

Week Ahead

Legislative Focus: Ringing in the New Fiscal Year with Budget Resolutions
This week the House and Senate will both move toward passing a budget resolution, that once adopted will allow Congress to advance a tax reform bill through the reconciliation process. The House will vote on its fiscal 2018 budget resolution (H.Con.Res. 71) on Thursday, while the Senate Budget Committee will mark up its budget resolution on Wednesday and Thursday. The Senate expects to bring their budget resolution to the floor during the week of October 16th. The current House and Senate resolutions differ greatly, including the reconciliation instructions, which would have to be worked out by a conference committee. Until those instructions are sorted out, and a final budget resolution adopted by Congress, the House Ways and Means Committee and Senate Finance Committee cannot technically advance a comprehensive tax reform bill.

The Senate will vote later today the nomination of Ajit Pai to sit on the Federal Communications Commission. While, the House will vote on six bills from the Natural Resources Committee under suspension this evening. Later this week, the House also intends on bringing up H.R. 36, a bill that would make it a crime to perform an abortion after 20 weeks.

Senate Floor: The Senate convenes at 3:00 p.m. to consider the nomination of Ajit Pai to sit on the Federal Communications Commission, a vote on the nomination is scheduled for 5:30 p.m.

House Floor: The House convenes at 2:00 p.m. for consideration of six bills under suspension of the rules.

Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee

- Business meeting on the nominations of Stephen Censky to be Deputy Secretary of Agriculture and Ted McKinney to be Undersecretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs. Monday, October 2 at 5:45 p.m.
- Full committee hearing on the nominations of Gregory Ibach to be Undersecretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs and William Northey to be Undersecretary of Farm Production and Conservation. Thursday, October 5 at 9:30 a.m.

Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee

- Full committee hearing on “Wells Fargo: One Year Later.” Tuesday, October 3 at 10 a.m.

- Full committee hearing on "An Examination of the Equifax Cybersecurity Breach." Wednesday, October 4 at 10 a.m.

Senate Budget Committee

- Full committee markup of FY 2018 Budget Resolution – Day 1. Wednesday, October 4 at 2:30 p.m.
- Full committee markup of FY 2018 Budget Resolution – Day 2. Thursday, October 5 at 10:30 a.m.

Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee

- Executive session on self-driving vehicle legislation (to be introduced), S 1872 - TSA Modernization Act, S. 1015 – the National Suicide Hotline Improvement Act of 2017, S. 1534 – Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2017, and the nominations of Ann Marie Buerkle to be Chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and a Commissioner of the CPSC, Walter G. Copan to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology, Howard R. Elliott to be Administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, Timothy Gallaudet to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, David J. Redl to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information. Wednesday, October 4 at 10 a.m.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

- Business meeting to consider the nominations of Bruce J. Walker to be Assistant Secretary of Energy (Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability) and Steven E. Winberg to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Fossil Energy). Tuesday, October 3 at 10:15 a.m.
- Full committee hearing to examine energy storage technologies. Tuesday, October 3 at 10:30 a.m.
- Energy Subcommittee hearing on S. 186 Fair Ratepayer Accountability, Transparency, and Efficiency Standards Act, S. 1059 Responsible Disposal Reauthorization Act, S. 1337 Capitalizing on American Storage Potential, S. 1457 Advanced Nuclear Technologies Act, S. 1799, Energy Technology Maturation Act, S. 1860, Parity Across Reviews Act, H.R. 1109, to amend section 203 of the Federal Power Act. Tuesday, October 3 at 2:30 p.m.
- Field hearing to examine efficient approaches to reducing industrial energy costs. Friday, October 6 at 11 a.m., in Searsmont, Maine.

Senate Environment and Public Work Committee

- Full committee hearing on the nominations of Michael Dourson, Matthew Leopold, David Ross, and William Wehrum to be Assistant Administrators of the Environmental Protection Agency, and Jeffery Baran to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Wednesday, October 4 at 10 a.m.
- Full committee hearing on the nomination of Paul Trombino III to be Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration. Thursday, October 5 at 10 a.m.

Senate Finance Committee

- Full committee hearing on international tax reform. Tuesday, October 3 at 10 a.m.
- Executive Session to consider the Keep Kids' Insurance Dependable and Secure (KIDS) Act of 2017. Wednesday, October 4 at 9:30 a.m.

- Full committee hearing on the nominations of Jeffrey Gerrish to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative (Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and Industrial Competitiveness), with the rank of Ambassador, Gregory Doud to be Chief Agricultural Negotiator, Office of the United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador, and Jason Kearns to be a Member of the United States International Trade Commission. Thursday, October 5 at 10 a.m.

Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions

- Full committee hearing on "The Every Student Succeeds Act: Unleashing State Innovation." Tuesday, October 3 at 10 a.m.
- Executive session on the nominations of Patrick Pizzella to be Deputy Secretary 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 and Carlos G. Muniz to be General Counsel, Department of Education. Tuesday, October 3, time and location TBD.
- Full committee hearing on the nominations of Cheryl Stanton to be Wage and Hour Division Administrator at Department of Labor, David Zatezalo to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health at Department of Labor and Peter Robb to be General Counsel of National Labor Relations Board. Wednesday, October 4 at 3 p.m.
- Full committee hearing on "The Federal Response to the Opioid Crisis." Thursday, October 5 at 10 a.m.

Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee

- Full committee hearing on the nomination of John M. Mitnick to be General Counsel, U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Tuesday, October 3 at 9:30 a.m.
- Business meeting on the nomination of John M. Mitnick to be General Counsel, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and to review various legislation. Click here to view the agenda and full list of legislation. Wednesday, October 4 at 10 a.m.

Senate Indian Affairs Committee

- Full committee hearing on "Doubling Down on Indian Gaming: Examining New Issues and Opportunities for Success in the Next 30 Years." Wednesday, October 4 at 2:30 p.m.

Senate Judiciary Committee

- Full committee hearing on "Oversight of the Administration's Decision to End Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals." Tuesday, October 3 at 10 a.m.
- Full committee hearing on the nominations of Stephanos Bibas to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, Liles Clifton Burke to be United States District Judge For The Northern District Of Alabama, Michael Joseph Juneau to be United States District Judge For The Western District Of Louisiana, A. Marvin Quattlebaum, Jr. to be United States District Judge For The Middle District Of Georgia, Tilman Eugene Self III to be United States District Judge For The Middle District Of Georgia and John C. Demers to be an Assistant Attorney General, National Security Division. Wednesday, October 4 at 10 a.m.
- Privacy, Technology and the Law Subcommittee hearing on "Equifax: Continuing to Monitor Data-Broker Cybersecurity." Wednesday, October 4 at 2:30 p.m.

Senate Special Aging Committee

- Full committee hearing on "Still Ringing Off The Hook: An Update on Efforts to Combat Robocalls." Wednesday, October 4 at 9:30 a.m.

Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee

- Full committee hearing on nominations of Melissa Sue Glynn to be Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Enterprise Integration, Cheryl Mason to be Chairman of the Board of Veterans' Appeals and Randy Reeves to be Undersecretary of Veterans Affairs for Memorial Affairs. Wednesday, October 4 at 2:30 p.m.

House Energy and Commerce Committee

- Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection Subcommittee hearing on "Oversight of the Equifax Data Breach: Answers for Consumers." Tuesday, October 3 at 10 a.m.
- Health Subcommittee hearing on "Examining Patient Access to Investigational Drugs." Tuesday, October 3 at 10:15 a.m.
- Energy Subcommittee hearing on "Part II: Powering America: Defining Reliability in a Transforming Electricity Industry." Tuesday, October 3 at 2 p.m.
- Environment Subcommittee hearing on "Air Quality Impacts of Wildfires: Perspectives of Key Stakeholders." Wednesday, October 4 at 10 a.m.
- Energy Subcommittee hearing on "Powering America: Consumer-Oriented Perspectives on Improving the Nation's Electricity Markets." Thursday, October 5 at 10 a.m.

House Financial Services Committee

- Full committee hearing on "Sustainable Housing Finance: An Update from the Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency." Tuesday, October 3 at 10 a.m.
- Full committee hearing on "Examining the SEC's Agenda, Operations, and Budget." Wednesday, October 4 at 10 a.m.
- Full committee hearing on "Examining the Equifax Data Breach." Thursday, October 5 at 9:15 a.m.

House Foreign Affairs Committee

- Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee hearing on the State Department's Antiterrorism Assistance Program. Wednesday, October 4 at 10 a.m.

House Homeland Security Committee

- Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection Subcommittee hearing on "Examining DHS's Cybersecurity Mission." Tuesday, October 3 at 10 a.m.
- Transportation and Protective Security Subcommittee hearing on "Innovations in Security: Examining the Use of Canines." Tuesday, October 3 at 2 p.m.
- Full committee markup of H.R. 3548 – the Border Security for American Act. Wednesday, October 4 at 10 a.m.

House Judiciary Committee

- Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on "Online Sex Trafficking and the Communications Decency Act." Tuesday, October 3 at 10 a.m.

