

2011 NASHTU Conference, Washington, DC.

A. Puleo Notes:

Monday May 23, 2011

NASHTU President Matt Hansen Delivers Opening Remarks

- Cites California cedes pension concessions
- Cites necessity of NASHTU Unity
- Introduces HR 328, Filner Bill
- Claims 112th Congress to address consultant costs
- Summarizes NASTHU agenda

Impromptu Alaska Delegate Report

- Cites that compared to other states Alaska is in good shape and is not broke

Impromptu Pennsylvania Delegate Report

- Cites no tax being levied on Marcellus Shale Mining
- Cites P3 proposals are out there
- Cites there is \$12 Billion in private funding available

Impromptu NYS Delegate Report

- Cites current NYS status, ie., new Democratic Governor, PEF is currently in contract negotiations

Larry Willis, Transportation Trades Dept., AFL-CIO

- Reports our current National Debt has the following history: Under G. Bush our budget was balanced, then came tax cuts and (2) unfunded wars.. we now have the lowest tax rate in 60 years. Current political and corporate mindset is into cutting both taxes and spending. There is a movement to eliminate unions. Last year the National Mediation Board had to receive bona fide "YES" votes for new union establishing votes, meaning any vote not casted was deemed a "NO". President Obama is threatening to veto this bill. Mr Willis cited that the republican fight for this was venomously whip! Transit agencies are cutting services, the surface bill remains non-existent. CDL license security issues include Federal legislation to consolidate back ground checks.

Impromptu Oregon Delegate Report

- Cite that VMT's Vehicle Mile Tax is a good thing, yet it may reduce sales tax revenues if people drive less and cites there are privacy issues

Dan Veoni, Majority Professional Staff, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Highways and Transit Sub-Committee

- Safety-Lu expired Sept. '09, we've been working under extensions and current authorized level\$ are unsustainable under current gas tax. Looking to tie in performance measures in next bill. Not interested into borrowing from General Fund. Looking into private funding/bonding. Possibility to have a new bill this September.
- AP NOTE: This young man could prove to be a vital contact for PEF.

Jeremy Brandon-Staff member of Senator John Kerry, author of the BUILD ACT, which would create an infrastructure bank to help finance transportation projects

- Claims House Bill is close but the senate will veto/amend it. Ignoring infrastructure is a mistake. Kerry estimates \$250 Billion is needed to sustain us for the next 50 years. Kerry & others propose using private funds for this infrastructure bank. Initially a \$10 Billion loan/appropriation from this bank is proposed. The Kerry bill is to include Energy, and Infrastructure.
- AP NOTE: The Kerry bill is frightening.

Shar Habibi, Resource Center Director, In the Public Interest

- Check out: <http://inthepublicinterest.org>
& Specifically; <http://inthepublicinterest.org/sector/transportation-infrastructure>, see Chicago Parking Meters
- A blog is coming for this website
- Sign up for the list serve

Rep. James McGovern (D) Mass. Senior Minority Whip, Second Ranking Member, House Rules Committee

- Cites that current Congressional philosophical & ideological debates are setting policy and hurting infrastructure. Says things are so bad that he yearns for the days of Newt Gingrich. Current republican party believes all govt. is bad and therefore is pushing for privatization. The challenge remains as to how to finance the Highway reauthorization bill. Pro infrastructure bank, high speed rail and alternative energy. We need to deal w/Special Hauling Permits as there are designs for train-like vehicles to use our highways, we also under charging fees for Spec/Haul. Claims that we are part of the solution, and that we must remind congress of the work we do. As an example reminds us that we assumed debt for Afghanistan yet congress doesn't want debt for infrastructure!?!?

Mary Grillo, SEIU, Fight for a Fair Economy

- States in the black are Montana, Alaska, & Wyoming
- Wisconsin & Ohio governors are beating down unions

- Grover Norquist interpreted to say Defined Benefits are the root of all evil
- Confirms that unions are not effectively getting their message out to the public
- We need to reframe the debate, Big banks caused the fiscal crisis & taxpayers bail them out and now they claim state workers are to blame
- Our enemies will not let the facts get in their way
- Recalls are under way in Wisconsin, election is being slated to re-establish state worker bargaining rights
- SEIU is petitioning Bank of America in Connecticut as they pay no income tax yet 20% of their workforce participates in CHIPS, Connecticut's Health Insurance Plan
- Comcast & other companies are not paying their fair share as they use Delaware POB's.

