

Week Ahead

Legislative Focus: Senate Budget Resolution, Clean Power Plan Repeal
Today the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposed repeal of the Clean Power Plan will be published in the Federal Register, beginning a 60-day comment period.

This week the Senate is expected to consider an FY2018 budget resolution later this week. The resolution includes reconciliation instructions to the tax-writing committees to produce tax overhaul legislation with a ceiling of $1.5 trillion in revenue loss over 10 years. Senators and staff are preparing for the budget resolution procedure for amendments known as a "vote-a-rama," which may last late into the night. Also this week, Senate Appropriations subcommittee action is scheduled for the Senate Interior-Environment and Homeland Security spending bills with a full Committee markup on Thursday. Wildfire suppression funding and a border wall are expected to be popular topics in each bill, respectively.

The Senate is also set to vote today on the nomination of Callista Gingrich, wife of former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, to be U.S. ambassador to the Vatican. The nomination is unlikely to receive much opposition on the floor.

Senate Floor: The Senate will convene at 4 p.m. to resume consideration of the nomination of Callista Gingrich to be U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, with a confirmation vote scheduled for 5:30 p.m.

House Floor: The House is not in session this week and will next convene for legislative business on October 23rd.

Senate Appropriation Committee

- Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Subcommittee markup of the FY2018 Interior, Environment & Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. Tuesday, October 17 at 9:30 a.m.
- Homeland Security Subcommittee markup of the FY2018 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill. Tuesday, October 17 at 3 p.m.
- Full committee markup of FY2018 Interior and FY2018 Homeland Security Appropriations Bills. Thursday, October 19 at 10:30 a.m.

Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee

- Full committee hearing on "Consumer Data Security and the Credit Bureaus." Tuesday, October 17 at 10 a.m.

Senate Environment and Public Works Committee

- Full committee business meeting to consider the nominations of ***Michael Dourson*** to be Assistant Administrator for the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention of the Environmental Protection Agency, ***William Wehrum*** to be Assistant Administrator for the Office of Air and Radiation of the Environmental Protection Agency, ***Matthew Leopold*** to be Assistant Administrator for the Office of General Counsel of the Environmental Protection Agency, ***David Ross*** to be Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water of the Environmental Protection Agency, ***Paul Trombino III*** to be Administrator for the Federal Highway Administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation, ***Jeffery Baran*** to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (Reappointment). Wednesday, October 18 at 10 a.m.
- Full committee hearing on "Modernizing the Food for Peace Program." Thursday, October 19 at 10:30 a.m.

Senate Foreign Relations Committee

- Full committee hearing on the nominations of ***Thomas L. Carter*** for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America on the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization, ***Jennifer Gillian Newstead*** to be Legal Adviser, Department of State and ***Manisha Singh*** to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Economic and Business Affairs). Wednesday, October 18 at 2:30 p.m.

Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions

- Full committee hearing on "The Cost of Prescription Drugs: How the Drug Delivery System Affects What Patients Pay, Part II." Tuesday, October 17 at 10 a.m.
- Executive session on the nominations of ***Patrick Pizzella*** to be Deputy Secretary of Labor, ***Cheryl Stanton*** to be Wage and Hour Division Administrator, Department of Labor, ***David Zatezalo*** to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health, Department of Labor, ***Janet Dhillon*** to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and upon confirmation designated Chair, ***Daniel M. Gade, Ph.D.***, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, ***Carlos G. Muniz*** to be General Counsel, Department of Education, ***Peter Robb*** to be General Counsel, National Labor Relations Board, ***Gerald Fauth, III*** to be Member, National Mediation Board, ***Kyle Fortson*** to be Member, National Mediation Board, ***Linda Puchala*** to be Member, National Mediation Board. Wednesday, October 18 at 9:30 a.m.
- Full committee hearing on "Examining How Healthy Choices Can Improve Health Outcomes and Reduce Costs." Thursday, October 19 at 10 a.m.

Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee

- Full committee hearing on the nominations of ***Jeff T.H. Pon*** to be Director, Office of Personnel Management, ***Michael J. Rigas*** to be Deputy Director, Office of Personnel Management and ***Emily W. Murphy*** to be Administrator, General Services Administration Wednesday, October 18 at 10 a.m.

Senate Judiciary Committee

- Full committee hearing on the nominations of ***Gregory G. Katsas*** to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit, ***Jeffrey Uhlman Beaverstock*** to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Alabama, ***Emily Coody Marks*** to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama, ***Brett Joseph Talley*** to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama and ***Holly Lou Teeter*** to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas. Tuesday, October 17 at 10 a.m.
- Full committee hearing on "Oversight of the U.S. Department of Justice." Witness: The Honorable Jefferson B. Sessions III, Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice. Wednesday, October 18 at 10 a.m.

Senate Select Committee on Intelligence

- Full committee hearing on the nomination of ***Christopher Sharpley*** to be Inspector General of the Central Intelligence Agency. Tuesday, October 17 at 2:30 p.m.

House Small Business Committee

- Full committee hearing on "Small Business Capital Access: Supporting Community and Economic Development." Friday, October 20 at 2:30 p.m.

Michigan Newsmakers

Rep. Fred Upton (MI-06)
Reuters—October 12th, 2017
U.S. Lawmakers Propose Making it Easier to Meet Auto Fuel Rules
A bipartisan pair of Michigan lawmakers introduced a bill to make it easier for automakers to comply with federal fuel efficiency requirements, as the Trump administration considers softening standards that require nearly doubling the fuel economy of the U.S. new vehicle fleet by 2025.

Latest Developments

Head of CEQ Nominated
Last week the Administration announced its nomination of Kathleen Hartnett White to lead the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) at the White House. She currently serves as a senior fellow for energy and environment at the think tank, Texas Public Policy Foundation, and was formerly a regulator in Texas. CEQ is responsible for coordinating environmental efforts at the Federal level and working with agencies on environmental policies. As the head of CEQ, she would play a pivotal role in the Administration's environmental policies, including its efforts to streamline environmental review for infrastructure projects. The Senate must confirm her nomination.

Mulvaney Proposes Spending Cuts to Appropriations Chairman
On Friday Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director Mick Mulvaney sent a letter to House Appropriations Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ) identifying $5.6 billion in potential spending cuts as Congress discusses emergency disaster appropriations. According to media reports, the letter emphasizes that the cuts "are not intended to offset" recent emergency appropriations related to Hurricanes and wildfires, but are highlighted to be considered as part of future budget talks. The letter identifies conservation programs at the Department of Agriculture, loan programs at the Department of

Energy, and employment services at the Department of Labor as sources of potential cuts. So far, Congress has approved $51 billion in disaster relief. A second supplemental appropriation passed the House yesterday on a 353-69 vote provided money for FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund, the National Flood Insurance Program, and wildfire transfer repayments.

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