

Status actions entered today are **listed in bold**.

File name: Master

California

1. CA AB 4



SESSION ADJOURNMENT

September 13, 2019
204 Days Remaining



Introduced



1st Committee



1st Chamber



2nd Committee



2nd Chamber



Disposition: Pending

Author: Arambula (D)

Title: Medi-Cal: Eligibility

Summary: Extends eligibility for full-scope Medi-Cal benefits to individuals of all ages, if otherwise eligible for those benefits, but for their immigration status.

Location: ASSEMBLY

2. CA AB 10



SESSION ADJOURNMENT

September 13, 2019
204 Days Remaining



Introduced



1st Committee



1st Chamber



2nd Committee



2nd Chamber



Disposition: Pending

Author: Chiu (D)

Title: Income Taxes: Credits: Low-Income Housing

Summary: Increases the aggregate housing credit dollar amount that may be allocated among low-income housing projects by an additional \$500 million, and allocates to farmworker housing projects \$25 million per year of that amount.

Location: Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee

3. CA AB 11



SESSION ADJOURNMENT

September 13, 2019
204 Days Remaining



Introduced



1st Committee



1st Chamber



2nd Committee



2nd Chamber



Disposition: Pending

Author: Chiu (D)

Title: Community Redevelopment Law

Summary: Authorizes a city or county or two or more cities acting jointly, to propose the formation of an affordable housing and infrastructure agency by adoption of a resolution of intention. Provides for a governing board of the agency. Requires the agency to submit an annual report, and final report of any audit undertaken to its governing body. Requires the governing board of an agency to designate an appropriate official to prepare a proposed redevelopment project plan.

Location: Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee

4. CA AB 36



SESSION ADJOURNMENT

September 13, 2019
204 Days Remaining



Introduced



1st Committee



1st Chamber



2nd Committee



2nd Chamber



Disposition: Pending

Author: Bloom (D)

Title: Affordable Housing: Rental Prices

Summary: States the findings and declarations of the Legislature that, among other things, affordable housing has reached a crisis stage that threatens the quality of life of millions of Californians as well as the state economic outlook. Expresses the Legislature's intent to enact legislation in order to stabilize rental prices and increase the availability of affordable housing.

Location: ASSEMBLY

5. CA AB 68



SESSION ADJOURNMENT

September 13, 2019
204 Days Remaining



Introduced



1st Committee



1st Chamber



2nd Committee



2nd Chamber



Disposition: Pending

Author: Ting (D)

Title: Land Use: Accessory Dwelling Units

Summary: Prohibits an ordinance from imposing requirements on minimum lot size, lot coverage, or floor area ratio. Prohibits an ordinance from establishing size requirements for accessory dwelling units that do not permit at least an 800 square foot unit of at least 16 feet in height to be constructed. Provides that, if a local agency imposes an owner-occupancy restriction, the monitoring for compliance shall not be more frequent than annually and be based on specified published documents.

Location: Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee

6. CA AB 139



SESSION ADJOURNMENT

September 13, 2019
204 Days Remaining



Introduced



1st Committee



1st Chamber



2nd Committee



2nd Chamber



Disposition: Pending

Author: Quirk-Silva (D)

Title: Emergency and Transitional Housing Act of 2019

Summary: Requires the annual report by a city or county planning agency pertaining to the implementation of the general plan to include the number of emergency shelter beds currently available within

the jurisdiction, and the number of shelter beds that the jurisdiction has contracted for that are located within another jurisdiction.

Location: Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee

7. CA AB 145



SESSION ADJOURNMENT

September 13, 2019
204 Days Remaining



Introduced



1st Committee



1st Chamber



2nd Committee



2nd Chamber



Disposition: Pending

Author: Frazier (D)

Title: High-Speed Rail Authority: Senate Confirmation

Summary: Provides that the members of the High-Speed Rail Authority appointed by the Governor are subject to appointment with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Location: Assembly Transportation Committee

8. CA AB 148



SESSION ADJOURNMENT

September 13, 2019
204 Days Remaining



Introduced



1st Committee



1st Chamber



2nd Committee



2nd Chamber



Disposition: Pending

Author: Quirk-Silva (D)

Title: Regional Transportation Plans: Sustainable Communities

Summary: Requires each sustainable communities strategy to also identify areas within the region sufficient to house an 8-year projection of the emergency shelter needs for the region. Provides that for the 5th and each subsequent update to the sustainable communities strategy, the bill requires the metropolitan planning organization to identify the region's progress in the development of housing and emergency shelters in the areas within the region that were identified as sufficient to house the 8-year projection.

Location: Assembly Transportation Committee

9. CA AB 168



SESSION ADJOURNMENT

September 13, 2019
204 Days Remaining



Introduced



1st Committee



1st Chamber



2nd Committee



2nd Chamber



Disposition: Pending

Author: Aguiar-Curry (D)

Title: Housing: Streamlined Approvals

Summary: Relates to existing law that authorizes a development proponent to submit an application for a

multifamily housing development if the development satisfies specified objective planning standards. Requires the objective planning standards to include a requirement that the development not be located on a site that is a tribal cultural resource.

Location: Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee

10. **CA AB 185**



SESSION ADJOURNMENT

September 13, 2019
204 Days Remaining



Introduced



1st Committee



1st Chamber



2nd Committee



2nd Chamber



Disposition: Pending

Author: Grayson (D)

Title: Transportation Commission: Transportation Policies

Summary: Requires the Department of Housing and Community Development to participate in joint meetings held by the Transportation Commission and the State Air Resources Board to coordinate implementation of transportation policies.

Location: Assembly Transportation Committee

11. **CA AB 195**



SESSION ADJOURNMENT

September 13, 2019
204 Days Remaining



Introduced



1st Committee



1st Chamber



2nd Committee



2nd Chamber



Disposition: Pending

Author: Patterson (R)

Title: Housing

Summary: Relates to housing under the Health and Safety Code.

Location: Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee

12. **CA ACA 1**



SESSION ADJOURNMENT

September 13, 2019
204 Days Remaining



Introduced



1st Committee



1st Chamber



2nd Committee



2nd Chamber



Disposition: Pending

Author: Aguiar-Curry (D)

Title: Local Government Financing: Affordable Housing

Summary: Creates an exception to the 1% limit on the ad valorem property tax rate on real property that would authorize a city or county to levy an ad valorem tax to service bonded indebtedness incurred to fund the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or replacement of public

infrastructure or affordable housing, if the proposition proposing that tax is approved by 55% of the voters of the city or county.

Location: ASSEMBLY

13. CA SB 4



SESSION ADJOURNMENT

September 13, 2019
204 Days Remaining



Introduced



1st Committee



1st Chamber



2nd Committee



2nd Chamber



Disposition: Pending

Author: McGuire (D)

Title: Housing

Summary: States the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would limit restrictive local land use policies and legislation that would encourage increased housing development near transit and job centers, in a manner that ensures that every jurisdiction contributes its fair share to a housing solution, while acknowledging relevant differences among communities.

