



NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

Congress is in session.

Overview

This week, lawmakers will question agency heads about the impact of the president's proposed spending cuts, question Supreme Court nominee Neil Gorsuch, move the Republican bill to repeal Obamacare, and hear from a few remaining cabinet nominations.

Lawmakers begin inspecting Trump's proposals for deep cuts in non-defense discretionary spending. For a regional update on the budget, see [NARC's blog](#).

The Senate Judiciary Committee will convene a confirmation hearing on Antonin Scalia's potential successor Neil Gorsuch, which could last much of the week.

The repeal and partial replacement of the *Affordable Care Act* is the top priority of House Republican leaders this week. With Democrats likely to be united in opposition, Republicans cannot lose more than 21 of Republican House members. Their aim is to pass the bill by Thursday, exactly seven years after Obama signed the legislation into law.

On Wednesday, Senate committees hold hearings for Secretary of Labor Nominee Alexander Acosta and Jay Clayton's nomination for Security and Exchange Commission chairman.

House Hearings on Infrastructure

Four hearings on rebuilding the nation's infrastructure will take place tomorrow: the House Natural Resources Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee will convene on the use of domestically sourced raw materials in infrastructure projects; the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will discuss opportunities to improve federal lands, recreation, water, and resources infrastructure; the House Energy and Commerce Communications and Technology

Subcommittee will talk about broadband infrastructure; and the House Transportation and Infrastructure Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee will hold a discussion on emerging railroad technologies. On Thursday, the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Aviation Operations Subcommittee will discuss improving airport infrastructure as part of the reauthorization of Federal Aviation Administration programs.

Other House Hearings of Note

Many of these hearings will be available via webcast, so check with individual committees for links.

Tuesday:

- The House Energy and Commerce Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee will discuss Fentanyl and the opioid crisis.
- The Nutrition Subcommittee will hold a public hearing on next farm bill and nutrition distribution programs.

Wednesday:

- The House Energy and Commerce Environment Subcommittee will review the *Ozone Standards Implementation Act of 2017 (HR 806)*, which will phase in the ozone standards the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued in 2015 and change the time between EPA reviews of standards from five years to 10 years.
- The House Agriculture Committee meets to discuss dairy policy in preparation for renewing farm policy.

NCDPA Presses for \$3.3 Billion FY 2018 Appropriation

The National Community Development Association, of which NARC is a member, is conducting numerous meetings on the Hill to urge members of Congress to support expanded funding for CDBG. The goal is to secure \$3.3 billion for FY2018, and though we know that will be very hard to achieve, every effort is being made to obtain the support needed to move such an appropriation forward. Thus far, the association has met with or will meet with staff for Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL), Charlie Dent (R-PA), David Joyce (R-OH), John Culberson (R-TX), David Price (D-NC), and Mike Quigley (D-IL). Emphasis has been placed on meeting with Republicans in the hope that they will take the lead in preserving CDBG funding.

WIOA Dear Colleague Letter

Join House Representatives Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) and Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE) in requesting the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education to provide substantial investments in federal workforce programs authorized by the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)* for FY2018. If you would like additional information or to sign the letter, please contact Maxine Sugarman in Rep. Bonamici's office at Maxine.Sugarman@mail.house.gov or Elizabeth Connolly in Rep. Blunt Rochester's office at Elizabeth.Connolly@mail.house.gov. Deadline is March 30th.

Senators Introduce Bipartisan Bill to Fully Fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund

Oregon's U.S. Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, as well as 20 other senators introduced bipartisan legislation to permanently authorize and fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which conserves and promotes access to America's national parks, forests and public lands. After expiring for the first time in 50 years, Congress voted in December 2015 to extend the program's authorization for only three years.

OTHER NEWS

Profile of Older Americans: 2016

The Administration for Community Living's annual summary of the latest statistics on the older population, *A Profile of Older Americans: 2016*, is now available. This profile covers 15 topical areas, including: population, income and poverty, living arrangements, education, health, and caregiving.

