

**TO:** Alina Gonzalez, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs

**FROM:** Jim Davenport, Partner  
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### RECENT TRP ACTIVITIES

- Alerted County's Office of Resilience that the Back Bay Study is included in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), authorized at a total amount of \$2.7+ billion. Discussed the inclusion of the project in the final bill during meetings with various members of the County federal legislative delegation and key Committee staff.
- Shared an election special report after we knew who won the Presidency, Senate, and House.
- Shared other election updates, including updates on:
  - the FY25 Appropriations process
  - the Lame Duck session of Congress to complete the year
  - the status of Community Funded Projects, both in FY25 and FY26
  - other legislative and Administration priorities
  - the importance of bipartisanship for future legislating
  - the new Administration's focus on spending
  - the new Department of Government Efficiency
- Provided daily *Tip Sheet* and periodic *TRP Grants Newsletter*.

### CAPITOL HILL UPDATE

#### Update on FY 2025 Appropriations Legislation

Negotiations on a continuing resolution (CR) will continue today as lawmakers about two weeks until the December 20 government funding deadline. In his opening remarks during yesterday's session, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) stated that Congress is "on the right track" toward a stopgap funding bill that will not include "divisive and unnecessary provisions." However, appropriators are still hammering out several key details of the forthcoming CR, including the overall length of government funding, as well as whether certain legislative priorities — including disaster relief, the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), a farm bill extension, and more — will be included within the text. Of note, incoming Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Susan Collins (R-ME) told reporters she prefers a shorter CR to ensure that Congress does not brush up against the April 30, 2025 deadline for passing all 12 spending bills to avert a one percent across-the-board spending cut.

#### Congress Releases Bipartisan Water Resources Development Act

The Senate and House reached a final agreement on December 3 on the Water Resources Development Act of 2024, which authorizes a range of federal projects to reduce flooding, improve ports and restore ecosystems. The bill would direct the Army Corps of Engineers to carry out 17 new water infrastructure projects and to study dozens of other potential ones, including the \$2.7 billion Back Bay Study in Miami-Dade County as well as \$2.1 billion toward restoration of the Everglades,

among others. The bill would also direct the Army Corps to make changes to projects that are already underway or being studied.

The Chairs and Ranking Members of the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) and Environment and Public Works (EPW) [released](#) a final compromise version of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). Click [here](#) to read a section-by-section summary of this legislation.

## **OTHER RELEVANT NEWS**

### **E&E News: Republicans plot energy-focused reconciliation package**

Senate Republicans are plotting an ambitious course in the first 30 days of the next Congress as they seek to pass a package expanding domestic energy production while potentially clawing back portions of the Democrats' 2022 climate law. Those energy provisions would be included in a larger border security and defense spending bill to be advanced through budget reconciliation, a process with many procedural hurdles but that has the advantage of circumventing the Senate filibuster. Incoming Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-S.D.) shared the plans during a lawmaker policy retreat on Capitol Hill. The effort would be a bold undertaking for the GOP, which will need to deal with a host of other matters early next year like confirming President-elect Donald Trump's Cabinet and the likelihood of finalizing fiscal 2025 spending. "The one thing I will say is: I think members left with a better understanding of just how complex reconciliation is," said Susan Collins of Maine, the Senate's top Republican appropriator, following the closed-door meeting Tuesday. "So, there's going to be a lot to do." The gambit is being made considerably more complicated by the fact that Senate Republicans want to actually pass two reconciliation bills: the first dealing with energy, immigration and military readiness and the second focused on extending and expanding upon the expiring tax cuts Republicans passed in 2017.

Please let us know if you have any questions.