG); \$190 million for SCAAP; \$417 million for VAWA programs; \$140 million for DNA and forensic-related programs; \$70.5 million for Second Chance Act re-entry programs; \$40 million for drug courts; \$9 million for mental health courts; and \$4 million for veterans treatment courts.

Like the House, the Senate bill provides funding for a new Justice Reinvestment Initiative requested by the Administration to support State and local efforts to improve the availability of services to reduce offenders' risks of recidivism. While neither bill was taken up by the respective full chambers, they will be used as a basis for negotiations as House and Senate conferees work on the final FY 2014 omnibus appropriations package between now and the middle of January, 2014.

Domestic Violence

As the new Congress was seated, we contacted the Senate Judiciary Committee and Senators Boxer and Feinstein to advocate in support of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), citing the resources and training the Act has provided, as well as the ongoing need for those resources. Early in February, the Senate approved Judiciary Committee Chairman Leahy's (D-VT) S. 47, the *Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013*, by a broadly bipartisan vote of 78-22, with Senators Boxer and Feinstein both original cosponsors of the legislation. The measure was very similar to legislation approved by the Senate in the 112th Congress, which had stalled in conference negotiations with the House. Following the passage of S. 47, we urged the House Judiciary Committee and House Leadership to expedite passage of similar legislation. While companion legislation to S. 47 had been introduced in the House, Speaker Boehner (R-OH) announced that the full House would take up VAWA legislation similar to a proposal approved by the House the previous year on partisan lines. Subsequently bowing to considerable lobbying pressure – including from within his own caucus – the Speaker agreed to a vote on both the Senate-passed bill and the House proposal. With considerable bipartisan support, S. 47 was approved while the House bill failed, avoiding the confrontation between the two chambers that had scuttled VAWA reauthorization last year.

Mentally Ill Offenders

We urged Chairman Leahy (D-VT) and Ranking Minority Member Grassley (R-IA) of the Senate Judiciary Committee to expedite consideration of Senator Franken's (D-MN) S. 162, the *Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Act*. The measure would reauthorize and improve the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act (MIOTCRA) of 2004, including providing grants for improved mental health treatment services for mentally ill offenders, and giving local officials greater control over program participation eligibility. The bill has bipartisan support, and both Chairman Leahy and Ranking Minority Member Grassley are original cosponsors. The committee approved S. 162 in June, and it was placed on the Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders to await consideration by the full Senate. In the House, companion legislation was introduced by Congressman Nugent (R-FL) as H.R. 401 and referred to the House Judiciary Committee. While H.R. 401 also has bipartisan support, committee action has not yet been scheduled.

Second Chance Act Reauthorization

We contacted members of the Senate and House Judiciary Committees to advocate in support of legislation to reauthorize the Second Chance Act. The previous authorization of the Act expired on September 30, 2010, and while Congress has continued to fund its programs through the annual appropriations process, we argued the importance of reauthorizing and improving Second Chance to ensure the availability of needed re-entry resources to local governments such as the County. In November, Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Leahy (D-VT) introduced S.

1690, the *Second Chance Act Reauthorization Act of 2013*, and House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime Chairman Sensenbrenner introduced companion legislation as H.R. 3465. Both bills have bipartisan support, and are likely to be considered during the second session of the current Congress.

Justice For All Act

We contacted members of the Senate Judiciary Committee and Senators Boxer and Feinstein in support of Committee Chairman Leahy's (D-VT) S. 822, the *Justice For All Reauthorization Act*. The measure would extend the authorization of a variety of programs implemented in the original Justice For All Act, including the Crime Victims' Rights Act, the Debbie Smith Act, the Coverdell Forensics Science Improvement Grant Program, and the Innocence Protection Act. It would also improve support services for crime victims, enhance state and local governments' use of DNA evidence, and make units of local government eligible for grants under the Capital Representation Improvement Grants and the Capital Prosecution Improvement Grants programs. On October 31, the Judiciary Committee approved S. 822, and it has been placed on the Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders to be scheduled for full Senate consideration.

Social Services

Social Services

As the House prepared to debate H.R. 3102, the *Nutrition Reform and Work Opportunity Act*, we contacted the County's local delegation to express concerns with the proposed cuts of \$40 billion over 10 years to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) contained in the legislation. These provisions had been dropped from the House version of the 2013 Farm Bill when it was approved by the full House last summer to appease certain constituencies who were arguing for deeper cuts in SNAP benefits. We cited the fact that over 30,000 County residents currently receive SNAP benefits, and that these cuts would put extra pressure on the local public safety net, including the County and underfunded community-based organizations. However, the bill was approved on September 19 on a largely party-line vote. Since the Senate-passed Farm Bill included the traditional agricultural nutrition programs, the provisions of H.R. 3102 are being considered by House and Senate conferees negotiating the final version of the Farm Bill.

