



Federal Legislative Activities Week of February 29, 2016

Please find a listing of federal legislative activities the County and our federal advocates are monitoring during the week of February 29, 2016, below.

Congressional Hearings and Floor Activity

Monday, February 29th

2 PM | House will meet for legislative business to consider:

[H.R. 4444](#) - EPS Improvement Act of 2016 - This bill exempts certain devices from the Energy Department's energy conservation standards for external power supplies if they have design limitations that prevent compliance with the testing standards. Specifically, external power supply (EPS) circuits, drivers and devices designed to power light-emitting diodes (LEDs), organic LEDs (OLEDs) and ceiling fans using direct current motors are excluded from the agency's final rule. The bill does not, however, attempt to exempt the underlying LEDs, OLEDs or ceiling fans with direct current motors from meeting energy conservation standards.

[H.R. 4583](#) - To promote a 21st century energy and manufacturing workforce - This bill directs the Energy Department to prioritize its education and training programs to develop a skilled energy and manufacturing sector workforce, and to partner with colleges, universities and outreach programs designed to prepare women, minorities and veterans for careers in the energy and manufacturing sectors. The bill targets the following industries: energy efficiency; pipeline construction and maintenance; utilities; nuclear, oil and gas; renewable energy; coal; manufacturing; and chemical manufacturing. The department must make educating and training underrepresented groups for these industries a national priority. The bill requires the department to collaborate with education institutions, workforce training organizations, national laboratories, state energy offices, workforce investment boards and the energy and manufacturing industries so that institutions seeking to develop such job training programs will receive effective guidance.

[H.R. 4401](#) - Amplifying Local Efforts to Root out Terror Act of 2016 - This bill authorizes the Homeland Security secretary to train state and local law enforcement personnel at state and local fusion centers in the most effective tactics and methods used to counter terrorism. It also directs the Homeland Security secretary to coordinate with heads of government agencies in order to engage in community outreach related to countering violent extremism. Specifically, the measure directs the secretary to have the department engage in community awareness briefings and help localities identify and report suspicious activities and terrorism threats, including the travel or attempted travel of individuals from the United States to support a foreign terrorist organization.

[H.R. 1471](#) - FEMA Disaster Assistance Reform Act of 2015 - This bill reauthorizes the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through fiscal 2018, authorizing \$947 million per year, and also authorizes in statute the National Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Response System, authorizing \$50 million per year for the system and clarifying compensation and liability for those responders who participate in the system.

Tuesday, March 1st

10:00 AM House Natural Resources Committee Hearing: Oversight Hearing on the President's 2017 Budget Proposal with Department of the interior Secretary Sally Jewell. Click [here](#) for the Committee's memo on the Proposed FY 17 Budget.

10:00 AM House Ways and Means Subcommittee Hearing: Connecting Low-Income Individuals with Jobs. At the hearing, members will explore opportunities to reform our welfare system to better meet the needs of job seekers and job creators, grow our economy, and move more American families forward. Members will specifically discuss the role that employers and programs, such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, play in helping low-income individuals compete and succeed in the workforce.

2:00 PM House THUD Appropriations Subcommittee Hearing: Budget Hearing – Department of Housing and Urban Development

Wednesday, March 2nd

9:30 AM House Mil-Con Appropriations Subcommittee Hearing: Budget Hearing –Department of Veterans Affairs.

10:00 AM House Agriculture Committee Hearing: Past, Present, and Future of SNAP: Examining State Options. Click [here](#) to view the webcast live.

1:00 PM House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee Hearing: Budget Hearing – Department of the Interior.

Thursday, March 3rd

10:00 AM Senate LHHSE Appropriations Subcommittee Hearing: Hearing to review emerging health threats and the Zika supplemental request. Click [here](#) to view the webcast live.

11:00 AM Senate Mil-Con Appropriations Subcommittee Hearing: Hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2017 and fiscal year 2018 for the Veterans Health Administration and Veterans Benefits Administration.