

April 2024

Thorn Run Partners Report to Miami-Dade County

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RECENT TRP ACTIVITIES

- Shared information related to Proposed Guidance for the Capitol Investment Grant Program
- Shared EPA guidance on FY 2024 congressionally directed spending awarded through the State and Tribal Assistance Grant Program
- Shared information pertaining to inmate medical exclusion issues
- Reached out to the Miami-Dade congressional delegation as well as additional members of the Florida congressional delegation asking to support FY 2025 funding for the resiliency restudy of the Central & South Florida flood control project for improved flood control for the region. Also shared questioning from Rep. Wasserman Schultz to the Army Corps of Engineers regarding the effort to improve flood control in south Florida.
- Provided daily *Tip Sheet* and *TRP Grants Newsletter*

CAPITOL HILL UPDATE

FAA REAUTHORIZATION ON TRACK FOR SENATE PASSAGE

The Senate advanced [89-10] a bill to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on May 1. It is likely that the Senate's final up-or-down vote on the FAA Reauthorization Act will slip to next week ahead of the Friday, May 10 deadline.

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS ANNOUNCES NEW FY 2025 COMMITTEE DEADLINES

The House Appropriations Committee has extended key deadlines for Members pertaining to the fiscal year (FY) 2025 appropriations process. Notably:

- All programmatic and language requests must be submitted by 11:59 PM EST on Friday, May
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- Community Project Funding requests for the Agriculture; Energy and Water; Homeland Security; and Military Construction-Veterans Affairs Subcommittees are due by 11:59 PM EST on May 3; and
- Community Project Funding requests for the Commerce, Justice, Science; Interior and the Environment; and Transportation-Housing Subcommittees are due by 11:59 PM EST on May 10.

TRP TRACKERS: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

We have recently updated a pair of TRP products that provide an overview of key artificial intelligence (AI)-related activities in Washington.

- Click to view TRP's comprehensive <u>AI tracker</u> that covers key activities in the Legislative and Executive Branch.
- Click to view TRP's AI "Shot Clock," which overviews the timeline of federal agency actions mandated under the administration's AI executive order.

SENATE DEMS REINTRODUCE CANNABIS LEGALIZATION PACKAGE

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer reintroduced a sweeping package of cannabis provisions that would, among other things: (1) remove cannabis from the Controlled Substances Act; (2) ensure federal regulation with a focus on safety and public health; (3) encourage states to pursue their own cannabis laws; and (4) prioritize "restorative and economic justice." Here is a <u>summary</u>.

RECENT FEDERAL AGENCY ACTIVITIES

EPA FINALIZES PFAS SUPERFUND LIABILITY RULE

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently published its <u>final rule</u> designating two perand polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) — perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) — as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), also known as Superfund.

• EPA also released a separate <u>CERCLA enforcement discretion policy</u> that clarifies the focus of enforcement on parties who significantly contributed to the release of PFAS chemicals into the environment. Notably, the Agency does not intend to target community water systems and other similar local governmental water utilities with its enforcement mechanisms.

DOJ FINALIZES ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESOURCES

The Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a <u>final rule</u> that seeks to clarify the obligations of state and local governments to make their websites and mobile applications accessible to people with disabilities.

 Specifically, the final rule mandates technical standards for state and local governments to help ensure the accessibility of their programs and services provided through the web and mobile apps, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

TREASURY RELEASES FINAL RULES ON KEY IRA ENERGY CREDIT PROVISION

The Treasury Department and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) <u>issued</u> a <u>final rule</u> on the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) "transferability" provision, which allows businesses to transfer all or a portion of any of 11 clean energy credits to a third-party in exchange for tax-free immediate funds. The IRS also updated the <u>frequently asked questions</u> for the transferability and elective pay provisions based on the final regulations.

OTHER RELEVANT NEWS

Roll Call: House, Senate farm bill summaries show SNAP, climate division

House and Senate Agriculture committee leaders released summaries of proposed farm bills Wednesday as they ramp up action on agricultural policy legislation, but they remain divided on food stamp benefits and on the use of conservation funds already appropriated. Senate Agriculture Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., released a section-by-section summary that she described in a press briefing as "very mainstream," saying it contains more than 100 bipartisan bills. House Agriculture Chairman Glenn "GT" Thompson, R-Pa., made a similar move, releasing a summary and saying that the panel will mark the legislation up on May 23. Stabenow doesn't now have a markup scheduled. The current farm bill, which expires on Sept. 30, extended policies that were enacted by the 2018 law.

The Hill: Biden to announce \$3 billion to replace lead pipes

President Biden will announce Thursday that his administration will be doling out \$3 billion in funds to replace lead pipes, which can pose a health hazard. Biden will announce the funds, part of a total of \$15 billion from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, during a trip to Wilmington, N.C., to replace these pipes. That \$3 billion is expected to replace up to 1.7 million lead pipes, the White House said. The U.S. currently has an estimated 9.2 million lead service lines. While the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's funding is expected to make a significant dent in the nation's lead pipe problem, environmental advocates have expressed concern that it is not enough... In addition to the funding for lead services line replacement, the Department of Housing and Urban Development is announcing Thursday nearly \$90 million to reduce health hazards in public housing, including lead-based paint — as well as carbon monoxide, mold, radon, and asbestos.

E&E News: EPA climate rule has safety valves. Here's what that means.

EPA added several new reliability provisions to its power plant carbon rule that appear to come directly from the Edison Electric Institute — a major utility trade group that has been broadly critical of the pollution standards. The agency's marquee climate rule gives the nation's coal fleet — and major new natural gas plants — the choice between capturing most of their carbon emissions by 2032 or retiring soon after. That has led to concerns about electricity reliability, with industry groups warning of blackouts and rate hikes as coal plants retire en masse in the late 2030s. EPA's final rule includes two new provisions to add reliability protection: one that temporarily exempts fossil fuel power plants from the standards during grid emergencies, and another that allows a facility an extra year to retrofit with carbon capture or remain in operation if grid operators can't line up replacement power generation in time. States would have to ask for both flexibilities when they turn in implementation plans for the rule in two years.

Please let us know if you have any questions.