**Policy Details**

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| **Weekly Legislative Update** |
| 07-28-2008 |
| *On the Hill***Transportation and Infrastructure*** On Wednesday, Senator John Kerry (D-MA) is expected to introduce a $1 billion high-speed rail bill that will target out-of-date bridges, tunnels and tracks that would keep Amtrak’s high-speed northeast route from hitting its 150-mile-per-hour maximum and getting commuters to their destinations faster.
* On July 24, Finance Chairman Max Baucus (D-MT) introduced a new version of the tax “extenders” package (S 3335) which includes an $8 billion dollar transfer from the general fund to the Highway Trust Fund to protect it from a projected shortfall next year. The language mirrors that from the bill (HR 6532) approved by the House on July 23, 387-37.
* On July 24, the National Highway Bridge Reconstruction and Inspection Act of 2007 (HR 3999) was passed by the House, 367-55. The bill, sponsored by Rep.James Oberstar was introduced last October with the intent of improving the safety of bridges and strengthening bridge inspection standards through the distribution of $1 billion in federal highway formula grants in fiscal 2009.

**Climate and Environment*** Tomorrow, the Senate Environment and Public Works Clean Air Subcommittee is holding a hearing to discuss potential responses to a federal appeals court decision that struck down the EPA's Clean Air Interstate Rule. Subcommittee Chairman Tom Carper (D-DE) has said that he is leaving his options open with regard to separating clean air legislation from the larger climate change debate.

*Calendar*  **SENATE:**Tuesday, July 29Hearing on EPA's Clean Air Interstate Rule Environment and Public Works 10:00 AM, 406 DirksenThursday, July 31Hearing on U.S. grid and transmission Energy and Natural Resources 9:30 AM, 366 Dirksen**HOUSE:**Wednesday, July 30Hearing on natural gas and climate change Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming 1:30 PM, TBA |