

TO: Alina Gonzalez, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
Phillip Drujak, Director of Federal Affairs

FROM: Jim Davenport, Partner
Greg Burns, Partner

RECENT TRP ACTIVITIES

- Reviewed several community project funding requests that the County plans to submit to members of Congress.
- Provided input on the Board's 2024 Federal Legislative Package.
- Provided details on President Biden's FY 2025 budget, including information on the Federal Transit Administration's Capital Investment Grants (CIG) Program and the Department of Commerce's Tech Hubs.
 - Engaged with Capitol Hill offices regarding a Dear Colleague that will be circulated to support robust funding of the CIG program. It is important to the County that the program be funded at levels matching the President's FY25 levels so the Northeast Corridor Rapid Transit project can be funded with more than \$263 million.
- Shared information related to various state proposals for the EPA's competitive Climate Pollution Reduction Grant grant, for which the County is applying.
- Provided an update on federal efforts to review the Central & South Florida flood control project for improved flood control for the region.
- Provided a memo covering the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee's hearing on PFAS Hazardous Substances
- Provided a memo covering the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pension Committee's hearing on the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act.
- Provided link to Senator Rick Scott's FY25 programmatic funding forms.
- Provided daily *Tip Sheet* and *TRP Grants Newsletter*

CAPITOL HILL UPDATE

CONGRESS CLOSES THE BOOKS ON FY 2024 APPROPRIATIONS

President Joe Biden signed a \$1.2 trillion government funding package on March 23 after Congress finally closed the books on fiscal year (FY) 2024 appropriations. The vote on the second "minibus" — which contains the spending bills for Labor-HHS-Education, Defense, Financial Services and General Government (FSGG), Homeland Security, State-Foreign Operations, and Legislative Branch — is the last in either chamber until the week of April 8. When lawmakers return, government funding will continue to eat up bandwidth in the weeks and months ahead, as Congress is well behind on its appropriations work for FY 2025.

Defense

[Bill Summary](#)

[Explanatory Statement](#)

FSGG

Labor-HHS-Education

[Bill Summary](#)

[Explanatory Statement](#)

[Congressionally Directed Spending](#)

[Bill Summary](#)
[Explanatory Statement](#)
[Congressionally Directed Spending](#)

[Legislative Branch](#)
[Bill Summary](#)
[Explanatory Statement](#)

[Homeland Security](#)
[Bill Summary](#)
[Explanatory Statement](#)
[Congressionally Directed Spending](#)

[State-Foreign Operations](#)
[Bill Summary](#)
[Explanatory Statement](#)

RECENT FEDERAL AGENCY ACTIVITIES

OMB FINALIZES KEY AI GUIDANCE. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) finalized its policy governing the use of artificial intelligence (AI) across federal agencies. Notable initiatives that agencies must undertake pursuant to the finalized memo include:

- Designating a chief AI officer within 60 days;
- Implementing "concrete safeguards" on the use of AI by December 1, 2024; and
- Releasing expanded annual inventories of AI use cases, among other actions.

OTHER RELEVANT NEWS

POLITICO: White House gives states 90 days to submit voluntary plans for water sector (\$)

The White House is pushing governors across the U.S. to develop statewide plans to protect local water systems against cyberattacks, according to a letter obtained by POLITICO. The plans are the latest effort by the White House to shore up the security of the water and wastewater sector, and underscores the administration's concerns stemming from recent Iranian-linked attacks on U.S. water utilities. The two-page missive, sent Thursday and authored by Deputy National Security Adviser for Cyber and Emerging Technology Anne Neuberger, asks governors to submit cybersecurity "action plans" within 90 days to mitigate "the most significant cybersecurity vulnerabilities in the state's water and wastewater systems." A second document included with the letter outlines "optional guidance" for states in building those plans. That includes determining which water and wastewater systems would be covered under it; how many of those entities have conducted cyber risk assessments and mitigation plans; and proposing a regular schedule for state officials to oversee those actions.

