

Week Ahead

Legislative Focus: Senate takes up tax bill with another vote-a-rama, House reviews third supplemental request, 8 legislative days until government funding expires

The House votes on Wednesday to require all its members and other employees to complete an annual anti-discrimination and anti-harassment training program. The House Appropriations Committee will also be reviewing the Administration's $44 billion supplemental request across several subcommittees.

The Senate Budget Committee meets on Tuesday to package together a rewrite of the tax code and legislation to sell oil and gas extraction rights in a protected portion of Alaska. That will likely be followed later in the week with floor action, including a vote-a-rama, as Republicans try to pass a tax overhaul without any Democratic votes. This will be the third vote-a-rama this year and it could well last longer, and go later, than the others. Meanwhile, Congress has eight legislative days, with both chambers in session, until current government funding expires on Dec. 8.

House: The House is not in session today but will reconvene tomorrow to consider several measures under suspension of the rules.

Senate: The Senate convenes at 4 p.m. today, with a vote at 5:30 p.m. on the nomination of Dabney Friedrich to be U.S. district judge for the District of Columbia. After that, there will be a vote to limit debate on the nomination of Gregory Katsas to be U.S. circuit judge for the D.C. Circuit. Later this week, the Senate appears set to take up the tax overhaul bill.

Senate Armed Services Committee

- Full committee hearing on "Testimony from Outside Experts on Recommendations for a Future National Defense Strategy." Thursday November 30 at 10 a.m.

Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee

- Full committee executive session on the nominations of The Honorable Brian D. Montgomery to be Assistant Secretary for Housing – Federal Housing Commissioner, HUD; Robert Hunter Kurtz to be Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing, HUD; and Suzanne Israel Tufts to be Assistant Secretary for Administration, HUD, followed by a full committee hearing on the nomination of The Honorable Jerome H. Powell to be Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. Tuesday, November 28 at 9:45 a.m.

Senate Budget Committee

- Full committee meeting to consider FY 2018 Reconciliation Legislation. Tuesday, November 28 at 2:30 p.m.

Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee

- Full committee hearing to consider the nomination of Barry Lee Myers to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere. Wednesday, November 29 at 10:30 a.m.

Senate Environment and Public Works Committee

- Clean Air and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee hearing on the nominations of Kenneth E. Allen, A.D. Frazier, Jeffrey Smith, and James R. Thompson III to be Members of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority. Tuesday, November 28 at 10 a.m.
- Full committee business meeting to consider the nominations of Kathleen Hartnett White to be a Member of the Council on Environmental Quality and Andrew Wheeler to be Deputy Administrator, EPA and 19 General Services Administration resolutions. Wednesday, November 29 at 10 a.m.

Senate Foreign Relations Committee

- Full committee hearing to consider the nominations of Christopher Ashley Ford to be Assistant Secretary of State (International Security and Non-Proliferation) and Yleem D. S. Poblete to be Assistant Secretary of State (Verification and Compliance). Tuesday, November 28 at 10 a.m.
- Full committee hearing to consider the nominations of Mr. M. Lee McClenny to be U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Paraguay, Carlos Trujillo to be U.S. Ambassador to the Organization of American States, Kenneth J. Braithwaite to be U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Norway, Brock D. Bierman to be Assistant Administrator, USAID. Thursday, November 30 at 10 a.m.

Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions

- Full committee hearing on "Reauthorizing the Higher Education Act: Examining Proposals to Simplify the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)." Tuesday, November 28 at 10 a.m.
- Full committee hearing to consider the nomination of Alex Azar to be Secretary of Health and Human Services. Wednesday, November 29 at 9:30 a.m.
- Full committee hearing on "The Front Lines of the Opioid Crisis: Perspectives from States, Communities, and Providers." Thursday, November 30 at 10 a.m.

Senate Judiciary Committee

- Full committee hearing on S. 1241 "Modernizing AML Laws to Combat Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing." Tuesday, November 28 at 10 a.m.
- Full committee hearing to consider pending nominations. Wednesday, November 29 at 10 a.m.