Location: Senate Rules Committee

14. CA SB 5



SESSION ADJOURNMENT

September 13, 2019
204 Days Remaining



Introduced



1st Committee



1st Chamber



2nd Committee



2nd Chamber



Disposition: Pending

Author: Beall (D)

Title: Local-State Sustainable Investment Incentive Program

Summary: Establishes the Local-State Sustainable Investment Incentive Program, which would be administered by the Sustainable Investment Incentive Committee. Authorizes a city, county, city and county, joint powers agency, enhanced infrastructure financing district, affordable housing authority, community revitalization and investment authority or transit village development district to apply to the Committee to participate in the program and authorizes Committee to approve or deny applications for projects.

Location: Senate Governance and Finance Committee

15. CA SB 6



SESSION ADJOURNMENT

September 13, 2019
204 Days Remaining



Introduced



1st Committee



1st Chamber



2nd Committee



2nd Chamber



Disposition: Pending

Author: Beall (D)

Title: Housing Production

Summary: States the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would help encourage housing production throughout the state, including streamlining approval processes, identifying sufficient and adequate sites for housing construction, and penalizing local planning that restricts housing production.

Location: Senate Rules Committee

16. CA SB 25



SESSION ADJOURNMENT

September 13, 2019
204 Days Remaining



Introduced

1st Committee

1st Chamber

2nd Committee

2nd Chamber

Disposition: Pending

Author: Caballero (D)

Title: Environmental Quality Act: Qualified Opportunity Zones

Summary: Establishes procedures for the administrative and judicial review of the environmental review and approvals granted for projects located in qualified opportunity zones that are funded by qualified opportunity funds or moneys from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.

Committee: Senate Environmental Quality Committee

Hearing: 03/20/2019, Room 3191

17. CA SB 43



SESSION ADJOURNMENT

September 13, 2019
204 Days Remaining



Introduced

1st Committee

1st Chamber

2nd Committee

2nd Chamber

Disposition: Pending

Author: Allen (D)

Title: Carbon Taxes

Summary: Requires the State Air Resources Board in consultation with the Department of Tax and Fee Administration, to submit a report to the Legislature on the results of a study to propose and determine the feasibility and practicality of a system to replace the tax imposed pursuant to the Sales and Use Tax Law with an assessment on retail products sold or used in the state based on the carbon intensity of the product to encourage the use of less carbon-intensive products.

Committee: Senate Environmental Quality Committee

Hearing: 03/20/2019, Room 3191

18. CA SB 50



SESSION ADJOURNMENT

September 13, 2019
204 Days Remaining



Introduced

1st Committee

1st Chamber

2nd Committee

2nd Chamber

Pending

Disposition:

Author: Wiener (D)

Title: Planning and Zoning: Housing Development

Summary: Requires a city or county to grant upon request an equitable communities incentive when a development proponent seeks and agrees to construct a residential development that satisfies specified criteria, including, among other things, that the residential development is either a job-rich housing project or a transit-rich housing project.

Location: Senate Housing Committee

19. **CA SB 59**



SESSION ADJOURNMENT

September 13, 2019
204 Days Remaining



Introduced



1st Committee



1st Chamber



2nd Committee



2nd Chamber



Disposition: Pending

Author: Allen (D)

Title: Automated Vehicle Technology: Statewide Policy

Summary: Establishes the policy of the state relating to automated vehicles in order to ensure that these vehicles support the state's efforts to, among other things, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and encourage efficient land use. Requires the Office of Planning and Research in the Governor's office, in coordination with the State Air Resources Board, to convene an automated vehicle interagency working group of specified state agencies to guide policy development for automated vehicle technology.

Location: Senate Transportation Committee

20. **CA SB 127**



SESSION ADJOURNMENT

September 13, 2019
204 Days Remaining



Introduced



1st Committee



1st Chamber



2nd Committee



2nd Chamber



Disposition: Pending

Author: Wiener (D)

Title: Transportation Funding: Active Transportation: Streets

Summary: Establishes a Division of Active Transportation within the Department of Transportation and requires that an undersecretary of the Transportation Agency be assigned to give attention to active transportation program matters to guide progress toward meeting the department's active transportation program goals and objectives. Requires the California Transportation Commission to give high priority to increasing safety for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Location: Senate Transportation Committee

21. **CA SB 128**



SESSION ADJOURNMENT

September 13, 2019
204 Days Remaining



Introduced 1st Committee 1st Chamber 2nd Committee 2nd Chamber

Disposition: Pending
Author: Beall (D)
Title: Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts: Bonds
Summary: Authorizes the public financing authority to issue bonds for purposes of enhanced infrastructure financing districts without submitting a proposal to the voters. Requires specified information related to the issuance of the bonds to be contained in the resolution.
Location: Senate Governance and Finance Committee

22. **CA SB 137****SESSION ADJOURNMENT**

September 13, 2019
204 Days Remaining

Introduced > 1st Committee > 1st Chamber > 2nd Committee > 2nd Chamber

Disposition: Pending
Author: Dodd (D)
Title: Federal Transportation Funds: State Exchange Programs
Summary: Authorizes the Department of Transportation to allow federal transportation funds that are allocated as local assistance to be exchanged for Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Program funds appropriated by the department.
Location: SENATE

23. **CA SCA 1****SESSION ADJOURNMENT**

September 13, 2019
204 Days Remaining

Introduced > 1st Committee > 1st Chamber > 2nd Committee > 2nd Chamber

Disposition: Pending
Author: Allen (D)
Title: Public Housing Projects
Summary: Repeals provisions prohibiting the development, construction, or acquisition of a low-rent housing project in any manner by any state public body until a majority of the qualified electors of the jurisdiction in which the development, construction, or acquisition of the project is proposed approve the project by voting in favor at an election.
Location: SENATE

From: Simon and Company <jennifer.covino@simoncompany.com>
Sent: Friday, February 1, 2019 9:46 AM
To: Trai Her-Cole
Subject: Washington Friday Report - February 1, 2019

Simon and Company, Inc.
Intergovernmental Affairs

Volume XXI Issue 5
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Washington Friday Report

February 1, 2019

GOVERNMENT BACK IN BUSINESS

The partial government shutdown ended last Friday evening after President **Donald Trump** signed legislation ([H. J. Res. 28](#)) funding the government through February 15, 2019. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released a report on the impacts of the five-week partial shutdown, estimating it delayed approximately \$18 billion in discretionary spending for compensation, purchases of goods and services, and suspended federal services. The U.S. economy lost \$3 billion in real gross domestic product (GDP), a 0.1 percent reduction, in the fourth quarter of 2018. CBO also estimates that the level of real GDP will be \$8 billion lower in the first quarter of 2019 as a result, a 0.2 percent reduction.

excepted employees, but Congress appropriated funding for backpay. You can read more about the foregone economic and administrative productivity [here](#).

