



NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

Congress is in session.

Does the President's Rescission Request Have Legs?

Despite the White House's release of the **\$15 billion package of rescissions** to FY 2018 appropriations, there has been little discussion in Congress surrounding its content and the impact these cuts would have. This is partly because pundits do not think the Senate will adopt the rescissions package, even if the House does. While this may be true, the proposal still warrants a closer look.

Some of the rescission requests include:

- \$5 billion from the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). The White House said that CHIP funding comes from two accounts: one in which the spending authorization has already lapsed and another with excess funds that are not expected to be used. Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney said that no CHIP program that has just been reauthorized would be impacted by this rescission;
- \$4.3 billion from the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loan Program under the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), which the administration claims have made several loans with little impact;
- Leftover funds designated for the Ebola outbreak, which the administration says has been quashed. Critics say the funds could be spent to help stop the spread of the emerging outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where more than a dozen people have already died; and
- \$800 million from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, which the White House says will receive mandatory funding that is equal to or greater than the rescission amount.

Republicans in the House appear anxious to pass the rescissions package as a way of expressing their distaste for the FY 2018 appropriations bill recently passed and signed. However, Senate Leader Mitch McConnell has expressed reservations, suggesting that it could not pass the Senate as it is currently drafted – meaning that its future remains in doubt.

House Starting to Release FY 2019 Appropriations Bills

Over the last two weeks, the House Appropriations Committee released draft text for five of the twelve FY 2019 appropriations bills, including text for the **Legislative Branch, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, Energy and Water, Agriculture, and Commerce, Justice, and Science**. The full committee already passed the Legislative Branch and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bills, so they are now ready to go to the House floor. The other three bills will be considered by their respective subcommittees before being moved to the full committee. The Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development bill is expected to drop on Wednesday. Other House appropriations bills should follow in the upcoming weeks. The Senate has yet to release any FY 2019 appropriations text.

Water Infrastructure Bill Introduced

Last Tuesday, Republican and Democratic leaders on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee introduced the latest *Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)* authorization: ***America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018***. Every two years Congress reauthorizes WRDA legislation to set policy guidelines for a range of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) projects and activities, and other programs that are associated with water infrastructure and environmental restoration projects. The draft legislation has earned the support of **national local government organizations** because it includes provisions that speak to the following priorities:

- Improve the nation's drinking water, wastewater infrastructure, and stormwater management;
- Help local governments and water utilities meet their *Clean Water Act* requirements in a more holistic manner;
- Reauthorizes USACE's *Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA)*;
- Provides workforce training and development in the water sector; and
- Strengthens intergovernmental collaboration between USACE and state and local government partners.

House Expected to Vote on Farm Bill this Week

The House is expected to vote on its version of the **2018 Farm Bill** on Friday, but it will come with challenges. Over 100 amendments have been filed. Some of the larger issues surrounding the bill include stricter work requirements for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and a proposed amendment to the federal sugar subsidy program. With no anticipated support from Democrats, all House Republicans will have to vote yes for the bill to pass. According to House Agriculture Committee Chairman Mike Conaway (R-TX), the current whip count is a bit low. They need 218 votes to support passage.

Police Week for the Administration and the House

The president **declared** tomorrow as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the entire week as Police Week. The administration calls on Americans to observe these days with appropriate ceremonies and activities, and on Governors to raise flags to half-staff tomorrow. Meanwhile, the House will consider six law enforcement-related bills this week, including:

- The ***Protect and Serve Act of 2018***, which strengthens punishment for anyone convicted of intentionally harming or killing a police officer;
- The ***Justice Served Act of 2018***, which awards state and local governments grants to prosecute cases involving violent crime suspects identified through DNA evidence; and
- ***House Resolution 285***, which would encourage the creation of police-community alliances to improve communication between the groups.

Pruitt Signs Memo to Reform NAAQS Review Process

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt signed a **memorandum** this week outlining a “back-to-basics” process for reviewing the *Clean Air Act's* National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The document lays out five principles that EPA must observe in future NAAQS reviews: meet statutory deadlines; address all *Clean Air Act* provisions for NAAQS

reviews; streamline and standardize the process for development and review of key-policy relevant information; differentiate science and policy judgements in the NAAQS review process; and issue timely implementation regulations and guidance. These principles are intended to help meet the president's *Memorandum on Promoting Domestic Manufacturing and Job Creation – Policies and Procedures Relating to Implementation of Air Quality Standards* and address the scientific questions that Congress put in place to inform NAAQS.

OTHER NEWS

It's Infrastructure Week!

This week, hundreds of elected, nonprofit, business, and community leaders will host events to advocate one message: "Americans are waiting. The future won't. It's #TimeToBuild." Every day of the week, local, state, and national stakeholders will highlight the projects, technologies, and policies that are necessary to improve our country's infrastructure. To participate in this week-long event, check out the Infrastructure Week [website](#) to see the **latest calendar of official events** and download **graphics you can use to promote the cause on social media**. Follow the official conversation on Twitter using **#TimeToBuild**.

