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From: Thorn Run Partners
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To: Emlyn Struthers
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THORN RUN PARTNERS

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

TRP Key Local Government Issues

May 18, 2026

Highlights of what's happened and what we anticipate

THIS WEEK IN CONGRESS

CALENDAR

Over the weekend, leaders of the House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee unveiled legislative text of their \$580 billion surface transportation reauthorization bill, with a markup expected this Thursday. The House is also set to vote on a bipartisan housing package out of the House Financial Services Committee (HFSC), as well as measures to increase certain veteran disability benefits ([H.R. 6047](#)), expand states' ability to use federal funds on youth foster programs ([H.R. 7432](#)), allow certain Veterans Affairs (VA) lodging facilities to be used by TRICARE beneficiaries ([H.R. 3726](#)), suspend the federal tax refund claim period during collection due process (CDP) proceedings ([H.R. 6506](#)), and review the application process for new depository institutions and credit unions ([H.R. 4544](#)), among [others](#).

Senate Republicans are expected to revise certain aspects of the of their upcoming reconciliation package as a result of recent rulings made by the Senate Parliamentarian deeming certain provisions, including [funding](#) for the White House ballroom, subject to the Byrd Rule, and requiring 60 votes for passage. Along with reconciliation efforts, the Senate will hold a final up-or-down vote on an "en bloc" nominations package covering 49 federal government appointments. This nominations package includes: (1) former Rep. Steve Pearce (R-NM) to be Director of the Bureau of Land Management; (2) Douglas Weaver and David LaCerte to be Members of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC); (3) Robert Harvey to

be a Federal Maritime Commissioner; and (4) Dan Edwards to be Assistant Secretary of Transportation. A full list of the nominations within this resolution can be found [here](#).

The House and Senate will both be out next week for the Memorial Day recess.

- Click [here](#) to view TRP's combined House & Senate 2026 calendar.

THIS WEEK IN APPROPRIATIONS

STATUS OF FY 2027 APPROPRIATIONS

Last week, the House passed the first of the FY 2027 Appropriations bills to make it to the House floor, the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies (MilCon-VA) spending bill [400-15]. House Appropriations Committee (HAC) is scheduled to continue making progress, with a full committee markup of the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies spending bill set for Wednesday and a subcommittee markup for both the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies bill and the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) bill set for Thursday.

Notably, the Senate Appropriations Committee (SAC) will reportedly begin marking up their versions of FY 2027 appropriations bills on June 4. TRP will be monitoring committee releases for the official markup schedule - as of now, reports indicate that they will begin with the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies (AG-FDA), Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS), and Legislative Branch .

- Click [here](#) to see TRP's breakdown of funding for key items of importance in FY 2027.
- Click [here](#) to view the schedule of House markups for the each of the 12 FY 2027 funding bills.
- Click [here](#) to see TRP's chart tracking the current status of each FY 2027 appropriations bill.
- Click [here](#) to see TRP's breakdown of key items of importance for local governments in the President's FY 2027 Budget Request.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

COMMITTEE RELEASES SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BILL TEXT

Last night, the House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) committee released the long-awaited text of the surface transportation reauthorization bill. The legislation, entitled the Building Unrivaled Infrastructure and Long-term Development for (BUILD) America's 250th Act ([text](#)), has a \$580 billion topline number. Of note, the bill would provide new funding to the Highway Trust Fund, implement an annual fee on electric and hybrid vehicles, and create a federal framework for autonomous vehicles. The topline spending levels include \$65 billion in funding for rail and other discretionary grant programs, including the Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highway Projects (INFRA) program. The T&I Committee is expected to mark up the bill on Thursday, with the Energy and Commerce title set to be marked up on Wednesday or Thursday. Upon completion of the markup and eventual floor consideration, leadership will look to pursue a bicameral agreement with the Senate ahead of the expiration of current surface transportation authorities on Sept. 30, 2026. If lawmakers cannot come to agreement by the deadline, Congress is likely to act on a short-term extension

of surface transportation programs with the goal of reaching an agreement before the end of the 119th Congress. TRP's initial analysis of the bill can be found [here](#).

CONGRESS CONTINUES TO WORK ON AVIATION SAFETY LEGISLATION

The House and Senate are continuing talks in an attempt to reach an agreement reconciling the House Airspace Location and Enhanced Risk Transparency (ALERT) Act ([H.R. 7613](#)) and the Senate Rotorcraft Operations Transparency and Oversight Reform (ROTOR) Act ([S.2503](#)). Negotiations are [reportedly](#) in the early stages.

THE STATUS OF HOUSING LEGISLATION

The House is set to vote on a bipartisan housing affordability [package](#) out of the House Financial Services Committee (HFSC) under suspension of the rules this week, amid calls from President Donald Trump to pass the Senate's version, the 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act ([text](#)). The revised House version includes a series of modifications to the Senate's language on institutional investing in the housing market, as well as a slate of a dozen community banking-focused provisions that have been a priority of Chair French Hill's (R-AR). Given that the effort could face some pushback from the right and left flanks of both parties, cooperation from rank-and-file lawmakers on both sides of the aisle will be needed to ensure the bill can pass under suspension. A strong bipartisan showing could ultimately prompt the president to weigh in favor of the new bill despite the administration's ongoing push to get the Senate's version to his desk as-is, though the administration continues to favor the Senate's approach.

THE STATUS OF THE FARM BILL

The House Farm, Food and National Security Act of 2026 ([H.R. 7567](#)) is expected to face challenges in the Senate this week. While Senators are eager to proceed with the farm bill, which will reauthorize major agriculture and rural development programs for the next five years, provisions related to the regulation of pesticides, the sale of E15 gas, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) are likely to be the subject of debate. Notably, Senate Democrats have highlighted modifications to SNAP changes made in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act ([ORRBA](#)) as a priority.

HOUSE AI LEGISLATION NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TOWARD STATE PREEMPTION

Reportedly, developing artificial (AI) legislation may preempt state laws meant to regulate AI developers. POLITICO has indicated that individuals familiar with discussions occurring between Reps. Jay Obernolte (R-CA) and Lori Trahan (D-MA) may be leading towards a plan that includes preemptions of state laws regulating AI developers. [Read more here](#).

EPA ANNOUNCES PFAS STRATEGY AND FUNDING

Today, the EPA [announced](#) a strategy to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The announcement includes nearly \$1 billion in new funding, two proposed rules open for public comment, and a broader effort to address PFAS contamination before it reaches drinking water sources.

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