DHS Funding and Border Wall Negotiations

The White House consented to the deal after Congressional leaders agreed to convene a bipartisan conference committee on a bill ([H.J. Res. 31](#)) to fund the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Negotiators see the DHS spending bill as a legislative vehicle to reach a broader compromise on immigration reform. President Trump signaled that he may declare a national emergency to fund a border wall if the conferees cannot reach an agreement. The conferees met for the first time to deliver opening statements on Wednesday; Democratic leaders [released](#) their list of proposals for the negotiations shortly thereafter. The new Democratic proposal would actually eliminate the \$1.34 billion for fencing along the southwest border that was on the table weeks ago. On Thursday, House Speaker **Nancy Pelosi** maintained, "There's not going to be any wall money in the legislation" to which the President replied that he "won't waste [his] time" if Democrats do not provide funding. Congressional negotiators are considering additional funding for enhanced or Normandy-style fencing. They have two weeks to reach an agreement before the Continuing Resolution expires.

State of the Union Rescheduled

Speaker Pelosi sent a [letter](#) to President Trump inviting him to deliver the State of the Union Address in the House chamber on February 5, 2019 at 9:00 p.m. Eastern. Democrats tapped former Georgia gubernatorial candidate **Stacey Abrams** to deliver the Democratic response to the President's Address.

Violence Against Women Act

The short-term Continuing Resolution also extended funding for the *Violence Against Women Act* (VAWA) through February 15 after the law expired in December. The shutdown delayed payments authorized under VAWA programs to state, local, and nonprofit grantees. Lawmakers are currently negotiating a long-term

reauthorization of VAWA.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

On January 24, President Trump signed legislation ([H.R. 430](#)) to extend the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program through June 30. The House Ways and Means Committee released a [statement](#) following House passage of the legislation.

Tax Extenders Possible in Spending Deal

Senate Finance Committee Chairman **Chuck Grassley** is pressing for the extension of 26 tax breaks that expired at the end of 2017 in the DHS spending deal. He asserted that “if we don’t have something ready to go when that’s done, have a compromise on extenders...then it’s going to be a long time before we get another opportunity.”

SALT Deduction Legislation Introduced

New York Representatives **Nita Lowey** and **Peter King** introduced legislation entitled the *SALT Deductibility Act* ([H.R. 188](#)) to repeal the state and local tax (SALT) deduction limitation enacted in the *Tax Cut and Jobs Act of 2017*. For tax years 2018-2025, the SALT deduction is now limited to \$10,000 per year for individuals or \$5,000 for married individuals filing a separate return.

ED “Supplement, Not Supplant” Guidance

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) released [guidance](#) on the “supplement, not supplant” requirement under the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act* (ESEA), as amended by the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA), with which your local education agencies (LEA) may be familiar. The non-regulatory guidance does not

change the long-standing supplement, not supplant requirement, but it instead provides guidance on how an LEA can demonstrate compliance. Education Secretary **Betsy DeVos** issued an accompanying [press release](#) concurrent to the release of the guidance. Please let us know if you need more information on how this may affect your local school district.

T&I and Ways and Means Announce Upcoming Hearings on Infrastructure

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman **Peter DeFazio** [announced](#) the first full hearing of the 116th Congress, entitled “*The Cost of Doing Nothing: Why Investing in Our Nation’s Infrastructure Cannot Wait.*” The hearing will examine the current state of the U.S. infrastructure system on February 7, 2019. Chairman DeFazio intentionally scheduled this session to follow the President’s State of the Union Address. House Ways and Means Select Revenue Measures Subcommittee Chairman **Mike Thompson** said that his panel’s first hearing, which has not yet been scheduled, will focus options for financing for an infrastructure package. We plan to attend both hearings, and we will keep you updated on these discussions.

House Floor Action

The House passed legislation ([H.R. 790](#)) to provide a 2.6% pay increase for most federal employees, while a vote on a resolution of disapproval regarding the government shutdown ([H. Res. 79](#)) failed under a rule requiring a two-thirds majority for passage. The House also passed a resolution ([H. Res. 77](#)) calling on financial institutions and consumer reporting agencies to provide relief to consumers affected by the shutdown.

Senate Floor Action includes Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Reauthorization

Senate Majority Leader **Mitch McConnell** announced that the Senate would consider next week the *Natural Resources Management Act* ([S. 47](#)), a public lands package which includes a reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

US Trade Representative

We joined a teleconference hosted by the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA) and Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) to discuss trade earlier this week. Deputy United States Trade Representative **CJ Mahoney** briefed participants on the [United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement](#) (USMCA), which is the Administration's proposed replacement for the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Some key policy revisions would include, but are not limited to: "very low" tariffs; increased market access for the agriculture community; improved detection of duty evasion; competitive currency evaluation; improved labor agreements in Mexico; environmental and wildlife protection; and incentives for the auto industry. Deputy Trade Representative Mahoney also touched on the trade relationship with China, where he acknowledged there are a "a number of challenges" and said the Administration is "actively addressing" structural problems within that relationship. The Administration hopes Congress will consider the USMCA agreement sometime this spring.

FCC 5G Spectrum Auction

Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman **Ajit Pai** [issued](#) a statement announcing the conclusion of its high-band 5G spectrum auction, where winning bidders offered a total of \$702 million for the rights to 3,000 28 GHz licenses. The highest winning bid totaled \$12.5 for Dane, Wisconsin. Additional information regarding the auction can be found [here](#).

Current Grant Opportunities

- [DOE FY19 Performance Partnership Pilots for Disconnected Youth](#)

Local Government Procurement from Women- and Minority-Owned Business

We wanted to share this [Full Report](#) entitled "Improving Procurement Processes to Promote Economic Equity" by GOVERNING and City Accelerator. The report urges local government leaders to focus on equitable contracting with woman- and minority-owned businesses to promote opportunity within their administrations and greater society. A number of municipalities have established new procurement standards to attract diverse contractors and vendors, and we wanted to share these best practices with you. This [Fast Company article](#) also highlights the progress of the City of Memphis, TN in this area.

NLIHC Memo on Affordable Housing

The National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) [released](#) a memo to incoming senators and representatives on steps they can take to address housing issues in the 116th Congress. A recent [report](#) from NLIHC found a shortage of 7.2 affordable and available rental homes for low-income renters. The memo lists several legislative opportunities to increase affordable housing resources, including comprehensive infrastructure reform, lifting spending caps for housing-related federal programs, and passing housing finance reform legislation.

State Tax Revenue Slips

Moody's Investors Service released a report detailing how income tax collections in December fell short of expectations and prior year levels as a result of the federal tax overhaul and stock market volatility. Moody's expects continued uncertainty for state revenue forecasts in fiscal year (FY) 2020. According to the National Association of State Budget Officers (NASBO), states funded approximately 46 percent of their budgets with income taxes on average.

Boston University Menino Survey of Mayors Released

Last week, the Boston University Initiative on Cities released its 2018 Menino Survey of Mayors, a national survey of thoughts and challenges from 110 mayors in 37 states on top issues. You can view the key findings from the survey [here](#) and the full report [here](#).

