



NLC&M

Delegation Briefing

March 2018

Priorities

Marijuana

NLC&M appreciates your support for the Nevada marijuana industry. We oppose any attempt by federal authorities to interfere in Nevada's voter-approved state legal marijuana industry. Specifically, we request your continued efforts to ensure that the federal government does not engage in the prosecution of violations of federal marijuana law that are permissible under Nevada law. Additionally, we urge you to enact legislation to provide access to the federal banking system for state legal marijuana enterprises.

Opioids

NLC&M supports federal assistance in dealing with the opioid crisis. Our cities are impacted by the misuse of opioids and the increased demand on municipal services this misuse creates. Our cities need assistance from the federal government and request that our cities are provided with the necessary resources to combat this problem.

Infrastructure

NLC&M appreciates the efforts of our Congressional Delegation in obtaining federal resources to build, maintain, repair and upgrade our critical infrastructure needs. As you are aware, these needs include transportation related projects, including the construction of I-11, affordable housing, broadband internet service and workforce development. The National League of Cities has focused on infrastructure as their main priority for 2018. They have created the "#Rebuild With Us" as a theme for this year's Congressional City Conference. Infrastructure needs, as well as funding directly distributed to cities, are also one of our priorities.

Public Lands Transfers for Public Purposes/Economic Development

NLC&M appreciates the efforts by our delegation to transfer limited public lands to municipalities for public purposes and/or economic development. Many times common sense transfers are delayed due to cumbersome federal regulations or interdepartmental conflicts. We ask that our delegation continue to intervene on behalf of Nevada's municipalities to expedite limited transfers of public lands.

Other Topics of Interest

UASI Funding

NLC&M Would like to thank you for your efforts to obtain sufficient funding under the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) program. We appreciate the joint letter signed by all the members of our Congressional Delegation to Secretary Nielsen in support of increased funding for Nevada. The economies of Nevada's cities rely on tourism. We appreciate your efforts in ensuring that our

cities receive adequate funding to prepare for, prevent and respond to acts of terror which could cripple Nevada's tourism economy.

Municipal Bonds

NLC&M applauds the continue exemption of interest earned on municipal bonds from federal taxation and would like to thank you for your efforts in maintaining this important exemption. Municipal bonds are vital for infrastructure and other public works needed by our cities to provide public services to the people that call Nevada home and to the millions of visitors we host each year. Elimination of this exemption would increase the costs of these public works projects.

Eliminating the Online Sales Tax Loophole

We continue to support the closure of the online sales tax loophole. Our brick and mortar stores are at an unfair disadvantage due to the lack of a federal mechanism to collect already owed sales tax on remote purchases. The Government Accounting Office estimates that states are not receiving \$8 – 13 BILLION per year. The National League of Cities estimates that \$344 Million of owed sales taxes were uncollected in Nevada in 2012. We ask for your help in eliminating this loophole.

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)

Continuation of the CDBG program is critical to the ability of Nevada's cities to fund projects that contribute to economic growth and development as well as the quality of life of our residents.

Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA)

The SNPLMA program has been an outstanding success for Nevada. The program has benefited all of Nevada. SNPLMA has acquired more acreage of environmentally sensitive land than that of acreage disposed of by the federal government for urban development in the Las Vegas Valley. We urge you to oppose any attempts to end the program or allocation of proceeds from land sales outside of Nevada.

Yucca Mountain

NLC&M is opposed to the development of Yucca Mountain as a nuclear waste storage facility. We appreciate all efforts to defeat this plan.

Attendees

The Honorable Gerri Schroder, Councilwoman, City of Henderson, Member, NLC Board of Directors, Chair, Western Municipal Association, President, NLC&M

The Honorable David Bobzien, Councilman, City of Reno, Vice President, NLC&M

The Honorable Geno Withelder, Mayor Pro-tem, City of Mesquite, Secretary/Treasurer, NLC&M

The Honorable Charlene Bybee, Councilwoman, City of Sparks

The Honorable Kristopher Dahir, Councilman, City of Sparks

The Honorable Daniel Corona, Mayor, City of West Wendover

Mr. David Cherry, Director of Public Affairs, City of Henderson

Ms. Karen Duddleston, Chief Community Services Officer, City of Las Vegas

Mr. Wes Henderson, Executive Director, Nevada League of Cities and

Municipalities, Member, NLC Board of Directors, Secretary/Treasurer, Western Municipal Association



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Issue Brief

Federal Marijuana

Legislation

- HR975** **Respect State Marijuana Laws Act of 2017**
Co-sponsors include Representatives Titus, Rosen and Kihuen
- HR1841** **Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol Act**
Representative Titus is a co-sponsor
- S776/HR1823** **Marijuana Revenue and Regulation Act**
- S780/HR1824** **Responsibly Addressing the Marijuana Policy Gap Act of 2017**
- S1689/HR4815** **Marijuana Justice Act of 2018**
- HR331** **States' Medical Marijuana Property Rights Protection Act**
Representative Titus is a co-sponsor
- HR1227** **Ending Federal Marijuana Prohibition Act of 2017**
Representative Kihuen is a co-sponsor
- HR2020** **Rescheduling of Marijuana to Schedule III of the Controlled**
Substances Act
- S777/HR1810** **Small Business Tax Equity Act**
Representatives Titus, Rosen and Kihuen are co-sponsors
- HR3534** **State Marijuana and Regulatory Tolerance Enforcement Act**



