

## Memorandum

**Date:** February 5, 2024  
**To:** Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners  
**From:** Alcalde & Fay  
**Subject:** Federal Government Relations Report

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### **Trump Administration Executive Orders and Cabinet Nominees**

#### **Executive Orders**

Dozens of Executive Orders (EO) and other directives have been issued by the Trump Administration since the President's swearing in on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Highlights include the following:

Executive Order: U.S. to withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Executive Order: To declare a national emergency at the southern border.

#### **Executive Order (Unleashing American Energy)**

To promote U.S. energy exploration and production and improve/streamline the environmental review and permitting process. The Order revokes previous Presidential and regulatory actions and pauses disbursement of appropriated funds relating to climate change, including, but not limited to, funds for electric vehicle charging stations.

#### **Temporary Pause of Agency Grant, Loan and Other Financial Assistance Programs**

On January 27, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued a Memorandum directing every federal agency to "temporarily pause all activities related to obligation or disbursement of all Federal financial assistance and other relevant agency activities that may be implicated by the President's Executive Orders, including, but not limited to, financial assistance for foreign aid, nongovernmental organizations, DEI, woke gender ideology, and the green new deal."

Lawsuits challenging the pause were filed and OMB rescinded the Memorandum two days later; however, the White House indicated that the pause in funding had not been rescinded. This is an evolving situation which we continue to closely monitor for its implications for Miami-Dade County/PortMiami.

#### **Cabinet Nominees**

On Monday, January 20, Florida *Senator Marco Rubio* (R-FL) was unanimously confirmed by the Senate to serve as the Secretary of State, making him the first member of President Trump's cabinet to be officially confirmed.

Other cabinet officials confirmed by the Senate to date, include: Attorney General *Pam Bondi*; Treasury Secretary *Scott Bessent*; Interior Secretary *Doug Burgum*; Transportation Secretary *Sean Duffy*; Secretary of Defense *Pete Hegseth*; Secretary of Energy *Chris Wright*; EPA Administrator *Lee Zeldin*; CIA Director *John Ratcliffe*; Homeland Security Secretary *Kristi Noem* and Secretary of Veterans Affairs, *Doug Collins*.

Nominations waiting Senate confirmation include *Robert F. Kennedy Jr.*, Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS); *Brooke Rollins*, Secretary of Agriculture; *Scott Turner*, Secretary of Housing

and Urban Development; *Tulsi Gabbard*, Director of National Intelligence; *Kash Patel*, FBI Director; *Howard Lutnick*, Secretary of Commerce; *Russell Vought*, Director, Office of Management and Budget; *Linda McMahon*, Secretary of Education; *Jamieson Greer*, U.S. Trade Representative; *Kelly Loeffler*, Administrator, Small Business Administration; *Lori Chavez-DeRemer*, Secretary of Labor; and *Elise Stefanik*, Ambassador to the United Nations.

## **119<sup>th</sup> Congress Convenes**

### **Committee Assignments**

On the convening of the First Session of the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress on January 3, one of the first orders of business was for Members/Senators to receive their committee assignments.

Newly appointed Senator Ashley Moody (R-FL) received seats on the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions and the Joint Economic Committee; *Senator Rick Scott*, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Homeland Security and the Budget Committee.

On the House side, Congressman *Carlos Gimenez* retains his seats on the Armed Services and Homeland Security Committees and the Select China Committee; Congresswoman *Maria Salazar*, the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Financial Services; Congressman *Mario Diaz-Balart*, the Appropriations Committee (Chair of the Subcommittee on National Security); Congresswoman *Frederica Wilson*, the Committee on Education and the Workforce and Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure (ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Water Resources).

### **Appropriations**

The (12) FY 2025 appropriations bills are pending final conference action, with the current Continuing Resolution (CR) expiring on March 14<sup>th</sup>. At this time, the House and Senate appropriations committees are negotiating a top line spending cap. Once that number is agreed to, the committees will begin conferencing to resolve the differences between the House and Senate bills, with March 14<sup>th</sup> as the target completion date.

While the FY 2026 appropriations cycle has not begun, it is largely anticipated that the House and Senate appropriations committees will continue the practice of community project funding (CPF) by the 2026 bills. We are assisting PortMiami to identify and prepare its 2026 CPF requests.

### **Budget Reconciliation**

The Republican Majority of the House and Senate are preparing to fast-track President Trump's border control and tax priorities by one or two legislative packages which will move separate from the regular 2026 appropriations bills.

