

## **AGENDA NOTE – HRPDC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **ITEM #7: NO CHILD LEFT INSIDE ACT OF 2009**

#### **SUBJECT:**

Congress is presently considering the No Child Left Inside Act of 2009 (H. 2054 and S. 866). The No Child Left Inside Act would amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 regarding environmental education, and for other purposes.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The No Child Left Inside Act, as proposed, will require states to develop environmental literacy plans, approved by the Secretary of Education, for pre-kindergarten through grade 12 that include environmental education standards and teacher training. These plans would be required in order to receive implementation grants.

Two categories of implementation grants are included:

- Environmental Education Professional Development.
- Improve and support environmental education, including content and achievement standards, research and dissemination of models.

Competitive grants in both categories would be available to partnerships, including a local education agency and other entities, such as colleges and universities, natural resource or environmental agencies and local parks and recreation departments.

The Act would result in an expansion of funding opportunities for environmental education that is mutually supportive with ongoing local programs and regional programs being conducted by the HRPDC, through the HR Green Committee.

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Staff recommends the Commission authorize the Chairman to send the attached letter to the Hampton Roads Congressional Delegation requesting the members to actively support passage of the No Child Left Inside Act of 2009.

Attachment

November 17, 2010

FORM LETTER - Senators Warner and Webb; Congressmen Wittman, Scott, Forbes and Nye

RE: No Child Left Inside Act

LEG: N-C-L-I-Act

Dear Senator/Congressman:

At its November 17, 2010 Executive Committee Meeting, the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) acted to urge that you support passage of the No Child Left Inside Act of 2009 (H. 2054 and S. 866).

The No Child Left Inside Act amends the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to require states, as a prerequisite to receiving implementation grants, to develop environmental literacy plans, approved by the Secretary of Education, for pre-kindergarten through grade 12 that include environmental education standards and teacher training. The legislation's goals are to ensure that every student graduates from high school prepared with the knowledge and skills necessary to be ready for college and 21<sup>st</sup> Century careers in the emerging "green" energy economy and to advance the health of our youth through outdoor and environmental education opportunities. Through the efforts of HR Green, a regional advisory committee to the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, the HRPDC has been working to inform the public about the importance of environmental stewardship, and to arm the public with best practices for keeping the Hampton Roads region safe, beautiful and healthy. The region and state will greatly benefit from the passage of this legislation.

Your support for the No Child Left Inside Act is important to the region. Thank you for your consideration of and support for this legislation.

Sincerely,

Stan D. Clark  
Chairman

SDC/