House Natural Resources Committee

- Federal Lands Subcommittee hearing on H.R. 3400 “Recreation Not Red-Tape Act.” Tuesday, October 3 at 10 a.m.
- Full committee markup of H.R. 210 "Native American Energy Act,” H.R. 424 “Gray Wolf State Management Act of 2017,” H.R. 717 “Listing Reform Act,” H.R. 1274 “State, Tribal and Local Species Transparency and Recovery Act,” H.R. 1488 "The Indiana Dunes National Park Act,” H.R. 2600 to provide for the conveyance to the State of Iowa of the reversionary interest held by the United States in certain land in Pottawattamie County, Iowa, and for other purposes, H.R. 2603 "SAVES Act,” H.R. 2897 to authorize the Mayor of the District of Columbia and the Director of the National Park Service to enter into cooperative management agreements for the operation, maintenance, and management of units of the National Park System in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes and H.R. 313 "Endangered Species Litigation Reasonableness Act.” Tuesday, October 3 at 4 p.m.
- Full committee markup continued. Wednesday, October 4 at 10 a.m., 1334 Longworth Bldg.
- Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs Subcommittee hearing on H.R. 146 "Eastern Band Cherokee Historic Lands Reacquisition Act,” H.R. 2402 "San Juan County Settlement Implementation Act" and H.R. 2606 “Stigler Act Amendments of 2017.” Wednesday, October 4 at 2 p.m.

House Oversight Committee

- Information Technology Subcommittee hearing on “Cybersecurity of the Internet of Things.” Tuesday, October 3 at 2 p.m.
- Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee hearing on “Innovations in Security: Examining the Use of Canines.” Tuesday, October 3 at 2 p.m

House Science, Space and Technology Committee

- Full committee hearing on “Resiliency: The Electric Grid’s Only Hope.” Tuesday, October 3 at 10 a.m.
- Space Subcommittee hearing on “Powering Exploration: An Update on Radioisotope Production and Lessons Learned from Cassini.” Wednesday, October 4 at 10 a.m.

House Small Business Committee

- Full committee hearing on “Small Business Tax Reform: Modernizing the Code for the Nation’s Job Creators.” Wednesday, October 4 at 11 a.m.
- Agriculture, Energy and Trade Subcommittee hearing on “High-Tech Agriculture: Small Firms on the Frontier of Agribusiness.” Thursday, October 5 at 10 a.m.

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

- Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee hearing on “Building a 21st Century Infrastructure for America: Coast Guard Stakeholders’ Perspectives.” Tuesday, October 3 at 10 a.m.
- Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee hearing on “Building a 21st Century Infrastructure for America: Rail Stakeholders’ Perspectives.” Wednesday, October 4 at 10 a.m.

House Ways and Means Committee

- Oversight Subcommittee hearing on the Internal Revenue Service's Information Technology Modernization Efforts. Wednesday, October 4 at 9 a.m.

Joint Economic Committee

- Full committee hearing on "The Startup Slump: How Tax Reform Could Revive American Entrepreneurship." Tuesday, October 3 at 10 a.m.

Michigan Newsmakers

Sen. Gary Peters

Reuters—September 27th, 2017

U.S. Senators Announce Deal on Self-Driving Car Legislation

Two U.S. senators said late on Wednesday that they had reached a bipartisan deal on legislation aimed at easing hurdles to getting self-driving cars to drivers.

Latest Developments

Senate Releases FY 2018 Budget Resolution Text

On Friday the Senate Budget Committee released the text of a fiscal year (FY) 2018 budget resolution. The text includes two reconciliation instructions to Senate committees and would allow Senate Republicans to pass tax reform legislation with a simple majority vote. The first would allow the Senate Finance Committee to reduce revenues and change outlays to increase the deficit by not more than $1.5 trillion over the next 10 years. The second would direct the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee to save at least $1 billion over the next 10 years. This title also includes instructions to the appropriate House committees to mirror the Senate instructions. A vote on the resolution is expected to take place this week. It is expected that the resolution will be passed. For a summary of the resolution, click here.

DOE Sends Proposed Grid Resiliency Pricing Rule to FERC

On Friday the Department of Energy (DOE) submitted a proposed rule on grid resiliency pricing to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) that would stem the retirements of coal-fired and nuclear power plants. The proposed rule follows recommendations in the DOE's recently-released grid reliability study that urged FERC to expedite efforts to improve energy price formation in the regional power markets to accurately price traditional baseload power resources necessary to maintain the reliability and resiliency of the electric grid. It would allow for the recovery of costs of fuel-secure generation units which provide essential energy and secondary reliability services and have a 90-day fuel supply on site to provide energy in the event of a disruption. Secretary of Energy Rick Perry sent a letter to FERC Chairman Neil Chatterjee and Commissioners Cheryl LaFleur and Robert Powelson urging FERC to adopt the rule within 60 days of its publication in the Federal Register or to issue it as an interim final rule with a provision for later modifications.