



## Federal Legislative Activities - Week of February 9, 2015

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Please find a listing of federal legislative activities the County and our federal advocates are monitoring during the week of February 9, 2015, below.

### **Congressional Hearings and Floor Activity**

#### **Monday, February 2nd**

No Congressional Hearings Scheduled.

#### **Tuesday, February 10th**

10:00 | Senate Commerce Hearing: Keeping Goods Moving. The hearing will focus on the U.S. supply chain, particularly the importance of efficiently functioning U.S. ports. The panel will take expert testimony from witnesses on what it takes to maintain an efficient and reliable U.S. port, as well as the economic and logistical impact of port delays, congestion, and inadequate or outdated infrastructure on our nation's intermodal transportation network. Capacity challenges and the changing dynamics of international shipping highlight the importance of functioning port infrastructure. Delays underscore how port disruptions can cause manufacturers across the country to cancel orders and lose business, ultimately impacting consumers and the broader economy. Click [here](#) to view the live webcast.

10:00 | Senate Finance Committee Hearing: Tax Reform – Lessons Congress can learn from the Tax Reform Act of 1986. Click [here](#) to view the live webcast.

10:00 | Senate HELP Committee Hearing: The Re-emergence of Vaccine-preventable diseases. Click [here](#) to view the live webcast.

4:00 | House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Hearing: An Examination of Waste and Abuse Associated with VA's Management of Land-Use Agreements.

#### **Wednesday, February 11th**

9:30 | Committee on Appropriations Hearing: Budget Hearing – Indian Health Service. Click [here](#) to view the live webcast.

10:00 | Senate Budget Committee Hearing: Social Security disability trust fund insolvency.

10:00 | House T&I Committee Hearing: Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill: Laying the Foundation for U.S. Economic Growth and Job Creation Part I. Click [here](#) to view the live webcast.

10:00 | House Committee on Agriculture Hearing: To review the state of the rural economy.

10:00 | House Committee on Financial Services Hearing: "The Future of Housing in America: Oversight of the Federal Housing Administration". The purpose of this hearing is to examine the financial status of the FHA and in particular, the health of the MMIF. Federal law mandates that the MMIF maintain a capital reserve ratio of no less than 2 percent. On November 17, 2014, the FHA reported to Congress the findings from its most recent

independent actuarial review, which indicated a capital reserve ratio of 0.41 percent. Click [here](#) to view the live webcast.

10:00 | House Committee on Energy and Commerce Hearing: Federal Efforts on Mental Health: Why Greater HHS Leadership is Needed. This hearing is part of the Subcommittee's examination, ongoing since January 2013, of mental health programs and resources with the aim of ensuring that Federal dollars devoted to mental health are reaching the over 11 million American adults with serious mental illness (SMI) and helping them to obtain the most effective care. Click [here](#) to view background materials and [here](#) to view the live webcast.

10:00 | House Committee on Armed Services Hearing: The FY16 Budget Request: A View from Outside Experts: Alternative Budgets and Strategic Choices

10:00 | House Committee on Education and the Workforce Markup: [H.R. 5](#), "Student Success Act". To replace No Child Left Behind and improve education, Chairman Kline and Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education Chairman Todd Rokita (R-IN) introduced the Student Success Act. The legislation will reduce the federal footprint and restore local control, while empowering parents and education leaders to hold schools accountable for effectively teaching students

10:30 | House Committee on Appropriations Hearing: Oversight Hearing - Funding to Prevent, Prepare for, and Respond to the Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak. Click [here](#) to view the live webcast.

10:30 | House Committee on Appropriations Hearing: Budget Hearing - Army Corps of Engineers, Civil Works  
On Wednesday, the House will meet at 10:00 a.m. for morning hour and 12:00 p.m. for legislative business.

2:00 | House Committee on Energy and Commerce Hearing: The Fiscal Year 2016 Department of Energy Budget

### **Thursday, February 12th**

10:00 | Senate Energy & Natural Resources Hearing: President's FY16 Department of Energy Budget proposal.

10:30 | House Committee on Appropriations Hearing: Budget Hearing - Bureau of Reclamation. Click [here](#) to view the live webcast.

10:30 | House Committee on the Judiciary Hearing: Consumers Shortchanged? Oversight of the Justice Departments Mortgage Lending Settlements

The House will meet at 12:00 p.m. for legislative business to consider:

[H.R. 644](#) - Fighting Hunger Incentive Act of 2015, Rules Committee Print (Sponsored by Rep. Tom Reed / Ways and Means Committee). This bill amends the Internal Revenue Code to: (1) make permanent the tax deduction for charitable contributions of food inventory, (2) increase from 10% to 15% of taxpayer aggregate net income the amount of deductible food inventory contributions which a taxpayer may make in any taxable year (15% of the taxable income of C corporations), and (3) set forth rules for determining the basis of contributed food for taxpayers other than C corporations and the fair market value of such food

2:00 | House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Hearing: A Review of the President's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Request for the Department of Labor's Veteran Employment and Training Service (VETS)

**Friday, February 13th**

The House will meet at 9:00 a.m. for legislative business to consider:

[H.R. 636](#) - America's Small Business Tax Relief Act of 2015, Rules Committee Print (Subject to a Rule) (Sponsored by Rep. Patrick Tiberi / Ways and Means Committee / Budget Committee). This bill amends the Internal Revenue Code, with respect to the expensing allowance for depreciable business property, to make permanent: (1) the increased \$500,000 expensing allowance for such property; (2) the increased \$2,000,000 threshold amount for such property over which the amount of the expensing allowance is reduced; (3) expensing of computer software; and (4) rules for the expensing of qualified real property (i.e., leasehold improvement, restaurant, and retail improvement property). Allow an inflation adjustment to the dollar amounts of the expensing allowance for taxable years beginning after 2015. Eliminates the exclusion of air conditioning and heating units from property eligible for the expensing allowance.

10:00 | Committee on Appropriations Hearing: Budget Hearing - Department of Agriculture, Office of the Inspector General. Click [here](#) to view the live webcast.