

Week Ahead

Legislative Focus: Congress Attempts to Finish Spending Bills; Health Care Vote Delayed
House lawmakers this week will attempt to finish up committee work as they move forward with their goal to pass an omnibus spending package before the August recess. The House Budget Committee is set to mark up a fiscal year 2018 budget resolution. Senate GOP leaders are gathering votes for the latest health care proposal, which still doesn't have a clear path to passage. A delay of a procedural vote, which was announced over the weekend, is complicating the timeline for its passage.

Senate Floor: The Senate will convene at 3:00 p.m. for legislative business. Members will resume consideration of Patrick Shanahan's nomination to be Deputy Defense Secretary. At 5:30 p.m., the chamber will take a cloture vote on his nomination.

House Floor: The House will meet at noon for morning hour debate and at 2:00 p.m. for legislative business, with votes postponed until 6:30 p.m. Lawmakers will consider three measures under suspension of the rules, including two (H.J. Res. 92, H.J. Res. 76) about D.C.'s Metro transit system.

Senate Armed Services Committee

- Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on the nomination of Air Force Gen. Paul Selva for reappointment to the grade of general and reappointment to be vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Tuesday, July 18 at 9:30 a.m.
- Senate Armed Services Committee (Chairman John McCain, R-Ariz.) hearing on the nominations of John Gibson II to be deputy chief management officer of the Defense Department; Ellen Lord to be Defense undersecretary for acquisition, technology and logistics; Lucian Niemeyer to be assistant Defense secretary for energy, installations and environment; and Matthew Donovan to be undersecretary of the Air Force. Tuesday, July 18 at 2:30 p.m.

Senate Banking Committee

- Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee (Chairman Michael D. Crapo, R-Idaho) hearing on the nominations of J. Paul Compton to be HUD general counsel; Anna Farias to be assistant HUD secretary for fair housing and equal opportunity; Neal Rackleff to be assistant HUD secretary for community planning and development; Richard Ashooh to be assistant Commerce secretary for export administration; Elizabeth Erin Walsh to be assistant Commerce secretary for global markets and director general of the United States and Foreign Commercial

Service; and Christopher Campbell to be assistant Treasury secretary for financial institutions. Tuesday, July 18 at 10 a.m.

- Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee hearing on "Housing Finance Reform: Maintaining Access for Small Lenders." Thursday, July 20 at 10 a.m., Brenda Hughes, senior vice president and director of mortgage and retail lending at the First Federal Savings Bank of Twin Falls, on behalf of the American Bankers Association; Tim Mislansky, senior vice president and chief lending officer for Wright-Patt Credit Union and president of myCUmortgage LLC, on behalf of the Credit Union National Association; Jack Hopkins, president and CEO of CorTrust Bank, N.A., on behalf of the Independent Community Bankers of America; Charles Purvis, president and CEO of Coastal Federal Credit Union, on behalf of the National Association of Federally-Insured Credit Unions; Wes Hunt, president of Homestar Financial Corporation, on behalf of the Community Mortgage Lenders of America; and Bill Giambrone, president and CEO of Platinum Home Mortgage and president of the Community Home Lenders Association

Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee

- Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee (Chairman John Thune, R-S.D.) hearing on the nominations of Ajit Varadaraj Pai to be a member of the Federal Communications Commission; Jessica Rosenworcel to be a member of the Federal Communications Commission; and Brendan Carr to be a member of the Federal Communications Commission. Wednesday, July 19 at 10 a.m.
- Communications, Technology, Innovation and the Internet Subcommittee of Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee hearing on an update of the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet). Thursday, July 20 at 10 a.m. Witnesses include: Curtis Brown, deputy secretary of public safety and homeland security for the Commonwealth of Virginia; Damon Darsey, assistant professor at the University of Mississippi Medical Center; Mark Goldstein, physical issues director at the Government Accountability Office; Michael Poth, CEO of FirstNet; Chris Sambar, senior vice president of AT&T

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

- Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing on the status and outlook for United States and North American energy and resource security. Tuesday, July 18 at 10:30 a.m. Witnesses TBA.
- National Parks Subcommittee (Chairman Steve Daines, R-Mont.) of Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing on S.257, the "Acadia National Park Boundary Clarification Act"; S.312, the "Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park Redesignation Act"; S.355, to amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to provide for a lifetime National Recreational Pass for any veteran with a service-connected disability; S.391, the "African Burial Ground International Memorial Museum and Educational Center Act"; S.841, the "National Veterans Memorial and Museum Act"; S.926, the "Global War on Terrorism War Memorial Act"; S.1073, the "Escambia County Land Conveyance Act"; S.1202, the "Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site Boundary Modification Act"; S.1403, the "21st Century Conservation Service Corps Act of 2017"; S.1438, the "Gateway Arch National Park Designation Act"; S.1459, to establish Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie National Park in the State of South Carolina; and S.1522, to establish an Every Kid Outdoors program. Wednesday, July 19 at 10 a.m. Witnesses TBA.

