

This Week in Washington

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Helping Secure our Port Facilities—Port of Stockton receives funding under Port Security Grants Programs

June 12, 2003 Secretary Ridge announced the Department's commitment to enhancing security at our nation's key ports and facilities through \$170 million dollars in port security grants. Under the Port Security Grant Program, **the Stockton Port District will receive \$336,204, and the California Ammonia Company, located at the Port of Stockton, will receive \$150,000.**

The Port Security Grant Program funds security planning and projects to improve dockside and perimeter security. The latest round of Transportation Security Administration (TSA) grants have been awarded to 199 state and local governments, and private companies for \$170 million. These new awards will contribute to important security upgrades like new patrol boats in the harbor, surveillance equipment at roads and bridges, and the construction of new command and control facilities. TSA, the United States Coast Guard and the Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration evaluated the Port Security Grant applications and selected grant award recipients. In 2002, \$92 million was awarded in the first round of Port Security grants.

In addition to the \$170 million, the Department of Homeland Security also provided \$75 million in port security grants for specific projects from the FY '03 supplemental budget. The funds will be distributed by the Office for Domestic Preparedness to cover recent infrastructure security protective measures, security enhancements, training, exercises, equipment, planning, and information sharing. *Contact my office at 209-951-3091 to receive a copy of the full report.*

Pombo Announces BART Funding

Congressman Richard Pombo today announced that a grant of \$98,358,234 has been made to the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District. The grant, made by the Federal Transit Administration, is part of their FY03 New Start program.

The grant is targeted for construction and extension of the Bay Area Rapid Transit heavy rail service from the Colma Station to the San Francisco International Airport and the city of Millbrae. Congressman Pombo requested funding for BART to extend to the airport in his FY03 appropriations requests.

"This money is good news for all Bay Area commuters," said Pombo. "We've finally been able to get BART extended to the airport, and now is not the time to stop. As traffic pressures become greater, I will continue to support seamless transportation systems. I am committed to creating a transportation system that is efficient, environmentally friendly, reliable, and safe."

Pombo Hails Approval of Child Tax Credit

Congressman Richard Pombo hailed the approval of the child tax credit and other tax relief provisions by the House of Representatives today. The bill, H.R. 1308, was approved by the House last week by a vote of 224-201.

"Families throughout California are hurting. It is only common sense that we provide child tax credit so families can pay the expenses of raising children," said Pombo. "We need to relieve the tax burden families face, not play partisan political games."

H.R. 1308 includes the following tax relief provisions: *(cont. on page 2)*

Forest Fires: A Look at the Numbers

Issue #2

Washington, DC - House Resources Committee Chairman Richard W. Pombo (R-CA) urged the Senate again June 19th, 2003 to pass the bipartisan Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003. The House overwhelmingly approved the legislation by a vote of 256-170.

5

Number of wildfires in Arizona burning today (6/19)

70,000

Number of acres burned by the nation's two largest current wildfires in New Mexico

16

Number of large (100+ acres) fires today in the United States

\$4,793,475,000

Amount spent on Fire Suppression for federal agencies over the last five years

495,812

Number of acres of public lands that have burned this year to date

64,626

Number of acres of public land that have burned since Issue #1

5094

Number of acres of public land that burned yesterday

1

Number of miles between the community of Summerhaven, AZ and the closest fireline

This Week in Washington cont.

Pryce Touts Economic Boost, Links Positive Signs to Jobs and Growth Plan

WASHINGTON, DC—House Republican Conference Chairman Deborah Pryce (R-OH) today joined House Majority Whip Roy Blunt and Deputy Whip Eric Cantor to tout recent, positive economic signs following passage of the Economic Jobs and Growth Act last month.

“Perceptions matter,” said Chairman Pryce. “In addition to delivering immediate relief to all taxpayers, this jobs package has signaled to investors and manufacturers that Congress is bullish on the economy.”

“The President’s signature on this plan has created hope for small businesses, restored the dreams of countless entrepreneurs, and delivered the potential of millions of new jobs for America’s workers. That’s not economic theory. That’s reality.”

Recent economic indices have posted significant gains since Congress enacted the jobs and growth package on May 22nd:

- The stock market has gained \$770 billion in value as measured by the Wilshire 5000.
- The Dow Industrial Index has increased 8.5%, trading volume over 9,000.
- NASDAQ Composite Index has increased 10.7% and is at a 52 week high.
- The S&P 500 Index has increased 8.7%.
- The Wilshire 5000 Index has increased 8.7% and surpassed its 52-week high.
- \$1.9 trillion in equity value has been added to the economy – boosting pensions and college savings plans.

(Sources: <http://www.economy.com/freelunch/default.asp>, <http://www.wilshire.com/Indexes/Broad/Wilshire5000/>)

For more information, visit the House Republican Conference website. www.gop.gov

(Pombo Hails Approval of Child Tax Credit Cont.)

H.R. 1308 tax relief provisions:

- Increases the child credit to \$1,000 per eligible child through 2010. The \$1,000 child credit is scheduled to sunset in 2005. It will gradually increase back to \$1,000 by 2010. H.R. 1308 ensures that the child credit stays at the \$1,000 level through 2010. The provision provides \$57.3 billion of tax relief over 11 years.
- Eliminates the marriage penalty in the child credit. The phase-out thresholds of the child credit create a marriage penalty for married couples with incomes over \$110,000. Millions of children are denied the child credit because of this penalty. H.R. 1308 eliminates the marriage penalty by raising the phase-out threshold for married couples to \$150,000. Eliminating this marriage penalty provides \$20.4 billion of tax relief to middle-income families over 11 years
- Accelerates the increase in the refundable child credit. Under present law, the child credit is refundable by an amount equal to 10% of earned income in excess of \$10,500. The 10% rate is scheduled to increase to 15% in 2005. H.R. 1308 accelerates this increase so that the 15% rate takes effect in 2003 instead of 2005. The provision increases child credit payments by \$3.5 billion over 11 years.

(Forest Fires: A Look at the Numbers Issue #2 cont.)

20

Number of fire trucks in Summerhaven yesterday morning ready to defend property

30,000

Number of acres burned by a wildfire that came within several hundred feet of Summerhaven last year

10

Number of states having land with U.S. Forest Service fire danger class ratings of Very High to Extreme

50

Number of days since House Resources Committee passed the Healthy Forests Restoration Act

30

Number of days since the House passed the Healthy Forests Restoration Act

29

Number of days the House-passed bill has collected dust in the Senate

20

Number of U.S. Senators with Very High to Extreme U.S. Forest Service fire danger class-rated lands in their home states

TWELVE

Number of National Forests highlighted on Chairman Pombo's Most Threatened Forests report available at www.resourcescommittee.house.gov <<http://www.resourcescommittee.house.gov/>>.