E&E News: House Republicans release details for 'energy week'

The House plans to take up six energy-related bills and resolutions for what Republican leaders are calling "energy week," which includes attacking President Joe Biden's "radical, anti-energy agenda." Legislation on the agenda would repeal the greenhouse gas reduction fund, make it easier to build energy projects in wetlands and curb legal challenges from environmental groups. Republicans want to protect what they call American energy dominance, denounce Biden environmental policies and oppose any potential tax on carbon emissions.

The Hill: Manchin: lawmakers are 'so close' to a permitting reform deal

Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) said Monday that lawmakers are "so close" to reaching a deal to reform the nation's system for approving infrastructure projects... Businesses, including in the energy sector, have long complained about the amount of time it takes to get projects approved by the government. Manchin has been a leading voice in Congress advocating for changing that system. At

least some lawmakers on both sides of the aisle have expressed interest, as some Democrats say changes are needed to bolster the development of climate-friendly energy sources. But a deal has remained elusive as lawmakers have struggled to find agreement on sticking points including cost allocation for electric grid infrastructure. But, in his remarks at the CERAWEEK conference in Houston, Texas, Manchin pledged to get the remaining obstacles resolved.

POLITICO: Cascade of climate rules starts today with clean cars

The Biden administration is unleashing a flurry of regulatory actions that aims to shift the nation toward electric vehicles — with the biggest rule coming Wednesday to set strict limits on climate pollution from passenger cars. The regulation being announced by EPA Administrator Michael Regan, as POLITICO's E&E News reported last week, would slash greenhouse gases from cars and light trucks in half, while pushing to have electric vehicles make up about two-thirds of new passenger vehicle sales by 2032. It's the highest-profile rule of four regulations being released in the coming weeks to overhaul the transportation sector, the nation's largest source of climate pollution... EPA is also working on a similar rule for heavy trucks. The Department of Transportation is finishing fuel economy standards for cars and light trucks that run on gasoline. And on Tuesday the Department of Energy released new calculations that determine how electric vehicles are counted in the fuel economy standards — in a move that could make the national car fleet cleaner.

POLITICO: Federal PFAS regs to saddle cities with unwieldy costs (\$)

After decades of virtually no federal restrictions, the Biden administration is poised to set mandatory limits on six PFAS in drinking water. Expected to be finalized before this fall, the rule is critical for public health, scientists say, since the human-made chemicals have been linked to a litany of diseases and reproductive health issues. Yet the EPA rule is undeniably expensive. For cities like Kalispell that don't know how the chemicals entered their water, treatment costs could fall on residents or U.S. taxpayers. That poses a daunting challenge for the administration as it tries to get a handle on the chemicals, which were used for years in plastics, cookware, military firefighting foam and other products... The rule's steep price tag has spurred some water trade groups to ask EPA for a more flexible final rule, which they say would help keep water affordable. Their lobbying efforts have frustrated health advocates, who want to see EPA set the lowest possible limits on the chemicals.

POLITICO: Senators mull protecting 'passive receivers' from PFAS liability (\$)

Utilities are dialing up the pressure on Congress to shield some industries from liability ahead of an EPA rule on "forever chemicals" — and some top senators are listening. More than 250 entities have sent letters urging the Environment and Public Works Committee to carve out exemptions before EPA finalizes a rule designating some PFAS — or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances — as hazardous substances under the Superfund law. That designation would trigger stricter reporting requirements and put polluters on the hook for cleaning up PFOA and PFOS, two of the most notorious PFAS tied to serious health risks such as cancer. A range of entities — including airports, farmers, water utilities, waste managers, landfills, cities and other local offices — are so-called passive receivers and want exemptions that protect them from becoming responsible parties over chemicals they did not create. PFOA and PFOS persist in the environment and nearly half of U.S. tap water systems. EPA has said it only intends to go after chemical manufacturers and the Defense Department, but the agency cannot carve out exemptions under the law. That power rests solely with Congress — and on Wednesday, members of the EPW panel seemed receptive to a legislative fix.

Please let us know if you have any questions.