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Issue Brief

FY18 Federal Budget Bill

CDBG – Funding saved for the CDBG program. Budget bill increased funding for first time since 2010 from \$3 to \$3.3B

Infrastructure – Overall funding for USDOT and HUD increased by about 20% mostly from \$10B in new funding for infrastructure including

- An additional \$2.5B in discretionary highway funding for roads and bridges.
- Increase of \$1.6B for the FAA
- Additional \$1.2B for rail infrastructure and safety programs
- \$1B in additional funding from the Highway Trust Fund for federal aid highways programs
- \$1B additional for TIGER funding
- \$1B additional for transit
- An increase of \$866M for HUD Community Planning and Development, including CDBG, HOME and Homeless Assistance Grants
- Additional \$600M for the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Funds
- \$600M additional for a rural broadband pilot program within the Rural Utilities Service
- \$457M for maritime ports and intermodal water/land transportation
- An increase in \$85M for lead abatement and housing health
- \$50M in new funding for water infrastructure grants for small and disadvantaged communities, lead testing of water in schools, and lead service line replacement

Included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018 were several policy riders that are significant wins for cities.

- Brownfields program reauthorized.
- EB-5 regional center program encourages direct foreign investments
- FAA – extended FAA authorization through FY18
- Flood Insurance – National Flood Insurance Program through July 31, 2018
- Low Income Housing Tax Credits – restored Low Income Tax Credits which were eliminated in the tax reform legislation.



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Infrastructure Funding Opportunities

We were asked to provide examples of infrastructure needs in Nevada where federal funding is needed. The areas identified below are not listed in priority order but are for illustrative purposes. As you are aware, Nevada's cities are continually challenged to construct and maintain the infrastructure needed to provide services to their constituents and that are necessary for economic development, quality of life and a healthy economy. Your assistance in obtaining federal resources for our cities infrastructure needs are greatly appreciated.

Water Treatment Infrastructure

The provision of safe drinking water is both a public health concern and a factor in economic development. Many of our cities have aging and/or under-sized water treatment facilities.

Wastewater

Similar to the provision of safe drinking water the reclamation and treatment of wastewater is also key to both public health and economic development.

Transportation

Funding for transportation is a state-wide need that has many aspects. Funding for the expansion of I-11 north from Las Vegas to I-80 is one example however, resources for urban surface streets, public transit systems, airport maintenance and improvement are all needed. You may be aware that Greyhound has recently discontinued service along the I-80 corridor leaving those cities with limited intra and interstate transportation options. As a result, funding for the construction of Amtrak stations and the sidings for them are needed.

Affordable Housing

This is a critical need. The National Low Income Housing Coalition recently ranked Nevada last in the nation regarding the availability of affordable housing for the fourth consecutive year. Las Vegas was named the worst metropolitan area for the 2nd year in row. With the economy improving and the successful recruitment of

new and expanding businesses in both the northern and southern parts of the state the need for affordable housing will continue to grow. The lack of housing is driving up the costs of both home-ownership and rental housing to a point where many workers cannot find a suitable place to live that they can afford.

Stormwater/Drainage

Similar to the other water needs, our cities need to have adequate stormwater drainage systems in good operating order. Flooding caused by insufficient systems can lead to property damage, including damage to streets and roads, public health and safety issues, and, sadly, loss of life. The need to maintain and expand stormwater drainage systems becomes more important as our economy improves and our cities continue to grow.

Broadband

The availability of broadband internet service continues to be a problem especially for our rural cities. Access to the internet has become crucial and is sorely lacking in some of the rural areas of the state. Lack of broadband affects commerce, educational opportunities, medical care and quality of life concerns.

Public Safety Facilities

Adequate facilities for public safety professionals are essential in providing law enforcement and fire prevention and suppression services to the residents of Nevada's cities.

Community Centers

Similar to public safety facilities, community centers are necessary to provide services to our residents, especially to seniors and young children. In some instances, community centers provide the only hot meals that some residents receive on a daily basis. Resources to construct, maintain and operate community centers are vital to our citizens' quality of life.

Green Infrastructure

The installation of green infrastructure such as permeable pavements and sports facilities such as basketball courts and other playground areas help to reduce runoff of stormwater. Other types of green infrastructure include green roofs and landscaping. Unfortunately, including elements of green infrastructure increases the cost of public works projects. Federal funding or incentives for including green infrastructure in public works projects could make using these environmentally friendly tools affordable for Nevada's cities.