REGION SPOTLIGHT

NARC's New Blog Platform: Regions Lead

NARC's new blog platform, Regions Lead, just went live today. You can subscribe directly to Regions Lead on the [main page](#) of the site, make comments, and even [submit your own blogs](#) to share with NARC and other regions.

2017 NARC Awards

NARC is accepting nominations for its 2017 Achievement and Leadership Awards, which will be presented at the Awards Gala Dinner during the 51st Annual Conference and Exhibition, June 4-7, in Monterey, CA. The awards provide an excellent opportunity for winners to promote their successes to a larger audience, as well as share best practices with their partners and peers. The nomination deadline is April 28th.

MEMBER REQUEST

NARC Request: Brownfields Success Stories

Has your region benefited from the U.S. Environment Protection Agency Brownfields grant program? NARC has been asked to submit a statement to the record by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee ahead of their hearing on reauthorizing the Brownfields program. We are hoping to include success stories and best practices from members to highlight the importance of this program. Please contact Sarah Reed, sarah@narc.org, with any information or questions.

Emergency Planning and Evacuation

The Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) is exploring opportunities in the areas of emergency planning and evacuation. They seek feedback from other NARC members that are currently working in these areas. They are especially interested in speaking with COGs or other regional councils who have received federal grant funding for these activities.

Please provide us with a general overview of what you are doing, and indicate if you are willing to speak with SACOG about these efforts. Please send responses to anna@narc.org.

FEATURED JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Planner II

West Florida Regional Planning Council, Pensacola, FL

RFQ No. 17-04: General Transportation Planning Consultants Services

Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization, Fort Lauderdale, FL

FUNDING

[View full list of grants!](#)

EVENTS

[View full list of events!](#)

Bipartisan Policy Center Webcast: Are We Prepared for a Pandemic?

March 28, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM ET

The U.S. and the world face a continued risk of chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear attacks or a natural disease pandemic. Join BPC in a discussion about the importance of sustainable funding to develop and stockpile medical countermeasures (MCM) that are critical to our national security and public health emergency preparedness. Join the discussion on Twitter: [@BPC_Bipartisan](#) #BPCLive.

Driverless Urban Mobility: The Path Towards an Autonomous Future

March 28, 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM ET

The future is suddenly under the microscope inside every automaker's lab and boardroom, no matter whether that company is small or large. In the race towards a driverless future, what are we really ready to accept in our daily lives? What technologies are already helping us to leapfrog into the world of tomorrow? What is between our current reality and a fully autonomous reality? Join

the Chief Technology Officer of Toyota Research Institute, the Palo Alto-based former Google executive whose work is being watched closely and carefully by a host of auto companies, investors, suppliers and regulators.

NARC Webinar! Tapping into the Technical Assistance to Brownfield Communities Program

April 20, 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET

Are you facing challenges related to brownfields? Would you be interested in learning how you can receive free assistance from brownfield experts? Through funds provided by EPA, the Technical Assistance to Brownfield (TAB) communities program **provides free assistance** to local, county, regional, state, and tribal governments, as well as not-for-profit entities. The TAB program provides a range of assistance, including: guidance on developing grant proposals, prioritizing brownfield sites, interpreting site characterization results, explaining clean-up technologies, navigating regulatory programs and requirements, layering funding and financing options, engaging the community stakeholders, and much more. Join NARC and the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) to learn how your community can access this benefit. The webinar will provide examples of how NJIT has assisted hundreds of communities, and will give you information on how you can tap into the TAB program.

Save the date! 51st Annual Conference & Exhibition

June 4-7 - Monterey, CA

Join NARC and the California Association of Councils of Governments for NARC's 51st Annual Conference and Exhibition, which focuses on promoting effective regional cooperation and solutions through interaction and education.

CONTACT US

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