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MEMORANDUM

TO: Minneapolis City Council
FR: Dennis McGrann//Emily Gehrman
DT: August 18, 2008
RE: August Federal Update

Congressional Update

Both the House and Senate left for their annual month long recess on August 1st. Members will spend the next several weeks in their home states meeting with constituents, and campaigning for themselves or their respective presumptive presidential nominees. Congress is expected to resume September 2nd. The House has already set their target adjournment date for the 110th Congress as September 26th, leaving only a few short weeks to finish the business of the current Congress. Leadership in both the Senate and House have indicated that they do not plan to have Congress return for a “lame duck” session after the November election, but no decision has been finalized.

Energy Debate

There has been some unusual activity on Capitol Hill this August recess, with some Republican House Members remaining in Washington, and in fact on the House floor. These Members argue that, before they adjourned, Congress should have voted on an energy package proposed by the GOP that would lift the ban of off-shore drilling as well as alternative energy research. The protesting members remained on the floor despite the adjournment on August 1st and have met often on the floor over the past two weeks. Republican Leadership has said that they will remain “in session” for several days during the week of August 18th. Though no cameras or microphones are on, Members are using the internet to get the word out. They have called on Speaker Pelosi and the White House to call an emergency session to take a vote on the package, but both have refused.

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Though Energy may be a central issue when Congress returns in September, it is clearly unlikely that an emergency session will be called and regular Congressional action will resume as scheduled.

As always, Lockridge Grindal Nauen will continue to monitor these and all other pertinent issues that come before the United States Congress and will keep you informed of any developments. Please do not hesitate to contact Dennis McGrann at dmmcgrann@locklaw.com or (202) 544-9840 or Emily Gehrman at ejgehrman@locklaw.com or (202) 544-9896 if you have any questions or need any additional information.