

TO: Alina Gonzalez, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
Jessica Hart, Director of Federal Affairs

FROM: Jim Davenport, Partner
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RECENT TRP ACTIVITIES

- Discussed strategy with County's Office of Resilience and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to obtain additional critical federal funding for the Miami-Dade County Back Bay project.
- Drafted letter to USACE Headquarters seeking funding in the FY 2025 work plan for Back Bay project.
- Indicated that the 2024 Water Resources Development Act, including authorization for the complete Back Bay project, was signed by the President into law in early January. Also shared that the bill did many other things, including:
 - Reauthorized the Economic Development Administration
 - Authorizes the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Phase I Project
 - Authorizes the North of Lake Okeechobee Storage Reservoir (Component A) CERP project
 - Authorizes the Western Everglades Restoration Plan
 - Redistributes unused TIFIA funding through the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) program. We've been told that about \$1.8B will be redistributed to all MPO's proportionally.
 - Modifies the depth at which Federal ports and harbors projects can receive Federal assistance for construction and operation and maintenance, from 50 feet to 55 feet.
- Met with County staff to provide analysis of Governor DeSantis's effort to seek more authority over Everglades restoration.
- Informed County of following committee appointments important to Army Corps of Engineers matters, including the port, Back Bay, shore protection and Everglades restoration: Rep. Frederica Wilson – Ranking Member of Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee; Rep. Scott Franklin – Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee
- Discussed potential options with County staff to seek funding for the waste-to-energy plant.
- Shared other items of importance, including updates on:
 - OMB memo to freeze Federal funding, see TRP's [memo](#) providing an overview of notable developments and where things stand.
 - The FY25 and FY26 Appropriations process.
 - Provided daily *Tip Sheet* and periodic *TRP Grants Newsletter*.

CAPITOL HILL UPDATE

WHAT TO WATCH FOR IN THE FEBRUARY SESSION

Both chambers will be back in session this week, starting with the Senate on Monday. Senators will continue churning through pending cabinet nominees throughout the week, starting with a confirmation vote for Chris Wright to be Secretary of Energy. Additional confirmation votes slated for next week include

Pam Bondi to be Attorney General, as well as Scott Turner to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. Additional cabinet-level nominations are expected throughout the entirety of the four-week session on the Senate side.

On the House side, GOP leadership's primary goal this month will be passing a budget resolution that can unlock the process for crafting a filibuster-proof legislative package. Republicans were in Florida last week for their annual "issues conference," where reconciliation-focused meetings were at the forefront of the schedule. It is the goal of Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) to have the chamber's budget resolution written in the Budget Committee next week, and passed by the House during the week of Feb. 10. Given the extremely tight margins in the House, GOP leadership will need the support of virtually the entire Conference if they are to maintain their objective of clearing a budget resolution through both chambers by the end of this month, followed by a reconciliation package in April.

Additionally, Majority Leader Steve Scalise (R-LA) sketched out the [calendar](#) of "major-must do items" in early 2025 during a [presentation](#) to House Republicans this week. In addition to the budget reconciliation timeline, GOP leadership is eyeing the first two weeks in March to tackle fiscal year (FY) 2025 appropriations before pivoting to FY 2026 in the months of May through July. Of note, GOP leadership has circled the three weeks of the June session for possible consideration of legislation to address the federal debt ceiling. Consideration of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) has been penciled for the last week of June. Majority Leader Scalise also [listed](#) a series of GOP legislative priorities they hope to tackle on the House floor in the early part of the 119th Congress. These include: (1) a pair of measures that seek to address energy production and costs; (2) bills to address funding for Sanctuary Cities, as well as border security; (3) cryptocurrency legislation; (4) China-focused legislation; and (5) the HALT Fentanyl Act, among other [priorities](#).

OTHER RELEVANT NEWS

POLITICO: Senate's reconciliation blueprint is ready to go. Thune says (\$)

Senate Majority Leader John Thune said in an interview that "text is ready" for a budget blueprint that would tee up a two-bill approach to the GOP's ambitious border, energy and tax agenda...Under the Senate plan that has been described by multiple lawmakers, Republicans would first attempt to pass a smaller bill encompassing border security, defense and energy measures. Later would come a larger, more complex tax-focused bill. Both would be passed under party-line reconciliation procedures, which first requires the adoption of an identical budget resolution by the House and Senate. The text Thune referred to would provide for passage of the first bill; another blueprint teeing up the second bill would follow. Senate Budget Chair Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) hasn't given a hard timeline for when he will take up his Plan B. But Senate Republicans view him as eager to get going, with some predicting that he will move forward in the next two to three weeks.

E&E News: EPA orders employees to stop billing to climate, infrastructure laws

EPA employees have been told not to bill their work to the administrative budgets of programs funded through the climate and infrastructure laws. Two people familiar with internal developments at EPA said the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, which is responsible for the agency's budget, directed career officials who work on programs funded through the laws to not charge hours to those laws' accounts. Three people familiar with the situation said work on the programs had effectively been suspended. Asked about the move, EPA told POLITICO's E&E News that it was "working diligently" on President Donald Trump's inauguration day executive order "Unleashing American Energy," which directed agencies to "immediately pause the disbursement of funds" from the Inflation Reduction Act and the 2021 bipartisan infrastructure law.

Please let us know if you have any questions.