

TO: Alina Gonzalez, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
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RECENT TRP ACTIVITIES

- Reached out to several members of the Florida Congressional Delegation seeking their support for PortMiami's Cargo Mobility Optimization and Electrification Project grant application at the U.S. Department of Transportation, and secured support of Reps. Moskowitz and Frankel.
- Provided information on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project close-out guidance, which may be of importance to Port Miami as it seeks reimbursement for past construction activities.
- Shared the FY25 House Dear Colleague sent to the Appropriations Committee in support of \$4.6B for the Capital Investment Grants program via the upcoming appropriations process, which is important to the County's efforts to construct the Northeast Corridor Rapid Transit project.
- Continued to engage with 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.
- Supported County staff's efforts to submit Community Funded Projects via the Fiscal Year 2025 appropriations process.
- Shared summary of the Senate Aging Committee's hearing on the Older Americans Act.
- Provided daily *Tip Sheet* and *TRP Grants Newsletter*.

CAPITOL HILL UPDATE

HOUSE AG APPROVES FARM BILL — On May 24, the House Agriculture Committee approved Chair GT Thompson's (R-PA) Farm, Food, and National Security Act ([H.R.8467](#)) in a partisan vote [33-21], with sharp debate over the climate-related requirements for conservation and agriculture funds. The legislation would divert funds away from climate-focused conservation programs enacted as part of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and instead focus funding on programs that protect farmers from weather-related disasters and provide enhanced crop insurance and payment rates. Most Committee Democrats opposed the bill due to its reallocation of climate-smart conservation funds, but also because of proposed cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY) has been urging Democratic lawmakers to vote against the legislation and to instead support Senate Agriculture Committee Chair Debbie Stabenow's (D-MI) own [proposal](#). With significant Democratic opposition to the legislation, Chair Thompson's Farm Bill does not have a path ahead in the divided Congress.

NEW LEGISLATION WOULD RESTORE ADVANCE REFUNDING FOR TAX-EXEMPT BONDS. Rep. Terri Sewell (D-AL) recently introduced legislation that seeks to boost bond financing opportunities for local governments and nonprofits. Specifically, the Local Infrastructure Financing Tools (LIFT) Act would restore advance refunding of tax-exempt municipal bonds, reauthorize the use of American Infrastructure Bonds, and increase the small issuer exception on bank-qualified debt from \$10 million to \$30 million.

MANCHIN HINTS AT PERMITTING DEAL — Senate Energy and Natural Resources (ENR) Committee Chair Joe Manchin (D-WV) stated last week that he is nearing introduction of a bipartisan permitting reform package with ENR Ranking Member John Barrasso (R-WY). While the details are unknown at this time, the package could include a slate of permitting reforms that seek to expedite projects to improve the grid, expand renewable energy sources, and increase fossil fuel production.

Sen. Manchin, who is retiring at the end of this year, has been a major proponent of reforms to the permitting process at the federal level. While some modest bipartisan permitting reforms were enacted in the bipartisan debt ceiling agreement last year, Sen. Manchin has continued his push for more comprehensive reforms that appeal to both Democrats — who are seeking reforms to expedite transmission and renewables projects — and Republicans, who have been advocating for reforms that also benefit fossil fuel projects.

Although Sen. Manchin will look to make one last concerted effort to pass permitting reforms before the end of this session, the ahead path is uncertain. Other attempts at bipartisan permitting negotiations have struggled to maintain momentum in the divided 118th Congress. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) has been explicitly pessimistic, telling reporters last week that it would “virtually impossible” to get something done this session.

OTHER RELEVANT NEWS

The Hill: GOP tempers expectations on appropriations bills

House Republicans are pressing forward with aggressive plans to mark up and pass their 12 annual funding bills for fiscal year 2025 before the August recess, but some are dialing back expectations after intraparty divisions over spending plagued the process last year. House Republicans took a key step [last] week in passing legislation out of committee to fund military construction and the Department of Veterans Affairs for most of next year. The bill marked the first of the 12 partisan funding plans for fiscal year 2025 that Republicans hope to move out of committee and across the floor by the end of July – when Congress gears up to take its month-long August recess. The proposed schedule was detailed by House GOP leadership to members earlier [last] week. But despite optimism from parts of the conference, some are tempering expectations given the late start.

The Hill: Sparks fly over SNAP at contentious markup of House farm bill

Democrats and Republicans on the House Agriculture Committee sparred over food aid on Thursday at the markup of the chamber’s version of the \$1.5 trillion omnibus farm bill. The issue set off partisan fireworks at the contentious session, during which representatives from both sides of the aisle took to the dais to extol the virtues of bipartisanship while accusing their opposite numbers of throwing those values in the trash. Lawmakers fiercely debated whether Republican attempts to freeze changes to the U.S. Department of Agriculture food aid programs were “cuts” amid broader tensions over whether the bill as put forward by House Republicans is sufficiently bipartisan to have any hopes of passage.

Please let us know if you have any questions.