Senate Environment and Public Works Committee

- Senate Environment and Public Works Committee hearing on S.1514, the "Hunting Heritage and Environmental Legacy Preservation (HELP) for Wildlife Act," to amend certain Acts to reauthorize those Acts and to increase protections for wildlife. Wednesday, July 19 at 10 a.m. Witnesses TBA.
- Fisheries, Water and Wildlife Subcommittee Senate Environment and Public Works Committee hearing on "Innovative Financing and Funding: Addressing America's Crumbling Water Infrastructure." Thursday, July 20 at 10 a.m. Witnesses TBA.

Senate Finance Committee

- Senate Finance Committee hearing on "Comprehensive Tax Reform: Prospects and Challenges." Tuesday, July 18 at 9 a.m. Witnesses include: Mark Mazur, former assistant Treasury secretary for tax policy (2012-2017), Pamela Olson, former assistant Treasury secretary for tax (2002-2004), Eric Solomon, former assistant Treasury secretary for tax (2006-2009), Jonathan Talismanm, former assistant Treasury secretary for tax (2000-2001)
- Senate Finance Committee hearing on the nomination of David Kautter to be an assistant Treasury Secretary for tax policy. Tuesday, July 18 at 11 a.m.

Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee

- Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee markup to vote on the nominations of Marvin Kaplan to be a member of the National Labor Relations Board; and William Emanuel to be a member of the National Labor Relations Board. Wednesday, July 19 at 10 a.m.

Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee

- Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee markup to vote on the nomination of David Pekoske to be assistant Homeland Security secretary for transportation security Administration. Wednesday, July 19 at 10 a.m.

Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee

- Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee hearing on the nominations of Brooks Tucker to be assistant VA secretary for congressional and legislative affairs; James Byrne to VA general counsel; Michael Allen to be judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims; Amanda Meredith to be judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims; and Joseph Toth to be judge of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. Wednesday, July 19 at 1:30 p.m.

House Agriculture Committee

- Subcommittee on Nutrition hearing on SNAP in the Farm Bill. Tuesday, July 18 at 10 a.m.
- Full committee hearing on "The State of Infrastructure in Rural America." Wednesday, July 19 at 10 a.m.

House Appropriations Committee

- Full committee markup of Transportation-HUD Appropriations bill. Monday, July 17 at 7 p.m.
- Full committee markup of Homeland Security and Interior Appropriations. Tuesday, July 18 at 10:30 a.m.
- Full committee markup of the FY2018 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill; and the FY2018 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill**.** Wednesday, July 19 at 10 a.m.

House Education and the Workforce Committee

- Full committee hearing on state and local education reform. Tuesday, July 18 at 10 a.m. Witnesses include: Jacqueline Nowicki, GAO's K-12 Education Director; Dr. Gail Pletnick, superintendent of Dysart Unified School District; Phillip Lovell, Vice President of Policy Development and Government Relations at Alliance for Excellent Education; and Dr. Carey Wright, state superintendent of the Mississippi Department of Education

House Energy and Commerce Committee

- Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on 340B Drug Pricing Program. Tuesday, July 18 at 10:15 a.m.
- Health Subcommittee hearing on "Bipartisan Medicare Improvement." Thursday, July 20 at 10 a.m.

House Natural Resources Committee

- Oversight Hearing "Promoting Onshore Oil and Gas Development in Alaska." Tuesday, July 18, 2017 2:00 p.m.
- Full committee hearing on the Endangered Species Act Reform Legislation. Wednesday, July 19 at 10 a.m.

House Rules Committee

- Full committee business meeting on States Ozone Standards Implementation. Monday, July 17 at 5 p.m.
- Full committee business meeting to formulate a rule on various legislation, including H.R. 2910, a bill to provide for federal and state agency coordination in the approval of certain authorizations under the Natural Gas Act. Tuesday, July 18 at 3 p.m.

