



March 2, 2011

## **Fiscal responsibility, creating jobs spotlight NACo Legislative Conference**

Jobs and the role of county governments in the economic recovery is the main focus for NACo's 2011 Legislative Conference, March 5-9, in Washington, D.C.

During the five-day conference, county officials will discuss NACo's 2011 Key Legislative Priorities, meet with Obama administration officials and members of Congress, and hear from prominent national leaders and commentators.

Featured guest speakers include **Attorney General Eric Holder**, **Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Adm. Mike Mullen**, **Housing and Development Secretary Shaun Donovan**, **Sen. Chris Coons (D-Del.)**, **Reps. John Mica (R-Fla.)** and **Doc Hastings (R-Wash.)**, as well as MSNBC talk show host and former congressman **Joe Scarborough**.

Holder has served as Attorney General since Feb. 3, 2009. He served as deputy attorney general in the Clinton Administration, the first African-American named to that post. Prior to that he served as U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia. He is a native of New York City and a graduate of Columbia Law School.

Mullen is the highest-ranking officer in the Armed Forces and the president's principal military advisor. Since taking office as chairman in October 2007, he has focused on three main priorities: 1) defending vital national interests in the Middle East; 2) resetting, revitalizing and reconstituting the Armed Forces; and 3) properly balancing global risk.

He has placed significant emphasis on the expansion of counter-insurgency warfare training and resources and was an early advocate for a greater focus on operations in Afghanistan.

Mica chairs the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, one of the largest congressional panels in Congress. As chair, he serves on all six subcommittees, which include Aviation; Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation; Economic Development, Public Building and Emergency Management; Highways and Transit; Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials, and Water Resources and Environment. He is a national leader on a variety of transportation issues.

Hastings chairs the House Natural Resources Committee. This committee has jurisdiction over most federal land use and water policies, including national

forests, national parks and monuments, wilderness areas, national scenic areas, Indian reservations and Bureau of Land Management lands. The committee has a major role in producing more American-made energy, with control over hydropower, and oil and gas reserves on public lands and waters.

Also speaking are Paul Ballew, chief economist for Nationwide, and David Brown, Psy.D., a Special Operations combat veteran who will share his knowledge on service member issues related to deployment and community re-integration.

### **Educational Opportunities**

A variety of educational workshops are offered at the conference. A sampling of the titles includes A New World in Transportation; Affordable Care Act: Prevention and Public Health Investments; Government Initiatives to Lower Jail and Prison Populations; Renewable Energy Siting Issues: What You Need To Know; Homeland Security in 2011: Federal Initiatives to Secure Your County; and The Next Farm Bill: Advocating for Rural County Priorities

### **Other Business at NACo's Legislative Conference**

NACo's 11 steering committees will meet during the conference to review and make recommendations on issues and legislation important to counties and communities. The issues that the committees cover include justice and public safety, agriculture and rural affairs, taxes, environment and energy, telecommunications, economic and community development, health care, human services, education, labor and employment, public lands and transportation.

The policy development process initiated by the steering committees leads to the publication of the American County Platform, which NACo uses as a guide to deliver the county government message to the administration, Congress and the American public.

In addition to the steering committees, NACo has organized caucuses – the Rural Action Caucus and the Large Urban County Caucus – to perform targeted advocacy efforts focused on specific needs of large urban counties and rural counties.

### **California Counties at NACo**

The **California Delegation** will meet on **Monday, March 7 (3:45pm - 4:45pm)** in the **Hoover Room** at the **Marriott Wardman Park Hotel**. A hosted reception will follow on **Balcony B** from **5:00pm to 6:00pm**. Dinner will be on your own this year so that members can have an opportunity to network with other attendees.

The **Congressional Breakfast** will be on **Wednesday, March 9 (8:30am - 10:00am)** in **Room B338 Rayburn House Office Building**. Participants are encouraged to arrive early to pass through screening. Confirmed speakers for

the breakfast so far are: Senator Barbara Boxer (D), Rep. Mike Honda (D-15<sup>th</sup>), Rep. Jeff Denham (R-19<sup>th</sup>), Rep. Ken Calvert (R-44<sup>th</sup>), Rep. Tom McClintock (R-4<sup>th</sup>), and Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-16<sup>th</sup>). More are expected.

See you in Washington D.C.!

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