Bloomberg Mayors Challenge Report Released

Bloomberg Philanthropies released a report on the 2018 Mayors Challenge, a competition that encourages city leaders to develop solutions to address policy challenges. Nine cities across the country won \$1 million each for their innovative solutions to local issues. You can read the full report [here](#).

House Appropriations Committee Assignments

House Appropriations Committee Ranking Member **Kay Granger** [announced](#) Republican subcommittee assignments for the 116th Congress. The release follows a similar [announcement](#) from House Appropriations Committee Chairwoman **Nita Lowey** earlier this month.

Elections, Campaign Financing, and Ethics Reform

The House Judiciary Committee held a [hearing](#) on the *For the People Act* ([H.R. 1](#)), which seeks to reform elections, campaign financing, and ethics oversight. You can read a section-by-section summary of the bill [here](#).

Green New Deal Legislation

A spokesman for Massachusetts Senator **Ed Markey** confirmed that he and New York Congresswoman **Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez** are set to unveil legislation

laying out a Green New Deal next week. Although final text does not yet exist, the bill will likely adhere to a set of [draft legislative principles](#) outlining the policy, which includes a goal of 100% renewable electricity within 10 years, a federal jobs guarantee for people working in the low-carbon transition, and universal health care.

Laws Signed This Week

According to a White House announcement dated [Friday, January 25, 2019](#), President Trump signed the following bill into law:

H.J. Res. 28, the “Further Additional Continuing Appropriations Act, 2019,” which includes a short-term continuing resolution that provides fiscal year 2019 appropriations through February 15, 2019, for continuing projects and activities of the Federal Government included in the remaining seven appropriations bills. Also included in the enrolled bill are provisions regarding retroactive pay and reimbursement, and extensions of certain authorities.

Please let us know if you have any questions about this report.

Have a great weekend!

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From: Simon and Company <jennifer.covino@simoncompany.com>
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Washington Friday Report

February 8, 2019

The State of the Union Address

President **Donald Trump** delivered the 2019 State of the Union address on Tuesday. Flanked by Vice President **Mike Pence** and House Speaker **Nancy Pelosi**, the President outlined his commitment to: defend American jobs and workers; ensure fair trade; rebuild our infrastructure; reduce the price of healthcare and prescription drugs; reform the immigration system and enhance national security; and pursue an America First foreign policy. The address offered a review of

his Administration's accomplishments to date and plans for the next two years.

It was not a surprise that President Trump showcased the Administration's economic policies, regulatory reforms, tax cuts, job creation, and low unemployment rates over the past two years. He called on legislators to continue this progress by passing the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) into law this year. He also asked Members of Congress to consider the "economic miracle" happening in the United States, which could only be hindered by "foolish wars, politics, or ridiculous partisan investigations" in his estimation. The President noted that American women filled 58 percent of all new jobs created domestically last year, praising women's historic gains in both the workforce and the U.S. Congress last year.

President Trump invited two guests to highlight criminal justice reform efforts and share Americans' experiences reentering society from incarceration: Alice Johnson, who was granted clemency last year, and Matthew Charles, the first person to be released from prison following the implementation of the *FIRST STEP Act*. A list of all of the President and First Lady's Special Guests in attendance is available [here](#).

The President focused on public health concerns, calling attention to the federal response to the opioids epidemic. He outlined future plans to halt HIV transmission, eliminate childhood cancers, improve veterans' access to healthcare, and lower the cost of prescription drugs. He called for restrictions on late-term abortions.

The latter half of President Trump's address focused on implementing the America First immigration and foreign policy platform. He urged lawmakers to address the "urgent national crisis" at the "very dangerous southern border" in the week ahead. He called on Republicans and Democrats to pass a bill to fund government, protect the homeland, and secure the border. The Administration's proposal includes "humanitarian assistance, more law enforcement, drug detection at our ports, closing loopholes that enable child smuggling, and plans for a new physical barrier, or wall, to secure the vast areas between our ports of entry." President Trump specifically referenced a "a smart, strategic, see-through steel barrier — not just a simple concrete wall" to be deployed in the strategic areas identified by border agents. More information on the status of Congressional conferees' negotiations is included below.

President Trump provided an overview of his Administration's foreign policy principles. He outlined plans to withdraw U.S. troops from the Middle East and

instead focus on diplomatic negotiations and counter-terrorism efforts abroad. He touted the “historic push for peace on the Korean Peninsula” and announced another meeting with Chairman Kim on February 27-28, 2019 in Vietnam.

In closing, President Trump led a chorus singing “Happy Birthday” to Judah Same, a survivor of the mass shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh. The President called on Americans to combat anti-Semitism and acts of hatred in all forms. He praised the first responders of Pittsburgh and troops who protect our Constitutional freedoms.

See the [Full Text of the Address](#) here or watch it below.

President Trump's 2019 State of the Union Address



President's FY 2020 Budget Proposal

The White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) announced the President will release his fiscal year (FY) 2020 budget proposal during the weeks of March 11 and March 18, 2019. The main volume containing the president's budget message, top priorities, and summary tables will be released first. A detailed line-item appendix will be published the following week. We look forward to working with you

on budget priorities and appropriations requests in response next month.

Homeland Security Negotiations

The House and Senate Conference Committee on Homeland Security Appropriations met this week behind closed doors to hammer out a broad compromise on the border wall immigration reform. The group received a closed briefing from Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) officials on Wednesday morning. Conferees seem optimistic that a deal is in sight after productive bipartisan talks and a positive meeting between Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Richard Shelby and President Trump at the White House. Chairman Shelby believes that the [conferees](#) will approve a deal on Monday, setting the stage for a vote in the House on Thursday. Lawmakers have exactly one week to pass an agreement before the Continuing Resolution (CR) currently funding several agencies expires on [February 15, 2019](#).

House Transportation and Infrastructure Hearing

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman **Peter DeFazio** (D-OR) convened the first hearing on infrastructure needs this Thursday morning. Witnesses included Minnesota Governor **Tim Walz**, Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, Former Department of Transportation Secretary **Ray LaHood**, Amtrak President and CEO **Richard Anderson**, and other key industry figures. Chairman DeFazio wants to move a package within the next six months, before the 2020 campaign season complicates political circumstances.

In his remarks, Chairman DeFazio noted that there is “an investment gap of \$2 trillion over 10 years to fix what we have, meet future needs, and restore our global competitiveness. The investment gap in surface transportation alone is over \$1 trillion. The gap for water, port, and related infrastructure is \$249 billion.” He cited the Business Roundtable estimate that inadequate infrastructure costs U.S. businesses “\$27 billion per year in additional transportation related costs.” Chairman DeFazio estimates that the American economy will lose almost \$4 trillion in GDP and 2.5 million jobs before 2025 if no additional action is taken. See [House T&I Press Release](#) or watch the [Chairman’s Opening Statement](#) or [Full Hearing](#).

As Chair of the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) Infrastructure Task Force, Mayor Garcetti presented [Mayors' Infrastructure Priorities for the 116th Congress](#) with a five point focus on transportation, water, energy, community, and tax incentives. We will be sure to share developments as this legislative process moves forward.

