

# April 2025

# Thorn Run Partners Report to Miami-Dade County

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

Jessica Hart, Director of Federal Affairs

**FROM:** Jim Davenport, Partner

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### **RECENT TRP ACTIVITIES**

- Reviewed, edited and provided advice on FY2026 community project funding (CPF) proposals prepared by County staff.
- Submitted FY25 Work Plan funding request for Back Bay CSRM to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters.
- Shared information on the officials named to the FEMA Review Council, including Miami Dade Sheriff Cordero-Stutz.
- Shared that the Homeland Security portion of the reconciliation bill includes \$625 million for FIFA World Cup security.
- Engaged with County staff regarding the Everglades Summit being hosted in Washington by the Everglades Foundation.
- Shared other items of importance, including updates on:
  - o Trump Administration Appointments and Executive Orders
  - o Provided daily *Tip Sheet* and periodic *TRP Grants Newsletter*

# **CAPITOL HILL UPDATE**

# **President Trump Releases "Skinny" Budget**

On May 2, President Donald Trump released an abridged <u>version</u> of the administration's discretionary funding request for fiscal year (FY) 2026, outlining key funding priorities ahead of a more detailed budget proposal expected later this month. The president's request specifically calls for increasing defense spending to \$1.01 trillion, while paring back non-defense discretionary levels to \$557 billion — a \$163 billion reduction from current levels. For comparison, defense and non-defense discretionary spending have been nearly equal since the Clinton administration.

The so-called "skinny budget" proposes a significant shift in federal spending, suggesting the elimination of a variety of government programs, including the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership programs. Additionally, the budget would reduce the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Clean and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) by \$2.46 billion and reduce the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) budget by \$646 million.

The budget also reaffirms recent executive actions taken by the administration to eliminate independent agencies including: the Corporation for National and Community Service (AmeriCorps); the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences; the National Endowment for the Arts; the National Endowment for the Humanities; and the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness.

The administration will release a more comprehensive budget, including detailed budget justifications for each federal agency, later this month. At that time, we will share more details as warranted. Meanwhile, the submission of the skinny budget marks the start of the FY 2026 appropriations process, during which Congress will begin to develop its own funding recommendations, many of which will differ from those proposed by the administration.

President's budget requests are typically never rubber stamped by Congress, but with Republicans in control of Washington, there was some thought that this spending blueprint would carry a bit more weight in terms of shaping appropriations bills to acquiesce to the administration's priorities. However, several prominent Republican lawmakers — including Appropriations Committee Chair Susan Collins (R-ME) and Armed Services Committee Chairs Mike Rogers (R-AL) and Roger Wicker (R-MS) — have expressed opposition to the proposed budget. To that end, it is highly likely that Congress will need to pass a short-term funding extension past the September 30 deadline.

#### **OTHER RELEVANT NEWS**

# EPA ANNOUNCES ACTIONS TO COMBAT PFAS CONTAMINATION

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) <u>announced</u> nearly two-dozen agency actions that seek to address certain per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), including: (1) designating an agency lead for PFAS; (2) creating effluent limitations guidelines (ELGs) for certain PFAS to stop these chemicals from entering drinking water systems; and (3) engaging with Congress and industry to establish a clear liability framework that ensures the polluter pays and passive receivers are protected.

### EPA CANCELLING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE GRANTS

According to a court document reported on last Tuesday, EPA is canceling nearly 800 grants, most of which have to do with environmental justice. Check out this article <a href="here">here</a> to learn more.

### **EPA ANNOUNCES REORGANIZATION**

On Friday, the Trump administration <u>announced</u> plans for a significant reorganization of EPA, signaling major cuts in staffing, especially for the agency's scientific research arm. To learn more, read this <u>article</u>.

#### FITZPATRICK RELAUNCHES BIPARTISAN PFAS TASK FORCE

Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) <u>announced</u> the official relaunch of the bipartisan Congressional PFAS Task Force, alongside new co-Chairs Debbie Dingell (D-MI), Jen

Kiggans (R-VA), and Kristen McDonald Rivet (D-MI). The Task Force's goals for the 119th Congress include:

- Advancing comprehensive legislation to end PFAS pollution and hold polluters accountable;
- Educating lawmakers and the public on the serious health and environmental consequences of PFAS exposure; and
- Securing federal investments in research, remediation, and prevention.

### SENATE BANKING HOLDS HEARING ON INSURANCE MARKETS

On May 1, the Senate Banking Committee held a hearing to examine insurance markets and the role of mitigation policies in addressing community resilience and premium costs. Click <a href="here">here</a> to read TRP's hearing summary.

#### FEMA TERMINATES FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STANDARD

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) <u>announced</u> that, pursuant to the President's EO 14148, the agency has stopped implementing the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard Policy that required certain construction projects to adopt flood risk standards.

### SENATORS INTRODUCE BIPARTISAN BILLS TO SUPPORT ACCESS TO BONDS

Sens. Roger Wicker (R-MS) and Michael Bennet (D-CO) introduced a pair of bipartisan bills that would reinstate advance refunding bonds (<u>text</u>), as well as provide a credit to issuers of U.S. infrastructure bonds (<u>text</u>).