



## Federal Legislative Activities - Week of July 13, 2015

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The House is in recess this week. Please find a listing of federal legislative activities the County and our federal advocates are monitoring during the week of July 13, 2015, below.

### Congressional Hearings and Floor Activity

#### Tuesday, July 14<sup>th</sup>

10 AM | Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Hearing: unlocking the cures for America's most deadly diseases.

12 PM | House will meet for legislative business. Legislation Considered Under Suspension of the Rules:

[H.R. 251](#) – Homes for Heroes Act. This bill would establish a special assistant for Veterans' Affairs within the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to ensure veterans have fair access to HUD housing and homeless assistance programs, coordinating all HUD programs and activities relating to veterans, and serving as a HUD liaison with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

[H.R. 1047](#) - This bill authorizes private nonprofit organizations to administer the provision of permanent housing rental assistance under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. The measure also reduces from twice per fiscal year to once per year the number of times that unused funds for the Emergency Solutions Grants Program are to be reallocated.

[H.R. 2997](#) – Private Investment in Housing Act. This bill establishes a demonstration program under which the Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD) may enter into budget-neutral agreements for improvements that would reduce energy or water costs in subsidized housing units in multifamily buildings.

#### Wednesday, July 15<sup>th</sup>

9:30 AM | Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Hearing: the nominations of Kristen Marie Kulinowski, of New York, to be a Member of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board for a term of five years, and Gregory Guy Nadeau, of Maine, to be Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation.

10 AM | Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee Hearing: examine the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's semi-annual report to Congress.

10 AM | Senate Commerce Committee Business meeting: to consider S.1732, to authorize elements of the Department of Transportation.

10AM | House Committee on Natural Resources Hearing: Oversight Hearing on "The Future of Hydraulic Fracturing on Federally Managed Lands"

10:30 AM | House Veterans' Affairs Committee Hearing: Exploring VA's Administration of Individual Unemployability Benefits

10:30 AM | House Ways and Means Human Resources Subcommittee Hearing on welfare reform proposals, specifically involving the reauthorization of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. Discussion Draft can be found [here](#).

1:30 PM | House Agriculture Committee Hearing: Past Present and Future of SNAP: Developing and Using Evidence-Based Solutions

2:30 | Senate Joint Economic Committee Hearing: What lower labor force participation rates tell us about work opportunities and incentives.

### **Wednesday and Thursday**

On Wednesday, the House will meet at 12:00 for legislative business. On Thursday, the House will meet at 9:00 for legislative business.

[H.R. 1023](#) - Small Business Investment Company Capital Act. This bill increases from \$225 million to \$350 million the maximum amount a “family” of Small Business Investment Companies (SBICs) held under common control can borrow with an SBA loan guaranty.

[H.R. 2499](#) – Veterans Entrepreneurship Act. This bill permanently waives the guarantee fee for veterans and their spouses applying for Small Business Administration (SBA) express loans, beginning Oct. 1, 2015.

[H.R. 2670](#) – Microloan Modernization Act. This bill increases from \$225 million to \$350 million the maximum amount a “family” of Small Business Investment Companies (SBICs) held under common control can borrow with an SBA loan guaranty.

[H.R. 2898](#) - Western Water and American Food Security Act of 2015. The bill takes numerous actions intended to quickly increase the availability of water for agricultural, municipal and industrial users in California's drought-stricken Central Valley, including by requiring that more water from rainstorms early in the state's "water year" be pumped south to users in the San Joaquin Valley and by requiring the Interior and Commerce departments to approve any emergency projects or operations that would quickly provide additional water to those users. It implements a coordinated environmental review process to expedite the environmental review of certain water projects and makes the Bureau of Reclamation the lead federal agency when coordinating multiagency permit reviews of certain surface water storage projects. The administration is expected to oppose the measure.

Possible Consideration of a Motion to Go to Conference on [H.R. 644](#) - Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act. This bill amends the Internal Revenue Code to reinstate and make permanent the tax deduction for charitable contributions of food by any trade or business, regardless of whether the contributions are made by a C corporation. The food must be apparently wholesome food as defined by the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act. The percentage limitation for such deduction for a taxpayer other than a C corporation is increased from 10% to 15% of the taxpayer's aggregate net income. For C corporations, the percentage limitation is 15% of taxable income.

### **Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup>**

10 AM | Senate Agriculture Committee Hearing: pending Forest Service and forestry related bills.

2:45 PM | Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Hearing: to examine

[S.326](#) - Stewardship End Result Contracting Improvement Act. The bill amends the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to provide cancellation ceilings for stewardship end result contracting projects.

[S.1691](#) - National Forest Ecosystem Improvement Act of 2015. The bill expedites and prioritizes forest management activities to achieve ecosystem restoration objectives.