



Federal Legislative Activities - Week of June 22, 2015

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 June 22, 2015, below. Both Houses will recess next week.

Congressional Hearings and Floor Activity

Tuesday, June 23rd

10 AM | Senate Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies - Business meeting to markup an original bill entitled, "Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies.

10 AM | Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs - An oversight hearing to examine the National Flood Insurance Program. Click [here](#) to view the live webcast.

2 PM | House will meet for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m. Legislation Considered Under Suspension of the Rules:

[H.R. 805](#) – Domain Openness Through Continued Oversight Matters (DOTCOM) Act of 2015 (Sponsored by Rep. John Shimkus / Energy and Commerce Committee). This bill limits the ability of the Commerce Department to relinquish responsibility over the assignment of Internet domain names until 30 legislative days after it receives a certification from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's that such actions will not degrade Internet openness and governance.

[H.R. 1190](#) – Protecting Seniors' Access to Medicare Act of 2015. The bill repeals the provisions of the 2010 health care overhaul that created the Independent Payment Advisory Board, which is designed to recommend cost-cutting measures if Medicare spending exceeds a targeted growth rate. Supporters of the bill say it is necessary to prevent unelected bureaucrats from rationing health care, while opponents say it would get rid of one of the few mechanisms to restrain the growth of health care spending. The bill was considered under a closed rule and is currently pending a vote on passage.

[H.R. 1646](#) – Homeland Security Drone Assessment and Analysis Act, as amended (Sponsored by Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman / Homeland Security Committee). This bill requires the department to assess how commercially available drones could be used to commit a terror attack.

[H.R. 2576](#) - TSCA Modernization Act of 2015. This bill modifies the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA; PL 94-469) in an effort to allow EPA to more efficiently and aggressively evaluate and regulate chemicals present in United States commerce and it clarifies TSCA's pre-emption of state law.

2 PM | Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works: Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety Hearings to examine the impacts of EPA's proposed carbon regulations on energy costs for American businesses, rural communities and families, including S. 1324, to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to fulfill certain requirements before regulating standards of performance for new, modified, and reconstructed fossil fuel-fired electric utility generating units.

3 PM | Senate Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Business meeting to markup an original bill entitled, "Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies.

Wednesday, June 24th

12 PM | House will meet for legislative business.

[H.R. 2042](#) – Ratepayer Protection Act of 2015. This bill postpones when states and existing fossil-fuel power plants must comply with current or future EPA rules aimed at reducing carbon emissions until all judicial challenges are exhausted, and it allows state governors to opt out of EPA emission reduction rules for existing power plants if he or she certifies the requirements would have an adverse effect on the state's electricity ratepayers. Republicans say the bill is needed to prevent EPA's rules from shutting down existing coal-fired electricity power plants, which they say would result in lost jobs and higher electricity rates, while Democrats argue that existing coal-fired plants are the heaviest greenhouse gas polluters and that emissions must be reduced to slow climate change and protect public health.

2:15 PM | Senate Committee on Indian Affairs -An oversight hearing to examine demanding results to end Native youth suicides. Click [here](#) to view the live webcast.

2:15 PM | Senate Special Committee on Aging - Hearings to examine work in retirement, focusing on career reinventions and the new retirement workscape.

2:30 PM | Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs- Hearings to examine pending health care and benefits legislation.

Thursday, June 25th

9:30 AM| Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship- Hearing to examine economic opportunity for our veterans and their families through entrepreneurship.

10 AM | Senate Committee on Finance - Hearing to examine the private sector, focusing on state innovations in financing transportation infrastructure. Click [here](#) to view the live webcast.

Thursday and the balance of the week

12 PM | House will meet for legislative business.

[H.R. 2822](#) – Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016. The bill provides a total of \$30.2 billion in discretionary spending in FY 2016 for the Interior Department, the EPA, the Forest Service and a variety of other agencies. That total is \$246 million (1%) less than current funding and \$3.1 billion (9%) less than requested. It increases funding for the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service, but decreases funding for EPA by 9% (including cuts in clean water and safe drinking water funding) and limits EPA's regulatory authority. It also cuts funding for Forest Service activities and for the Fish and Wildlife Service. The bill provides \$2.7 billion for the Forest Service's wildfire fighting efforts and wildland fire management, which when combined with \$897 million in Interior Department funding for wildland fire management activities would provide a total of \$3.6 billion for wildland fire management programs — \$52 million more than current comparable level. The bill also prohibits EPA from going forward with its "Waters of the United States" rule-making to clarify what bodies of water are subject to regulation under the Clean Water Act.

Possible Consideration of Trade Legislation — The House could take up legislation to extend Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) at the end of the week. After the House on June 12 was unable to clear Senate-passed legislation that included both TAA and Trade Promotion Authority (sometimes called fast-track authority), congressional leaders in consult with the White House decided to move the issues separately, and on June 18 the House passed TPA legislation ([H.R. 2146](#)) — which the Senate will seek to clear for the president this week. The Senate also plans to amend an earlier House-passed trade preferences bill ([H.R. 1295](#)).