-

John English, AFSCME

- A coordinated political attack against unions is underway
- "the Maine Governor is sooooo crazy"
- Recall employers do not have to pay FICA on previous pension contributions
- Michigan now has a 401k plan, no more defined benefit pension

-

Arissa Goodwin, Ohio

- Handout, "Fight Back Now"
- SB5, Senate Bill 5 handout is interesting, note the vote in September,-
- Vote no on SB5, it creates collective begging, not bargaining
- Created drive-thru petition signing kiosks

-

Dan Doonan, AFSCME Labor Economist

- Economic recovery helps our pensions

-

Impromptu New Jersey Delegate Report

- Their union proposed healthcare concessions
- They are concerned about a July 1st lockout

-

Impromptu Minnesota Delegate Report

- They expect July 1st govt. shutdown
- There is no extension mechanism for this state

-

Impromptu California Delegate Report

- There is a 27 month concessionary contract in place
- There is now (1) furlough day per month
- There is more pension reform to come from Gov. Jerry Brown

Impromptu Washington State Delegate Report

- Looking at a "Share the Pain", contract
-

Impromptu Maryland Delegate Report

- Just signed new contract
- Union holds Public Hearings to show impacts of proposed 3P's

Ilijah Cummings, (D-MD), Ranking Member, Oversight and Government Reform Committee. Member, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

- Claims to be one of our greatest defenders
- Claims we are "talked about like dogs"
- Says unions are under attack and that too many of us are silent
- Reminds us that many people in power do not know what they are doing
- Suggest we Google Coastguard Deepwater for an example of contracting gone bad, like non-waterproof radios for US Coastguard

Tuesday May 24, 2011

John Mica, Chairman House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee

- Would like to quadruple union membership as a function of promoting job growth, *not necessarily a union promoter.*
- Claims 40% of stimulus funds remain in the treasury
- Favors a 6 year bill vs. a 2 year bill
- Claims Dan Veoni is currently drafting a new bill
- Recalls that it only took 433 days to rebuild St. Paul / Minnesota bridge
- Receives commentary from Mary Richards, (MOSES), calling for the new bill to address consultant fraud, waste & abuse.

Jack Basso, AASHTO

- Budget is affecting policy in a big way
- Obama administration has given infrastructure a high priority
- Bad news is the Highway Trust fund has gone broke
- Congress is looking to wait till 201 before making any more appropriations meaning band-aid plans are priority
- AASHTO is supporting Mr. Mica
- AASHTO supports state government oversight
- Regarding Revenue Collection: Simplest is a Fuel Tax, though not politically simple. Current extension of extension expires at the end of September. AASHTO is pushing for VMT pilots. See AASHTO website for more on revenue.

Roy Kienitz, Under Secretary for Policy, USDOT

- Earmarks are dead. . . .for now
- High speed rail is alive

John English, Wisconsin Delegate

- A tight Governor race was expected, both candidates were from Milwaukee, Walker wins & the senate flips to Republican, 19 to 14. 1st week in office Walker cites deficit numbers based on Agency reports and lowball revenue generation.

John English, Wisconsin Delegate cont.

- Cites Union busting tactics such as wage only bargaining with no seniority
- Gov. tries selling assets at will with no bidding
- Union was shocked! that 20K people showed up Tuesday @ Madison Wisconsin. Next day 30K people showed up, Republicans locked their doors and Dems. Left the state. 160K people show up following Saturday
- They are expecting to recall 6 out of 8 Republicans
- Favorite Posters:
 - "PLANNED PARENTHOOD: WE EXIST SO SCOTT WALKER DON'T"
 - "MOVED HERE FROM ILLINOIS: Wxxx Txx Fxxx?"
- They are considering Constitutional Carry, and he shares:
 - a) Go buy a gun
 - b) Strap it on
 - c) Good luck to ya!
- Union support has been outstanding

PEF NASHTU Delegates commence lobbying the following;

Congressmen Hinchey, Nadler, Hanna & Bishop.

Lobby report will be prepared by Paul Gendron, Chairman of PEF's NASHTU Committee. Lobbying efforts were followed with a Congressional Reception, at the U.S Capitol, Room H-137.

A. Puleo Lobbying Prep Notes:

- Educate Congressman about what we do
- Cite inexperienced Construction Inspectors
- Cite Consultants do not have to take Civil Service test
- Cite Afghanistan Debt vs. Infrastructure Debt
- We should be part of the solution
- Point out that State Worker compensation packages are not generous
- Cite that in the 70's Govt. Pension contributions were bargained as a loop hole for State's to circumvent FICA payments
- Cite Coastguard Deepwater Consultant mishaps wherein boats were purchased that didn't float
- Cite that no culture of mediocrity exists at NYSDOT
- Forget "Common Ground", go for "Higher Ground"

Wednesday, May 25, 2011

Michael Capuano, (D-MA), Member, transportation and Infrastructure Committee, (tentative), former Mayor

- Claims there is almost nothing that the private sector can do better than Union Workers.

Amy Lipset, SEIU Local 517M, Michigan

- Michigan gas tax has not increased since 1997
- Their tax revenue has decreased \$200MIL
- Michigan legislature is trying to remove Union Leave from contract

Senator Bernard Sanders, Senate Budget Committee, Senate Environment and Public Works

- 80% of all new income went to 1% of the population
- The gap between rich & poor has increased
- Desires a 6 year bill
- Buy his book

NASHTU Closing Comments:

- Be sure to follow up on our recent lobbying efforts
- Lobby locally, remain politically active
- Promote NASHTU website to our members