



(Identified left to right; Leon County Chairman Bryan Desloge,  
Commissioner Lynn Artz, United States Senator Bill Nelson,  
Wakulla County Chairman Howard Kessler & Commissioner Alan Brock)

## *NEWS RELEASE*

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Contact:

Jessica Welch

Office of Policy & Public Information

(850) 926-0919

### Wakulla County Commissioners Visit Capitol Hill

Crawfordville, FL—Commissioners Kessler, Artz, and Brock attended the National Association of Counties Legislative Conference during the week of March 9<sup>th</sup>. The conference was attended by elected officials, county administrators, department heads, and association state executives from across the nation. Commissioners participated in educational workshops addressing important matters affecting local governments, and attended briefings by three United States Cabinet Secretaries of Housing & Urban Development, Energy, and Interior departments. “Our trip to Washington was all business. We attended highly informative conference presentations, in addition to several meetings with Legislators and worked hard to try to bring federal dollars back home to Wakulla County”, said Commissioner Lynn Artz.

Most importantly, the implementation of the recent federal economic stimulus legislation and the upcoming reauthorization of the Surface Transportation Bill were focused upon by county officials seeking over \$42M for key “shovel ready” infrastructure projects in Wakulla County, alone. As expressed by County Administrator Ben Pingree, “We were honored to join our regional elected partners on Capitol Hill to advocate for a local request package totaling over \$1.1B. If approved, these projects would put up to 16,000 ‘Capital Region’ citizens back to work, stimulate our local economy, and provide comfort to our families. Stated Chairman Howard Kessler, “It is our duty and privilege to speak up for Wakulla County’s projects so that state and federal decision makers will hear the needs of our citizens and will assist stimulating our economy equal to any other place in Florida when they approve project funding in the weeks ahead.”

While in Washington, Wakulla and Leon County representatives took advantage of the visit to meet with Senator Nelson, office of Senator Martinez, Congressman Allen Boyd, Congressman Wexler, and Congressman Kendrick Meek. It was a great opportunity to discuss Wakulla County’s federal appropriation requests, as well as, the historical American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Commissioners highlighted the significant regional cooperation of the Tallahassee Capital Region stimulus partnership in an effort to seek federal funding from a cohesive regional perspective as a first time endeavor. “It’s important to gain perspective from the federal level, and even more important to meet with the decision makers on their turf to remind them of the critical issues impacting Wakulla County,” stated Commissioner Alan Brock.