OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

TO: Legislation Committee
Supervisor Susan A. Bonilla, Chair
Supervisor Gayle B. Uilkema, Vice Chair

FROM: Lara DeLaney, Legislative Coordinator

DATE: January 25, 2010

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item #7: Request from CSAC to Support H.R. 3332 Creating a National Commission on Intergovernmental Affairs**

RECOMMENDATION

CONSIDER recommending to the Board of Supervisors a position of "Support" on H.R. 3332, The Restore the Partnership Act, which would create a National Commission on Intergovernmental Affairs.

BACKGROUND

A key policy platform for the National Association of Counties (NACo) for the past year has been to *Restore the Partnership* between the federal and local government. A component of this restoration is the creation of the National Commission on Intergovernmental Affairs (NCIR). U.S. Representative Gerry Connolly (D-Va.) has introduced H.R. 3332 – the Restore the Partnership Act – which would create such a commission.

The goal of H.R. 3332 is to facilitate the fullest cooperation and coordination between all levels of government. Creating a National Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (NCIR) could establish a permanent, independent, bipartisan group to study and consider the federal government's intergovernmental relationships and the nation's intergovernmental machination.

The 30-member commission would represent the interests of the federal system's intergovernmental partners. The body would be the only established, freestanding part of the federal system in which the views of the federal government's intergovernmental partners could be openly aired, and in which difficulties and inefficiencies in the federal system's intergovernmental relationships could be examined.

CSAC is urging each member of the California Congressional delegation to sign on to H.R. 3332 as co-sponsors. CSAC is also urging all Boards of Supervisors to support H.R. 3332 as well through our legislative platform and contacts. To read the full text of the bill, please see *Attachment A*.