We contacted the House and Senate Appropriations Committee, our local Congressional delegation, and Senators Boxer and Feinstein to advocate in support of Title XX Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) funding, emphasizing its importance to a variety of programs in the County, including IHSS and Child Welfare Services. We also encouraged them to adequately fund the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), citing the provision of services funded through the County's Community Action Partnership, including case management, employment services, child care, emergency shelter and food distribution, financial education, protection from violence, and youth services. Additionally, we urged the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee and House Education and Labor Committee to take action on legislation to reauthorize CSBG, as the program has not been reauthorized since 2003 except through the annual appropriations process. When the Senate Appropriations Committee marked up and approved its version of the *FY 2014 Labor, HHS, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations* bill, it proposed \$1.7

billion for SSBG, the same level as was provided in FY 2013. The committee recommended \$676 million for CSBG, also the same as was provided in the prior year. The House Appropriations Committee never took action on the measure, and final FY 2014 spending levels will be negotiated by House and Senate conferees negotiating omnibus appropriations legislation to replace the Continuing Resolution that expires on January 15.

Older Americans

We arranged and participated in meetings for Supervisor Carbajal with the House and Senate committees of jurisdiction to discuss reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA) during his January advocacy trip. As part of our ongoing follow-up to those meetings, we provided the House Education & Workforce Committee and the Senate HELP Subcommittee on Aging with the Position Paper generated by County staff that lays out specific recommendations for OAA reauthorization, and the material was particularly timely in the Senate. Subsequently, Senate Subcommittee Chairman Sanders' (I-VT) staff provided us with a draft and background information on his legislation, the *Older Americans Act Amendments of 2013*, which we in turn shared with County staff for analysis and feedback. Chairman Sanders first introduced his legislation as S. 1028, and later in the year introduced a subsequent version as S. 1562 based on feedback from advocacy groups. This fall, we reiterated the County's advocacy in support of OAA in anticipation of the HELP Committee action on S. 1562. It was approved on October 30, and is currently pending issuance of the report to accompany the Committee's action. While the Senate has finally moved forward on OAA, the outlook in the House is less clear. Committee staff continue to assure us that it is on the committee's "To Do" list, but have not indicated when it will rise to the level of actual consideration.

We asked Senate HELP Committee Chairman Harkin (D-IA) to take action on Senator Blumenthal's (D-CT) S. 1019, the *Elder Protection and Abuse Prevention Act*, citing the 9,900 reported cases of abuse of the elderly and disabled in the County in 2012. In particular, we expressed support for provisions that would establish a National Adult Protective Services Resource Center to improve the capacity of State and local protective services programs to respond effectively to elderly abuse and neglect. In September, Congressman Cartwright (D-PA) introduced companion legislation in the House as H.R. 3090, and we have urged the Committee on Education and the Workforce to expedite consideration of the proposal, as well as requesting delegation members to cosponsor the bill.

Federal Child Care Funding

We urged Chairman Harkin (D-IA) and members of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee to take action on Senator Mikulski's S. 1086, the *Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2013*, emphasizing the critical importance of adequate funding for child care to the County's ability to help low income families transition to self-sufficiency. CCDBG has not been reauthorized in 17 years, and on September 18, the HELP Committee approved and ordered S. 1086 reported, with bipartisan support. Companion legislation has not been introduced in the House.

Other Advocacy and Support

Agricultural Issues – Farm Bill and Pest Detection

We contacted the House and Senate Agriculture Committees in anticipation of action on a 2013 Farm bill, emphasizing the importance of the legislation to local farmers, residents and the County's \$1.3 billion agricultural industry. In particular, we emphasized the need for adequate resources in the areas of pest and disease management, and invasive noxious weed management. On May 14, the Senate committee approved S. 954, the *Agriculture Reform, Food and Jobs Act of 2013*, which included authorization of the Section 10210 Pest Detection program that supports California county pest detection efforts. The full Senate began floor consideration of the measure later that month, but did not complete action on the legislation until after the Memorial Day recess due to the large number of proposed amendments. This included attempts to address a controversial \$4 billion reduction in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The Senate approved S. 954 on June 10 by a bipartisan vote of 66-27. In addition to the language to reauthorize the Section 10210 Pest Detection program, the Senate-passed measure included various provisions relevant to specialty crops, which includes most crops grown in the County and the State. This included an adjustment to the Specialty Crops Block Grant that recognizes crop value as well as acreage.