House Small Business Committee

- Agriculture, Energy and Trade Subcommittee hearing on "21st Century Medicine: How Telehealth Can Help Rural Communities." Thursday, July 20 at 10 a.m. Witnesses include: A. Nicole Clowers, managing director of the health care team at the Government Accountability Office, Barb Johnston, CEO and co-founder of HealthLinkNow, Sacramento, Calif., Michael Adcock, administrator at the University of Mississippi Medical Center Center for Telehealth and David Schmitz, president of the Natural Rural Health Association

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

- Highway and Transit Subcommittee hearing on FAST Act Implementation: Improving the Safety of the Nation’s Roads. Tuesday, July 18 at 10 a.m.
- Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee on "Building a 21st Century Infrastructure for America: Implementation of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 and the Water Resources Development Act of 2016." Wednesday, July 19 at noon.

House Ways and Means Committee

- Oversight Subcommittee hearing on "Combating Medicare Waste-Fraud Abuse." Wednesday, July 19 at 10 a.m.
- Tax Policy Subcommittee hearing on Tax Reform. Wednesday, July 19 at 2 p.m.

Michigan Newsmakers

Rep. John Moolenaar (MI-04)
The Detroit News—July 11th, 2017
House Spending Bill Funds Great Lakes Cleanup Program
House appropriations on Tuesday released their spending bill for environmental programs that fully funds the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative with $300 million for 2018.

Latest Developments

President Trump Nominates McIntyre to Head FERC

On Thursday President Trump nominated Kevin McIntyre to head the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for two terms expiring in June 2023. McIntyre is currently co-head of the law firm Jones Day's global energy practice. FERC is responsible for overseeing the nation's power grid, approving interstate projects and regulating bulk power distribution. McIntyre is the President's third FERC nominee, with Chatterjee and Powelson's nominations having cleared the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and awaiting a full Senate vote; and the nomination of Richard Glick expected soon. Currently, FERC has one commissioner and has been without a quorum since February. McIntyre's nomination hearing has not yet been scheduled.

Senators Introduce Bipartisan Carbon Capture Tax Credit Bill

Last week a group of bipartisan Senators led by Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND), Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) introduced S.1535, the Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage Act, which would extend and expand a tax credit encouraging the development and use of carbon capture, utilization, and storage technologies. The tax credit, known as Section 45Q, provides a tax credit for carbon dioxide sequestration or reuse in enhanced oil recovery projects. The program is capped when 75 million tons of qualified carbon dioxide have been captured and claimed. The bill would increase the value of the credit, expand eligible air capture projects, and extend the claiming period for the credit, among other purposes. The bill currently has 24 bipartisan cosponsors. There is currently no companion bill in the House. A previous version of the bill was introduced in the 114th Congress as S.3179, but did not advance out of committee. A summary of the bill is available here.

Senators McCain and Reed Release BRAC Amendment

Last week Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John McCain (R-AZ) and Ranking Member Jack Reed (D-RI) released legislative text that would authorize a new round of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC). In the summary released with the text, McCain and Reed state that the new round this legislation would authorize is a significant departure from the 2005 BRAC and includes a number of improvements designed to address issues and concerns associate with the 2005 BRAC. The Committee consulted a number of think tanks, federal departments, former BRAC commissioners and various stakeholder to ensure that legislation would incorporate and address lessons learned from previous BRAC rounds. The legislation was released shortly after the House rejected an amendment during floor consideration of its FY18 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) seeking to soften language on BRAC. Last month, a bipartisan group of think-tanks sent a letter to both the House and Senate Armed Services Committees urging them to support a new round of base closures in this year's NDAA. The letter stated that "BRAC has proven to be a fair and efficient process for making the difficult but necessary decisions

related to the configuration of our military's infrastructure. In the absence of a BRAC, defense communities are hurting." It is expected that McCain and Reed will offer their legislation as an amendment during floor consideration of the Senate FY18 NDAA.

House Passes FY18 National Defense Authorization Act

On Friday the House overwhelmingly passed the FY18 National Defense Authorization Act 344 to 81. The House considered over 200 amendments during floor debate over two days. The House adopted and amendment from Representative Aguilar (D-CA) requiring the Department of Defense (DoD) to create a talent management program for the recruiting, training and retaining a cyber workforce, an amendment from Representative Schneider (IL) requiring DoD medical providers who prescribe opioids for pain management to complete training requirements every three years, and a number of amendments related to the impacts of PFOS/PFOA at military installations. A full list of amendments considered on the floor can be found here.

USDA Seeks Public Comment on Regulatory Reform

In a notice published today in the Federal Register, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) called for public feedback on how the agency can provide better customer service and remove barriers to participation in agency programs. Specifically, USDA is seeking ideas on regulations, guidance documents, or other policy documents in need of reform. The request is in support of an executive order signed by President Trump in February, which requires agencies to set up a task force to review regulations that inhibit job creation or are outdated or ineffective. USDA will accept comments for the next year. To review the request and submit a comment, click here.

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