Buy American Executive Order

President Trump signed an [Executive Order](#) entitled “Strengthening Buy-American Preferences for Infrastructure Projects” on January 31, 2019. The Executive Order seeks to maximize the use of U.S. goods, products, and materials in federal procurement policy and any infrastructure projects by nonfederal sponsors selected to receive “federal financial assistance.” This revised terminology expands applicability from only projects receiving federal grants to those receiving federal grants, cooperative agreements, loans, loan guarantees, insurance, and interest subsidies.

In the next 90 days, Cabinet Members will be required to encourage federal assistance recipients to utilize iron, aluminum, steel, cement, and other manufactured products for every purchase order, contract, subcontract, or sub-award to the greatest extent possible. Within 120 days, Departments will be required to submit an agency-specific report to identify new opportunities to impose new Buy American requirements through appropriate terms and conditions for covered programs. Covered programs are those involving the “alteration, construction, conversion, demolition, extension, improvement, maintenance, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or repair of an infrastructure project,” except those for which providing a domestic preference is inconsistent with law.

The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) found that foreign products accounted for less than 5 percent of total purchases by the federal government in Fiscal Year (FY) 2017, according to a [report](#) released in December 2018.

DOT Review of Guidance Documents

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has issued a [Notice of Review of Guidance](#) to evaluate existing guidance documents and determine if there are any in

need of repeal or revision. DOT guidance documents are used to clarify statutory and regulatory requirements; assist with statutory and regulatory compliance; and communicate policy positions. This multi-modal review supports the Administration's goal to streamline federal regulations.

According to the Notice, DOT seeks to identify guidance documents that: "(a) are no longer necessary; (b) spur cost-inducing action by the regulated entities; (c) are inconsistent or unclear; (d) may not be conducive to uniform or consistent enforcement; or (e) need to be updated to reflect developments that have taken place since the guidance was issued."

Public comments that outline specific issues are due by [April 8, 2019](#). Questions may be directed to **Jonathan Moss**, DOT Assistant General Counsel for Regulation, via email to jonathan.moss@dot.gov or by phone at 202-366-4723. Please let us know if we can help draft an official response on your behalf.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

U.S. Representatives and Senators made progress in their bicameral negotiations to reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) this week. Congressman **Derek Kilmer** (D-WA) and Congressman **Mike Simpson** (R-ID) introduced bipartisan [legislation](#) named the *Land and National Park Deferred Maintenance (LAND) Act* this week. The bill would permanently authorize the Fund and provide \$450 million of mandatory funding for the National Park Service and related agencies over the next decade. Meanwhile, the Senate advanced the *Natural Resources Management Act* (S. 47), a [public lands package](#) that includes a permanent LWCF reauthorization, after rejecting contentious amendments following the agreement by House and Senate negotiators. The bipartisan package would improve public lands management, protect national landscapes, increase public access for recreation, and protect private property rights. See the [Title-by-Title Bill Summary](#) or the [Full Bill Text](#) for more information.

ICE Detention Facilities Below National Standards

A new report issued by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of

Inspector General (IG) found that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) are poor managers of immigrant detention facilities. In a review of 106 facilities, the report found that ICE fails to hold contractors accountable for standards and grants waivers to allow facility managers to avoid making repairs. The [IG Full Report](#) reviews the deficiencies and inadequate conditions for detainees.

House Hearing on Border Separations

The House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing this week to review reports that thousands of immigrant children were separated from their parents last year after crossing the U.S.-Mexico border. Subcommittee Chairwoman **Diana DeGette** pressed Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) officials on their roles, while witnesses described the resulting psychological trauma of the children involved. Watch the Livestream or review Key Documents [here](#).

Current Grant Opportunities

- [U.S. Bureau of Reclamation FY 2019 WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants \(WEEG\) Program](#)
- [HHS ACL FY 2019 Alzheimer's Disease Programs Initiative](#)
- [EDA FY 2019 Regional Innovation Strategies Program](#)
- [ED OIE EY 2019 Indian Education Formula Grants to Local Education Agencies](#)
- [ED FY 2019 Education Innovation and Research \(EIR\) Program](#)
- [DOJ OVW FY 2019 Research and Evaluation \(R&E\) Initiative](#)

Environment: Climate Change, EPW Committee Agenda, and a Green New Deal

House Natural Resources Committee Chairman **Raúl Grijalva** (D-AZ) and House

Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change Chairman **Paul Tonko** (D-NY) held the first of a series of hearings on climate change. Bipartisan witnesses included North Carolina Governor **Roy Cooper** (R) and Massachusetts Governor **Charlie Baker** (R) offering testimony on its impact on communities, the environment, and the economic vitality of their respective states. Watch the full hearing or read testimony [here](#).

At a business meeting of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW), Chairman **John Barrasso** gave an overview of the Committee's priorities for the 116th Congress, including infrastructure legislation, protection of wildlife, and deployment of technologies to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. You can view his remarks [here](#).

Congresswoman **Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez** (D-NY) and Senator **Ed Markey** (D-MA) introduced their joint Green New Deal [resolution](#) on Thursday. Climate advocates see this as a first step to set the stage for a comprehensive legislative package later this year; however, Senate EPW Committee Chairman Barrasso referred to the blueprint a “radical proposal [that] would take our growing economy off the cliff and our nation into bankruptcy.” Nonetheless, Democratic Presidential candidates including U.S. Senators **Cory Booker**, **Kirsten Gillibrand**, **Kamala Harris**, and **Elizabeth Warren** announced their plans to cosponsor the resolution.

Small Business Hearing

House Small Business Committee Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access Chairman **Andy Kim** (D-NJ) held a hearing on challenges faced by underserved entrepreneurs, including women, minorities, and veterans, in securing affordable capital and procurement opportunities. See the [Press Release](#) or [Full Hearing](#) for more information.

Gun Violence Hearing

House Judiciary Committee Chairman **Jerrold Nadler** (D-NY) held a hearing on addressing gun violence featuring **Aalayah Eastmond**, a survivor of the Parkland school shooting. Democrats advocated for the *Bipartisan Background Checks Act of*

2019 ([H.R. 8](#)) to require unlicensed firearms sellers to run prospective buyers through the national background check system. Republicans argued that such legislation could be unfairly burdensome to gun owners. House Majority Leader **Steny Hoyer** issued a [Press Release](#) announcing a markup by the House Judiciary Committee next week.

House Floor Action on Veteran Child Care

The House passed the *Veterans' Access to Child Care Act* ([H.R. 840](#)), which makes permanent a program to provide child care assistance while veterans receive intensive medical services or mental health treatments at U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) treatment centers. The current [pilot program](#) currently operates VA-sponsored child care centers in the Bay Area, Central Pennsylvania, Salt Lake City, Madison, and other select municipalities.

Senate Housing Finance Reform Legislation

Senate Banking Committee Chairman **Mike Crapo** released an [outline](#) for comprehensive housing finance reform, which would include an overhaul of the current government sponsored enterprises (GSEs) Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. The outline provides mortgage protections to homeowners and attempts to increase access to affordable housing nationwide. We will keep you updated as the legislative process moves forward.