In the House, the Agriculture Committee approved H.R. 1947, the *Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act of 2013*, on May 15. One of the biggest points of contention in the House bill was its proposed cuts to SNAP of \$20.5 billion over 10 years. However, the bill did include the provisions we advocated to reauthorize the Section 10210 Pest detection program. In a stunning development, when Speaker Boehner (R-OH) brought H.R. 1947 to the House floor for consideration, it did not garner enough support from either Republicans or Democrats and failed by a vote of 195-234. The level of SNAP funding continued to be the major issue, with Tea Party-aligned Republicans angry that the SNAP program was not cut enough, and most members of the Democratic caucus upset at the magnitude of the proposed cuts. Embarrassed by the defeat, Speaker Boehner and farm state Republicans subsequently brought a "revised" Farm bill to the floor as H.R. 2642 that did not address any of the traditional agricultural nutrition programs - including SNAP - and the bill was approved 216-208 on a party line vote. In September, the House approved a bill, H.R. 3102, that would have cut SNAP by \$39 billion over 10 years by a narrow margin of 217-210. Later that month, the House combined H.R. 3102 and H.R. 2642 into one "Farm Bill" and after some legislative "back and forth," the House and Senate ultimately appointed their respective members to a Conference Committee to develop an agreement on the 2013 Farm Bill. We contacted members of the Conference Committee to reiterate the County's Farm Bill priorities and the Committee began meeting on October 30. Even though negotiations progressed and it was believed that a final agreement was close at hand, Conferees failed to draft a proposal by the time the House adjourned for the year.

We advocated for the highest level of funding through the annual appropriations process for USDA programs of importance to the County in the areas of pest detection and food safety. When the House Appropriations Committee drafted its *FY 2014 Agriculture Appropriations* bill, it proposed \$27.5 million for Pest Detection & Prevention Programs, \$148 million for Specialty Crop Pests, and \$998 million for

food safety and inspection. The Senate proposed the same level of funding for Pest Detection - \$27.5 million but increased funding for Specialty Crop Pests to \$151 million, and for food safety and inspection to \$1 billion. The joint House/Senate Conference Committee working over the holidays on a FY 2014 omnibus spending package will determine the final funding levels for these programs.

FEMA Appeal

We worked closely with Public Works Director McGolpin in support of his efforts regarding the County's appeal of Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) decision to de-obligate more than \$1 million for emergency road work during the 2005 winter storms based on an Office of the Inspector General audit. In January, we arranged and participated in a meeting for Supervisor Carbajal and Public Works Director McGolpin with FEMA's Deputy Director of Public Assistance Tod Wells and several of his staff. Congresswoman Capps' staff attended the meeting, and staff from Senator's Feinstein and Boxer office participated by conference call. Representatives from FEMA's IG office and Region IX also participated in the meeting.

Late last year we worked with Congresswoman Capps on a letter to FEMA Administrator Fugate in support of the County's position, and her office followed up with FEMA's Congressional Affairs office throughout this year. In September, the congresswoman once again wrote to FEMA on behalf of the County, providing additional information prepared by the California Legislative Counsel Bureau relevant to the appeal. Despite these efforts, the County was notified in November by CalEMA that the Second Appeal was denied. While we continue to work with County staff to explore possible avenues for further appeal, the action by FEMA is likely to be final.

Flood Control - Water Resources Development Act

Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), legislation is normally enacted on a two-year cycle, but Congress has struggled to adhere to this schedule since the enactment of WRDA 2007, in part due to the ongoing moratorium on earmarking specific projects in legislation. This year, Senator Boxer, in her role as Chair of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, introduced S. 601, the *Water Resources Development Act of 2013*. We provided the text of the legislation to the County staff for review and analysis, and based on their feedback, we contacted Senator Boxer and other members of the committee to advocate in support of the legislation, emphasizing elements of the bill that would benefit the County. These included standards and a process for the Army Corps of Engineers to authorize or amend projects, review and implementation of the Corps' Vegetation Management Policy, and development of a non-Federal project implementation pilot program. The committee approved the measure in March, and we then met with committee staff as they prepared the manager's amendment for floor debate by the full Senate. We reviewed and provided feedback on the County's letter to Governor Brown regarding support for a proposed amendment to the bill to establish a Federal project authority for the implementation of Regional Sediment Management projects on the coast of California. We followed up with other Washington, DC advocates for the proposal and continued to advocate the County's support during floor debate. While the amendment was never offered, language was included that

would enhance the Corps ability to engage in regional sediment management efforts, including cooperating with any State or group of States. S. 601 was overwhelmingly approved by a vote of 83-14 on May 15.