Senate Veterans Affairs Committee

- Full committee markup of S. ____ "Caring for our Veterans Act of 2017." Wednesday, November 29 at 2:30 p.m.

House Appropriations Committee

- Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on "USDA's Role in Disaster Recovery." Wednesday, November 29 at 10 a.m.
- Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on "Supplemental Oversight – U.S. Forest Service." November 29 at 10 a.m.
- Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on "Supplemental Oversight – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers." Wednesday, November 29 at 11 a.m.
- Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee hearing on "Supplemental Oversight - Small Business Administration and General Services Administration." Wednesday, November 29 at 2 p.m.
- Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on "Supplemental Oversight – Department of the Interior." Thursday, November 30 at 9:30 a.m.
- Homeland Security Subcommittee hearing on "Supplemental Request – FEMA." Witnesses include The Honorable Brock Long, Administrator, FEMA. Thursday, November 30 at 10 a.m.
- Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on "Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration - Disaster Relief." Thursday, November 30 at 3 p.m.
- Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on "Department of Housing and Urban Development, Community Block Grants - Disaster Recovery." Friday, December 1 at 9:30 a.m.

House Education and Workforce Committee

- Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions Subcommittee hearing on "Financial Challenges Facing the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation: Implications for Pension Plans, Workers, and Retirees." Wednesday, November 29 at 10 a.m.

House Energy and Commerce Committee

- Communications and Technology Subcommittee and Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection Subcommittee hearing on "Algorithms: How Companies' Decisions About Data and Content Impact Consumers." Wednesday, November 29 at 10 a.m.
- Energy Subcommittee hearing on "Powering America: Examining the Role of Financial Trading in the Electricity Markets." Wednesday, November 29 at 10:15 a.m.
- Health Subcommittee hearing on "Implementing the 21st Century Cures Act: An Update from FDA and NIH." Witnesses include The Honorable Francis Collins, M.D., Director, NIH, and The Honorable Scott Gottlieb, M.D., Commissioner, FDA. Thursday, November 30 at 10 a.m.
- Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on "Identity Verification in a Post-Breach World." Thursday, November 30 at 10:15 a.m.
- Communications and Technology Subcommittee hearing on "Latest Developments in Combating Online Sex Trafficking." Thursday, November 30 at 2 p.m.

House Financial Services Committee

- Housing and Insurance Subcommittee hearing on "Sustainable Housing Finance: The Role of Ginnie Mae in the Housing Finance System." Wednesday, November 29 at 10 a.m.
- Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit Subcommittee and Terrorism and Illicit Finance Subcommittee hearing on "Legislative Proposals to Counter Terrorism and Illicit Finance." Wednesday, November 29 at 2 p.m.

- Capital Markets, Securities and Investment Subcommittee hearing on "Implementation and Cybersecurity Protocols of the Consolidated Audit Trail." Thursday, November 30 at 10 a.m.
- Monetary Policy and Trade Subcommittee hearing on "Evaluating the Effectiveness of U.S. Sanctions Programs." Thursday, November 30 at 2 p.m.

House Foreign Affairs Committee

- Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee hearing on "The Latest Developments in Saudi Arabia and Lebanon." Wednesday, November 29 at 10 a.m.
- Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations Subcommittee hearing on "A Global Update on Alzheimer's Disease." Wednesday, November 29 at 2 p.m.

House Homeland Security Committee

- Transportation and Protective Security Subcommittee hearing on "Security Public Areas of Transportation Systems: Stakeholder Perspectives." Tuesday, November 28 at 10 a.m.
- Full committee hearing on "World Wide Threats: Keeping America Secure in the New Age of Terror." Thursday, November 30 at 10 a.m.

House Judiciary Committee

- Courts, Intellectual Property and the Internet Subcommittee hearing on "The Role and Impact of Nationwide Injunctions by District Courts." Thursday, November 30 at 2 p.m.