Airbnb Avoiding Local Taxes?

According to a new cost-benefit analysis conducted by the Economic Policy Institute, Airbnb skirts “lodging” and “bed” tax laws in a number of states. Although Airbnb claims that it has collected over \$1 billion in hotel tax revenue to date and continually establishes voluntary tax collection agreements, the report shows how Airbnb only collects a patchwork of state and local taxes. You can view the full report [here](#).

Upcoming AARP 50+ Voter Issues Webinar

Given the fact that 50+ voters can represent sixty to seventy percent of the electorate in local elections, AARP recently completed a poll of 50+ Voters on local issues including housing, transportation, broadband and others. AARP is hosting a webinar with the bipartisan pollsters to examine the results. They would like to invite you or staff to join the webinar on February 13, from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM (ET). Please register for the webinar at [this link](#).

Laws Signed This Week and White House Nominations

President Trump did not sign any new bills into law this week.

Two key picks by President Trump to head cabinet agencies overseeing federal lands and environmental regulation moved forward this week. Trump nominated Department of Interior (DOI) Deputy Secretary **David Bernhardt** to replace **Ryan Zinke**, who resigned last year amid ethics allegations. Later in the week, the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works voted along party lines to advance the nomination of former coal lobbyist **Andrew Wheeler** to become Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. The full Senate is expected to vote on Wheeler's confirmation next week.

In an [announcement](#) dated February 2, 2019, the White House released a list of new appointments for the Executive Office of the President. Notably, Rear Admiral **Ronny Jackson**, who served as the President's physician and was briefly nominated to be the Veterans Affairs Secretary, was promoted to Chief Medical Advisor.

Democratic Response to the State of the Union Address

Former Georgia gubernatorial candidate and State House leader **Stacey Abrams** delivered the official Democratic response to President Trump's State of the Union address. She touched on a variety of issues important to Democrats, including: the impacts of the government shutdown on furloughed federal workers; addressing the epidemics of gun violence and substance abuse; student loan debt and the escalating cost of high education; climate change; combatting discrimination; and voting rights.

On voting rights, she asserted “From making it harder to register and stay on the rolls to moving and closing polling places to rejecting lawful ballots, we can no longer ignore these threats to democracy.” She countered the President’s world views on immigration and border security. See the Official Democratic Response below.

Official Democratic Response to the State of the Union Address



**Please let us know if you have any questions about this report.
Have a great weekend!**

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To: Trai Her-Cole
Subject: Washington Friday Report - February 15, 2019

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Washington Friday Report

February 15, 2019

President Signs Budget Agreement, Declares National Emergency at the Southern Border

On Thursday, the Senate voted 83-16 and the House voted 300-128 to pass appropriations conference report ([H J Res 31](#)) to avoid a second partial government shutdown. The bipartisan, bicameral compromise resulted from close negotiations between the top four Congressional leaders in charge of federal spending: House

Appropriations Chairwoman **Nita Lowey**, House Appropriations Ranking Member **Kay Granger**, Senate Appropriations Chairman **Richard Shelby**, and Senate Appropriations Ranking Member **Pat Leahy**. President **Donald J. Trump** signed the \$333 billion package into public law this morning, funding remaining federal agencies through the end of fiscal year (FY) 2019 on [September 30, 2019](#).

The legislation provides \$1.375 billion in Congressionally authorized spending for fencing and other security enhancements along the southern border of the United States. Following the bill signing, President Trump [announced](#) he would utilize his executive authority to declare a national emergency, enabling him to access over \$6.6 billion in other federal funds from the U.S. Departments of Defense and Treasury to supplement the funding authorized by Congress, bringing the total funding for the wall to \$8 billion. He will draw funds from the following sources: \$601 million from the Treasury Forfeiture Fund; up to \$2.5 billion under the Department of Defense funds for Support for Counter-drug Activities; and up to \$3.6 billion reallocated from Department of Defense military construction projects. House Speaker **Nancy Pelosi** and Senate Democratic Leader **Chuck Schumer** released a joint statement anticipating the action, which reads as follows: “Declaring a national emergency would be a lawless act, a gross abuse of the power of the presidency and a desperate attempt to distract from the fact that President Trump broke his core promise to have Mexico pay for his wall. [...] The Congress will defend our constitutional authorities.”

While we are sure there will be plenty of discussion focused on the border wall in the days ahead, we wanted to provide an overview of the key domestic funding provisions included in the spending agreement. The House Appropriations Committee issued this [division-by-division summary](#) of the appropriations conference report. We will continue our analysis of more than 1,100 pages of this law and the policy implications, but we want to share some important highlights included below.

Housing and Urban Development

- \$22.598 billion for **Tenant Based Rental Assistance**, which is \$583 million more than the FY2018 enacted level; including,
 - \$20.313 billion for **Contract Renewals**, which is \$713 million more than the FY2018 enacted level,
 - \$225 million for **Section 811 Mainstream Vouchers**, which is \$280 million less than the FY2018 enacted level,

- \$40 million for **Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Vouchers**, which is equal to the FY2018 enacted level, and
 - \$20 million for **Family Unification**, which is equal to the FY 2018 enacted level;
- \$2.775 billion for the **Public Housing Capital Fund**, which is \$25 million more than the FY 2018 enacted level, including,
 - \$30 million for **Emergency/Disaster Grants**, which is \$8 million more than the FY2018 enacted level, and
 - \$15 million for the **Jobs-Plus Pilot**, which is equal to the FY2018 enacted level;
- \$4.653 billion for the **Public Housing Operating Fund**, which is \$103 million more than the FY2018 enacted level;
- \$150 million for the **Choice Neighborhoods Initiative**, which is equal to the FY2018 enacted level;
- \$80 million for **Family Self Sufficiency**, which is \$5 million more than the FY2018 enacted level
- \$393 million for **Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS**, which is \$18 million more than the FY2018 enacted level;
- \$3.3 billion for **CDBG Formula Grants**, which is equal to the FY2018 enacted level;
- \$1.250 billion for **HOME Investment Partnerships**, which is \$112 million less than the FY2018 enacted level;
- \$10 million for the **Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program**, which is equal to the FY2018 enacted level;
- \$2.636 billion for **Homeless Assistance Grants**, which is \$123 million more than the FY2018 enacted level;
- No funding for **Rental Assistance Demonstration**, which is equal to the FY2018 enacted level;
- \$11.747 billion for **Project-Based Rental Assistance**, which is \$232 million more than the FY2018 enacted level;
- \$678 million for **Housing for the Elderly (Sec. 202)**, which is equal to the FY2018 enacted level;
- \$184 million for **Housing for Persons with Disabilities (Sec. 811)**, which is \$46 million less than the FY2018 enacted level;
- \$24 million for the **Fair Housing Assistance Program** and \$39 million for the **Fair Housing Initiatives Program**, both equal to the FY2018 enacted level; and

- \$279 million for **Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard**, which is \$49 more than the FY2018 enacted level.