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Shuster (R-PA) did not move forward on WRDA legislation until this fall, when he introduced H.R. 3080, the *Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA)*. We contacted the committee to advocate the County's interests in anticipation of the September 19 markup of the legislation. The measure includes provisions that would direct that the Corps' vegetation management policy be reviewed and revised to take into account regional characteristics and habitat for species of concern. It would also establish a Public-Private Partnership Pilot Program and increase opportunities for non-Federal interests to support or expedite projects. We specifically advocated against provisions that could lead to the de-authorization of projects such as Lower Mission Creek that have not yet received construction funding from the Federal government, arguing that the focus should be on a project's merits, not its funding streams. Consideration of the measure moved quickly, and it was approved by the full House on October 23 by a vote of 417-3. There are numerous differences between the two bills that are being negotiated by a joint conference committee, so final action on a conference agreement will not be completed until early next year.

Municipal Bonds

In coordination with NACo and other local government stakeholders, we closely monitored proposals that consider repeal of the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds as part of ongoing Congressional discussions on deficit reduction through tax code reform. In March, the House Ways and Means Committee held a hearing on the impact of Federal tax policy on State and local governments, and we contacted members of the committee to express concerns regarding the potential repeal of municipal bonds' tax-exempt status. In June, NACo organized a letter to be signed by Members of Congress addressed to Speaker Boehner and Democratic Leader Pelosi in support of muni bonds. Senate Finance Committee Chairman Baucus (D-MT) and Ranking Minority Member Hatch (R-UT) subsequently announced plans to move forward on a blank-slate framework for tax reform, and members of the Senate had until mid-summer to make the case for existing provisions that should be retained. We contacted Chairman Baucus, Ranking Minority Member Hatch and Senators Boxer and Feinstein to reiterate the importance of the tax exempt bonds for infrastructure investment, citing their use by the County for such projects as the new jail in Indio. We also contacted the House Ways and Means Committee and our local Congressional delegation in anticipation of similar efforts in the House. While Chairman Baucus and his House counterpart, Ways and Means Chairman Camp (R-MI) continued to push comprehensive tax reform this fall, their efforts were stymied by the toxic political climate and the limited days on the legislative calendar.

Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT)

We urged the House and Senate committees of jurisdiction to take action on legislation to extend full funding for the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Program and the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS). We also attended a Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing focusing on options for reauthorizing and reforming the programs. PILT partially offsets the

impacts of national forests and other public lands in the County, while SRS can be used for County road improvement and maintenance projects or wildfire risk reduction in addition to schools. Provisions to extend existing authority through the end of FY 2013 were included in last year's transportation bill, the *Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) Act*. The County received \$1.7 million in PILT funding for FY 2013 and \$58,818 from SRS, but this was the last year for which full funding was guaranteed.

In November, we asked the local House Delegation to sign on to a joint "Dear Colleague" letter to be sent to conferees on the FY 2014 budget negotiations urging support for PILT. The effort was coordinated with NACo, and we argued that action was necessary to ensure mandatory PILT payments for FY 2014. The bipartisan budget agreement reached in December set the parameters for the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to negotiate an omnibus appropriations bill in January, which will set the final funding levels for PILT.

Taxation of Internet Retailers

We provided County staff with the House and Senate versions of the *Marketplace Fairness Act*, which would overturn a 1992 Supreme Court decision and allow State and local governments to enforce existing sales taxes on online retailers outside their borders. Introduced by Senator Enzi (R-WY) as S. 743 and Congressman Womack (R-AR) as H.R. 684 the legislation has bipartisan support and is being lobbied aggressively by NACo. While floor action on the Senate bill was delayed by a filibuster, the procedural hurdle was eventually defeated and the Senate approved S. 743 by an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 69-27. In September, House Judiciary Committee Chairman Goodlatte (R-VA) released a statement of principles outlining his framework for a proposal regarding internet taxation, but further action did not occur this year.