On January 15, the House of Representatives passed the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act (H.R. 152) to fund short and long-term relief and recovery efforts for the areas adversely affected by Hurricane Sandy. The funding provisions in the underlying bill were established through two main amendments totaling approximately $50.6 billion. The first amendment, introduced by the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee Rep. Rogers (KY), provided $17 billion in funding provisions and the second, offered by Rep. Frelinghuysen (NJ), included an additional $33.6 billion.

In addition to this aid package, on January 4 Congress passed, and the President signed, an act to temporarily increase the borrowing power of the National Flood Insurance Program by $9.7 billion so the program could continue to process the 100,000+ Hurricane Sandy claims.

Both amendments provide areas affected by Hurricane Sandy with billions of dollars in transportation, infrastructure and natural resources provisions.

Specifically, the Rogers Amendment provides:

- $5.4 billion to the Federal Transit Administration for emergency relief to the public transit systems in New York and New Jersey
- $3.9 billion to the Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Fund for disaster relief, long-term recovery and infrastructure restoration
- $1.35 billion to the Army Corps of Engineers for reconstruction efforts
  - $582 million for flood control and coastal emergency activities
  - $20 million for investigations in natural disaster flood and storm damage reduction
- $287 million to the Department of Interior for repairs to national lands
  - $234 million to the National Park Service for repairs to national parks, lands and facilities
  - $50 million to the Fish and Wildlife Service for repairs to fish hatcheries and wildlife refuges
  - $3 million to the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement to research oil spills
The Frelinghuysen Amendment provides an additional:

- $16 billion to the Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Fund for disaster relief, long-term recovery and infrastructure restoration
- $5.4 billion to the Federal Transit Administration Public Transportation Emergency Relief Program for relief to New York and New Jersey transit systems
- $5.35 billion to Army Corps of Engineer infrastructure projects (both those under construction before the hurricane that were damaged and projects to protect against future storm damage)
  - $2.9 billion to reduce future flood risk
- $2 billion to the Federal-Aid Highways Emergency Relief Program
- $549 million to the Department of Interior to protect and repair the national parks, lands and facilities as well as to increase the resiliency of wetland and coastal areas to protect against future storms
- $600 million to the Environmental Protection Agency for state and tribal assistance grants in EPA Region 2 for wastewater and drinking water treatment works and facilities
  - $500 million in capitalization grants for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund
  - $100 million in capitalization grants under the Safe Drinking Water Act
- $218 million to the Department of Agriculture for emergency conservation activities
  - $180 million to the Emergency Watershed Protection Program
  - $23 million to the Emergency Forest Restoration Program
- $86 million to the Federal Railroad Administration for Amtrak infrastructure recovery in the Northeast Corridor
- $30 million to the Federal Aviation Administration for facilities and equipment repairs and maintenance
- $5 million to the Leaking Underground Storage Tank fund for necessary expenses as a consequence of Hurricane Sandy

The Senate is expected to take up the aid package early next week.

If you have any questions regarding the provisions in the Disaster Relief Act or would like further information please contact Ben Husch (202-624-7779) Tamra Spielvogel (202-624-8690) or Melanie Condon (202-624-3597).

Thank you