Transportation

- Funds **National Infrastructure Investments (the BUILD Discretionary Grant Program)** at \$900 million, which is \$600 million less than the FY2018 enacted level, with a policy provision requiring that the Department awards 50 percent of funding to projects located in urban areas and 50 percent to rural areas;
- Funds the **Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)** at \$17.5 billion, which is \$549 million below the FY2018 enacted level;
 - **Airport Improvement Program** receives an additional \$500 million to accelerate infrastructure investments at airports;
- Funds the **Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)** with \$49.3 billion, an increase of \$1.8 billion above the FY2018 enacted level;
 - Funds **Highway Infrastructure Programs** at \$3.3 billion for highway and bridge rehabilitation and construction as well as safety improvements at railroad grade crossings;
- Funds the **Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)** at \$2.9 billion, which is \$218 million below the FY2018 enacted level, with \$1.9 billion for **Amtrak** is funded at \$1.9 billion and \$670 million is provided for rail infrastructure improvements;
- Funds the **Federal Transit Administration (FTA)** at \$13.4 billion, a reduction of \$67 million below the FY2018 enacted level;
 - Provides \$2.6 billion for **Capital Investment Grants**, which is sufficient to fund all signed Full Funding Grant Agreements and continue work on **New Starts, Small Starts, and Core Capacity** projects in the development pipeline.
 - **Transit Infrastructure Grants** are funded at \$700 million to improve and modernize transit infrastructure.

Commerce-Justice-Science

- Funds Department of Justice grants for state and local law enforcement at \$3.02 billion, including:

- \$423.5 million for **Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (JAG)**, which is \$4.5 million more than the FY2018 enacted level;
- \$303.5 million for the **Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Program**;
- \$178 million for the **Sexual Assault Kit Initiative** and related programs;
- \$87.5 million for *Second Chance Act* programs;
- \$347 million for grant programs to address the **opioid crisis**;
- \$100 million for the *STOP School Violence Act*;
- \$497.5 million for *Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)* programs; and
- \$75 million for grants to improve the **NICS firearms background check system**;
- Provides \$3.82 billion for the **Census Bureau**, which is \$1 billion more than the FY2018 enacted level; and
- Funds the **Economic Development Administration (EDA)** at \$304 million, which is an increase of \$2.5 million above the FY2018 enacted level, including \$117.5 million for the Public Works program and \$23.5 million for the Regional Innovation Program.

Homeland Security

- Provides \$59 million for 600 new **Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) Officers** and encourages CBP to use fee funding to hire up to 600 additional officers;
- Funds the **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)** at \$16.6 billion in net discretionary funding, which is \$4.2 billion more than the FY 2018 enacted level;
- Provides \$12 billion for disaster relief and cost effective mitigation to reduce the risk from future disasters;
- Provides \$3.1 billion for FEMA grants to help states, communities, citizens, and non-profit organizations, including \$277 million for training, exercises and education, to support first responders and emergency managers;
- Funds **U. S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)** at \$7.6 billion, which is \$512 million above the FY 2018 enacted level;
- Provides an appropriated level for detention beds that establishes Congress's

intent to reduce the daily population in ICE detention from more than 49,000 to approximately 40,520 by the end of the fiscal year;

- Expands the **Alternatives to Detention program** from 82,000 to 100,000 and provides \$30.5 million for ATD family case management, which helps provide access to access community-based support for basic housing, healthcare, legal, and educational needs;
- Improves transparency by requiring ICE to make public information about the numbers and types of people in its custody, including families, border apprehension detainees, interior enforcement detainees, and those who are in custody who have a positive credible fear claim;
- Prohibits DHS from preventing a member of Congress from entering any facility that is used to detain or otherwise house children, and requires that DHS make no changes to the current operations and facility conditions in anticipation of a congressional oversight visit;
- Prevents DHS from destroying any record related to potential sexual assault or abuse of any individual in DHS's custody;
- Prohibits ICE from using information provided by the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR)** about sponsors or potential sponsors of unaccompanied children to arrest, detain, or remove those individuals, unless that information reveals the individual has a dangerous criminal background; and
- Prevents DHS from placing pregnant women in restraints and provides oversight of ICE treatment of detainees, including protections for pregnant refugees, prohibiting destruction of detainee sexual assault records, and public reporting related to detainees in ICE custody.

Agriculture

- Funds the **Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)** at \$6.075 billion in discretionary funding for WIC, which is \$100 million below the FY2018 enacted level;
- Fully funds **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)** at \$73.477 billion in mandatory spending; and
- Fully funds **Child Nutrition Programs** with \$23.141 billion in mandatory funding.

Treasury

- Funds the **Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI)** at \$250 million, which is equal to the FY 2018 enacted level, with the Healthy Food Financing funded at \$22 million.

Interior-Environment-Related Agencies

- Provides \$435 million for **Land and Water Conservation Fund**, which is \$10 million above the FY 2018 enacted level;
- Funds the **Environmental Protection Agency** at \$8.8 billion, which is \$25 million above the FY2018 enacted level;
- Provides \$1.2 billion for the **Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund**, which is equal to the 2018 enacted level;
- Makes \$68 million available for **Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA)** grants, which is \$5 million above the FY 2018 enacted level; and
- Provides \$155 million for the **National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities (NEA/NEH)**, a \$2 million increase above the FY2018 enacted levels for each endowment.

Notably, the bill does not include a long-term reauthorization of the *Violence Against Women Act* (VAWA), which became a sticking point late in the funding negotiations.

Tax Extenders Update

Congressional leaders did not include tax extenders in the final legislation passed this week unfortunately. Senate Finance Committee Chairman **Chuck Grassley** indicated that the Pay-As-You-Go (PAYGO) rule newly implemented by the House complicated the process, by stipulating that any new tax cuts or mandatory spending benefits are paid for with revenue increases or spending cuts. He hopes to pass a two-year extension for 2018 and 2019. Senator Grassley has Democratic support as legislative staff indicated this week that Senator **Maria Cantwell** continues to

seek a path forward to address these expiring tax provisions.

Senate Confirms Attorney General Nominee

The Senate confirmed **William Barr** as Attorney General by a vote of 54-45 following the resignation of **Jeff Sessions** from the post in November. Barr served as Attorney General under President **George H.W. Bush**, where he oversaw an increase in the incarceration rate as a means to combat crime. It may be worth noting for many interested states and localities that Attorney General Barr indicated he would enforce the Obama-era “Cole Memo,” which directs the Department of Justice to respect marijuana laws in states where it has been legalized, during his Senate confirmation hearing. Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman released a [statement](#), saying “[Barr] is a steady hand at a time of turmoil and he will bring much needed reform to the Department of Justice.”

Senate Passes Permanent Reauthorization of Land and Water Conservation Fund

In a 92-8 vote, the Senate passed the *Natural Resources Management Act* (S. 47), a public lands package that includes a permanent Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) reauthorization. The legislation now heads to the House Natural Resources Committee, where Chairman **Raúl Grijalva** pledged to support the bill and take it up following the February recess.