REGION SPOTLIGHT

AACOG to Host CarFit Event

This week, Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) will co-host a CarFit event with many stakeholders in their region. CarFit is a free, interactive, and educational program that uses trained volunteers to assess the safest "fit" for older drivers and their vehicles. Simple improvements that help improve driver safety and community mobility include educating the public on proper mirror positioning, foot positioning between pedals and brakes, and the distance between the driver and steering wheel. See [CarFit's website](#) to learn about bringing their events and services to your community.

MEMBERSHIP REQUESTS

Best Practices for Evaluating Planning Proposals

Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization is creating a program to fund planning studies on behalf of their partner governments. They are seeking input on best practices for evaluating proposals. Has your organization developed or implemented proposals for evaluating planning through solely objective means? What best practices have you implemented to select planning study proposals that yielded implementable projects? Please send your responses to anna@narc.org.

How Has Federal Investment in Workforce and Education Programs Impacted Your Region?

NARC is looking for workforce and education programming success stories from our member regions that we can share during our discussions on the Hill. If you have data and/or personal stories that you can share from your region that could support any or all of the following topics, please send them to maci.morin@narc.org:

- Return on Investment for program(s) despite cuts in funding;
- Systemic partnerships available because of the *Workforce Investment Opportunity Act* (WIOA) infrastructure that have led to improved training and employment outcomes, and better met the need of employers in the state; and/or
- Negative impact of cuts due to insufficient federal investment.

FEATURED JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Transportation Planner I or II

Maricopa Association of Governments, Phoenix, AZ

FUNDING

[View full list of grants!](#)

EDA's Disaster Supplemental Funding Opportunity

Applications Accepted on a Rolling Basis Until Funds are Obligated

The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) is awarding \$587 million in grants to address economic challenges in disaster-impacted areas. These grants will support disaster recovery activities in areas receiving a major disaster designation because of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Maria, the California wildfires, and other 2017 natural disasters. Projects, among other things, must have a nexus to applicable disaster recovery and resilience efforts and be consistent with at least one of the U.S. Department of Commerce Disaster Recovery Investment Priorities. EDA will host a **webinar on May 17 at 4:00 PM ET** to discuss this funding opportunity.

EVENTS

View full list of events!

Tour the New City Health Dashboard

May 15, 1:00 PM ET

Coming on May 15, the City Health Dashboard will give cities a powerful new online resource to dig deeper into neighborhood- and city-specific data for 36 measures of health and the factors that shape health for the 500 largest cities across the U.S. This one-stop resource will pull together local data from multiple national sources, so health officials and city leaders can view and compare city- and neighborhood-specific data. During this webinar, participants will:

- Hear from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation on the importance of local data and how it can help communities identify challenges;
- Explore the data and the Dashboard's features, including how to compare cities and metrics;
- Learn from one of the Dashboard's pilot cities on how they are already using the data to drive change in their community; and
- Share resources, such as recommended policies and programs, that can help you take action in your community.

Successful Models and Best Practices for Rural Broadband Deployment

May 16, 2:00 PM ET

Digital technologies impact all sectors of the economy, including agriculture, small-town main streets, and regional economic development. Yet 31% of rural Americans still lack access to fixed terrestrial broadband speeds of 25 Mbps down and 3 Mbps up. Increased interest in broadband is creating new opportunities for leading service providers and civic leaders to find new models to expand rural broadband. Broadband USA will explore three successful case studies and highlight best practices for successful rural broadband deployments.

Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Projection (EVI-Pro) Lite Tool Webinar

May 21, 3:00-4:00 PM ET

EVI-Pro Lite is a simplified version of EVI-Pro, which was developed through a collaboration between the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and the California Energy Commission, with additional support from the Department of Energy's Vehicle Technologies Office. EVI-Pro uses detailed data on personal vehicle travel patterns, electric vehicle attributes, and charging station characteristics in bottom-up simulations to estimate the quantity and type of charging infrastructure necessary to support regional adoption of electric vehicles. The webinar will introduce the new EVI-Pro tool, which allows users to project consumer demand for electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

Power Play: Investing in Cutting-Edge Inclusive Energy Efficiency Programs for Cooperatives and Their Members

May 22, 1:00-1:45 PM ET

Join the Partnership for Advancing an Inclusive Rural Energy Economy for a webinar on rural electric cooperatives (co-ops) that are delivering cutting-edge inclusive energy efficiency programs for their customer-members – saving members money while supporting local economic development in their communities. The webinar will include information about the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Services (RUS) loan programs that co-ops can take advantage of to help deliver these benefits – and how to access these funds.

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