This massive budget measure(s) will touch on a wide range of federal programs and will combine a mix of spending cuts, spending boosts, tax cuts and revenue increases. Eliminating the tax exempt status of state and local bonds is being discussed as an option, estimated to save \$250 billion over 10 years. See other options here: [content/uploads/2025/01/RECONCILIATION-OPTIONS\\_010725.pdf](content/uploads/2025/01/RECONCILIATION-OPTIONS_010725.pdf)

## **Legislative Updates/PortMiami**

PortMiami (2025)Funding \*pending final congressional approval

*(i)Transportation, HUD and Related Agencies (THUD) Appropriations, 2025*

**\$5 million** is included within the House THUD appropriations bill for PortMiami's *Reefer Yard Electrification and Expansion* project. The project, sponsored by Congresswoman Salazar, is funded

as an Economic Development Initiative (EDI) within the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

(ii) *Energy and Water Development (E&W) Appropriations, 2025*

**\$4,011,000** is included in the House and Senate E&W appropriations bills for Miami Harbor. The total is inclusive of \$3,956,000 for *Donor Port Expanded Uses* (up from \$2,839,000 in 2024) and \$55,000 for regular *Operations and Maintenance* (O&M).

In addition, the Senate Appropriations Committee report accompanying *Energy and Water Development Appropriations, 2025*, directs the Corps to allocate, by the 2025 Workplan, additional funds to Miami and the nation's five other Donor ports, as authorized by WRDA 2020/Sec. 102.

The Port is working in conjunction with the other Donor ports to secure support for the Senate provision in the E&W conference. Miami Harbor was allocated a total of **\$24,873,000** by the 2024 Workplan.

*THUD Appropriations, 2025*

There are significant funding differences between the 2025 House and Senate Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) bills, to be resolved in conference.

The House bill eliminates or reduces funding for some DOT competitive grant programs which already receive advance appropriations by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). For RAISE (*Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity*) the House bill includes "0"; the Senate bill \$550 million (with \$1.5 billion in advance appropriations available by BIL). For PIDP (the *Port Infrastructure Development Grant Program*) the House bill includes \$72 million, the Senate bill \$200 million (with \$450 million in advance appropriations available by BIL).

Receipt of PortMiami's 2024 CPF (Community Project Funding)

A&F is working with the Port for receipt of the **\$4 million** in CPF funding provided to PortMiami, pursuant to the 2024 *Consolidated Appropriations Act* (enacted March 4, 2024), as described below.

(i) **\$3 million** for PortMiami's *Decarbonization and Master Development Plan*, pursuant to the Port Infrastructure Development Grant Program, Federal Maritime Administration (MARAD); and

(ii) **\$1 million** for PortMiami's *Stormwater Management Master Plan*, pursuant to the State and Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG) Program, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

*Water Resources Development Act/WRDA 2024*

WRDA 2024, enacted into law on January 4, 2025, reduces the nonfederal cost share for dredging channel depths in excess of 55 feet, from 50% to 25%. This is a significant development for future dredge events in the Miami Harbor.

*National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) 2025*

NDAA 2025, enacted into law on December 23, 2024, extends the eligibility of grants for shore power at cruise berths, pursuant to the *Port Infrastructure Development Grant Program* (PIDP).

*Miami Harbor*

The Army Corps continues to study the need for additional improvements to the Miami Harbor federal shipping channel. The *Water Resources Development Act* (2022) directs the Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) to expedite the completion of the Miami Harbor feasibility study, to the maximum extent practical. See Public Law 117-263, Sec. 8397 (2)(E).

H.R. 3169, the Port Crane Security and Inspection Act

Sponsored by Congressman Gimenez and with eight cosponsors, H. R. 3169, the *Port Crane and Inspection Act* was reported by the House Homeland Security Committee on September 25, 2024. The bill requires CISA (the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency) to inspect foreign cranes for potential security vulnerabilities before they are placed in operation at U.S. ports and calls for a CISA report to Congress on potential vulnerabilities of the use of foreign cranes at U.S. ports.

Foreign cranes are defined as those that have information and operational technology components that: (i) were manufactured by companies that are subject to the control or influence of a country designated as a foreign adversary; and (ii) connect to a Port's cyber infrastructure.

Federal Grants – INFRA Grant Award to PortMiami

On October 21st DOT announced a **\$25,661,034** INFRA (*Infrastructure for Rebuilding America*) grant award to PortMiami for components of the NetZero Program, specifically to: i) acquire electric and hybrid cargo handling equipment; and ii) replace existing diesel-powered reefer generators with new all-electric reefer outlets.