House Natural Resources Committee

- Full committee hearing on "Modernizing NEPA for the 21st Century." Wednesday, November 29 at 10 a.m.
- Water, Power and Oceans Subcommittee hearing on H.R. 4419 "Bureau of Reclamation and Bureau of Indian Affairs Water Project Streamlining Act." Thursday, November 30 at 2 p.m.
- Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee hearing on H.R. 1675 "National Landslide Preparedness Act," H.R. 4033 "National Geologic Mapping Act Reauthorization Act," Discussion Draft of H.R. "Enhancing Geothermal Production on Federal Lands Act"; and Discussion Draft of H.R. "National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System Act.." Thursday, November 30 at 2:30 p.m.

House Oversight and Government Reform Committee

- Full committee hearing on "Combating the Opioid Crisis." Tuesday, November 28 at 12:30 p.m.

House Permanent Select Intelligence Committee

- Full committee hearing on testimony of Erik Prince. Thursday, November 30 at 2 p.m.

House Rules Committee

- Full committee meeting on H.R. 3017 "Brownfields Enhancement, Economic Redevelopment, and Reauthorization Act of 2017" and H.R. 3905 "Minnesota's Economic Rights in the Superior National Forest Act." Tuesday, November 28 at 5 p.m.
- Full committee meeting on H.R. 1699 "Preserving Access to Manufactured Housing Act of 2017" and H.R. 4182 "Ensuring a Qualified Civil Service Act of 2017." Wednesday, November 29 at 3 p.m.

House Science, Space and Technology Committee

- Environment Subcommittee hearing on "The Future of WOTUS: Examining the Role of States." Wednesday, November 29 at 10 a.m.

House Small Business Committee

- Full committee hearing on "Highway to Headache: Federal Regulations on the Small Trucking Industry." Wednesday, November 29 at 11 a.m.

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

- Aviation Subcommittee hearing on "Unmanned Aircraft Systems: Emerging Uses in a Changing National Airspace." Wednesday, November 29 at 10 a.m.

House Veterans' Affairs Committee

- Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on "Examining VA's Failure to Address Provider Quality and Safety Concerns." Wednesday, November 29 at 10 a.m.

Joint Economic Committee

- Full committee hearing on "The Economic Outlook with Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen." Wednesday, November 29 at 10 a.m.

Michigan Newsmakers

Rep. Jack Bergman (MI-01)

MLive—November 23rd, 2017

Cormorant control efforts in Michigan could resume under new federal bill

A bird many in northern Michigan consider a nuisance due to their penchant for gobbling up fish in the Great Lakes would be subject to population control efforts again under a new bill in the U.S. House.

Latest Developments

FWS Reviewing 2016 Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances Policy under the Endangered Species Act: Last Wednesday the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) issued a notice announcing the intention to review and possibly revise the Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances (CCAAs) policy. CCAAs are voluntary conservation agreements between the FWS and one or more public or private parties that provide incentives to landowners to implement conservation measures for declining species before they are listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Originally finalized in 1999, CCAA was revised in 2016. The changes clarified and simplified the standard for approving CCAAs. However, they have been interpreted in different ways by the public. The Services are seeking public comment on whether to revise the 2016 CCAA policy, comments are due by January 22, 2018. Also on Wednesday, the FWS issued a proposed rule on the 2016 revisions to CCAA regulations. It is seeking public comment on whether to revise the 2016 CCAA regulations by January 22, 2018.

WOTUS Definition Applicability Date Proposed Rule Published in Federal Register: Last Wednesday the Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers and Environmental Protection Agency's proposed rule adding

an applicability date to the "Clean Water Rule: Definition of 'Waters of the United States'" (the "2015 Rule") published in the Federal Register. The rule would make the effective date of the 2015 Rule two years from the final action date on this proposal. The addition of the date would ensure the definition of "waters of the United States" (WOTUS) remains in effect while the agencies continue to review the 2015 Rule. The 2015 Rule was stayed in October 2015, and the Supreme Court is currently reviewing the question of original jurisdiction over challenges. The agencies initiated a two-step review and revision process on the 2015 Rule. The comment period for the "Step One rule" closed in September, and the "Step Two rule" is under development. Comments are due on the proposed rule on the applicability date by December 13, 2017.

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