Senate Schedules Green New Deal Vote

Senate Majority Leader **Mitch McConnell** announced that he would schedule a vote by the full Senate on the Green New Deal resolution ([H. Res. 109](#)) introduced by New York Congresswoman **Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez** and Massachusetts Senator **Ed Markey** last week. Many believe the purpose of the Senate vote would be to force any 2020 presidential candidates to express a formal stance on the issue.

Transit Worker Safety Legislation Introduced

This week, California Congresswoman **Grace Napolitano** introduced [legislation](#) with Maryland Senator **Chris Van Hollen** and New York Congressman **John Katko** that would require transit agencies to develop concrete plans to reduce assaults on their workers. The *Transit Worker and Pedestrian Protection Act* (H.R. 1139) would mandate that transit agencies produce Bus Operations Safety Risk Reduction Programs and Rail Operations Worker Assault Risk Reduction Programs within two years of enactment. The legislation would authorize \$125 million over five years to support the implementation. Programs would include assault mitigation infrastructure, technology, and trainings for transit workers, as well as bus improvements to reduce accidents. The legislation would also require transit agencies to reports assaults on transit workers to the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) National Transit Database (NTD).

House Judiciary Advances Background Check Legislation

The House Judiciary Committee, led by Chairman **Jerrold Nadler**, passed two bills on party lines aimed at bolstering background checks for gun sales. The first bill ([H.R. 8](#)) would close the “gun show loophole” by expanding required background checks to all firearms sales, while the second bill ([H.R. 1112](#)) would extend the time firearms dealers must wait for a response from the background check system before making a sale. The Senate is not expected to take up this legislation for consideration.

House Hearing on Homelessness

House Financial Services Committee Chairwoman **Maxine Waters** held the first ever full committee hearing focused on addressing the national homelessness crisis and finding solutions on Wednesday. Witnesses included National Alliance to End Homelessness President and CEO **Nan Roman**. The Committee heard testimony on comprehensive homelessness [legislation](#) introduced by Chairwoman Waters, titled *The Ending Homelessness Act*, which would increase housing funding by \$13.27 billion over five years. The bill includes \$5 billion for permanent supportive housing

programs, \$500 million for Section 8 rental assistance vouchers, and \$1 billion per year to the Housing Trust Fund. Please see the [Full Hearing](#), [Hearing Memorandum to Members](#), or the Chairwoman's [Opening Statement](#) for more information.

Earmark Return Update

House Majority Leader **Steny Hoyer** announced that he is discussing a possible return of earmarks — or “Congressionally directed spending” — with a bipartisan, bicameral group of leaders. Congress banned in 2011 after allegations of waste and abuse. House Appropriations Chairwoman **Nita Lowey** supports a return to earmarks as well, and she is fully engaged in those discussions.

Current Grant Opportunities

- [FTA FY 2019 Passenger Ferry Grant Program](#)
- [DHS FY 2018 SAFER Grant Program](#)
- [DOJ BJA FY 2019 National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative \(SAKI\) Program](#)
- [DOJ BJA FY 2019 Innovative Prosecution Solutions for Combatting Violent Crime](#)

FEMA Administrator Resigns

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator **Brock Long** resigned Wednesday after allegations of misusing government vehicles. In a written statement, Long touted the recent response to the devastating California wildfires, enactment of a 2018-2022 Strategic Plan, and partnership with Congress on the passage of the *Disaster Recovery Reform Act* (DRRA) during his tenure. FEMA Deputy Administrator **Peter Gaynor** will serve as Acting Administrator until a new agency leader is confirmed.

Artificial Intelligence Executive Order

President Trump signed an [Executive Order](#) on Monday intended to spur the development and regulation of artificial intelligence (AI) in the United States. The EO would mandate the creation of an American AI Initiative to spur federal research and development (R&D), infrastructure, governance, workforce, and engagement initiatives. The Administration is also advancing apprenticeship and vocational programs to transition workers affected by the growing automation of cities and the economy.

FHWA State Grants for User-Fee Pilots

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) [announced](#) \$10.2 million in Surface Transportation System Funding Alternatives (STSFA) [grant awards](#) to support state testing of user fee-based alternatives to the federal gas tax. California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) received \$2 million for its [Road Usage Charge Pilot Program](#) (RUC), which is exploring road charging models through emerging technologies and services, such as Usage-Based Insurance (UBI), Transportation Network Companies (TNCs), and Autonomous Vehicles (AVs).

HUD Continuum of Care Awards

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary **Ben Carson** [announced](#) that the agency awarded \$202 million through the FY 2018 Continuum of Care (CoC) Program to support new homeless programs across the country. It includes \$50 million for initiatives focusing on assisting survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. This comes on the heels of a previous [announcement](#) last month that the Department would award nearly \$2 billion to renew 5,800 existing CoC grants.

COPS Mental Health Crisis Report

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of Community Oriented Policing

Services (COPS Office) released a report on best practices by the Major County Sheriffs of America (MCSA) that seek to reduce the arrest and incarceration of people with mental illnesses. Site visit teams found that six specific practices had the greatest impact: 1) Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT) trained emergency responders, case workers, and dispatchers; 2) active diversion of people with mental illnesses from incarceration; 3) mental health and problem-solving courts; 4) mental health screening in jail; 5) mental health treatment in jail; and 6) discharge and re-entry planning. View the [COPS Full Report](#) for more information.

ED Issues FERPA Guidance

The Department of Education (ED) released guidance through a [frequently asked questions \(FAQs\) document](#) outlining schools' and school districts' responsibilities under the *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act's* (FERPA) provisions. ED unveiled the guidance document, which consists of 37 commonly asked questions relating to disclosures of student information and student privacy, in response to a [report](#) from the Federal Commission on School Safety (FCSS) demonstrating that officials and educators have a substantial misunderstanding of FERPA's application to school-based threats.

Administration's Broadband Efforts

The Trump Administration released a report outlining the milestones to date of its [American Broadband Initiative](#), which aims to increase rural access to broadband. Mandated by the 2018 Farm Bill, the report describes the following milestones: 1) Department of Agriculture (USDA) deployment of a \$600 million broadband pilot program; 2) Department of Interior (DOI) mapping of 7,000 broadband tower facilities; 3) General Services Administration (GSA) development of tools to expedite broadband access; 4) one stop shop for broadband permitting information published by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA); and 5) GSA revision of the common application form for permit requests.

Early Tax Refunds Lower Than Expected

In recent weeks, early tax filers reported receiving smaller-than-expected refunds following the enactment of the *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017*. Although the Treasury Department disputed the conclusion of a general trend of lower refunds this year, citing limited data, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) claimed that the average refund among early filers was down 8.4%. Analysts argue that the lower refunds stem from the \$10,000 cap on the state and local tax (SALT) deduction mandated by tax reform. Separately, the Taxpayer Advocate Service (TAS) revealed that fewer than over five million pieces of mail and half of all phone calls to the IRS went unanswered during and after the recent shutdown.

***Please let us know if you have any questions about this report.
Have a great weekend!***

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