

## Emlyn Struthers

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**From:** TRP Tip Sheet  
**Sent:** Friday, May 22, 2026 8:24 AM  
**To:** Emlyn Struthers  
**Subject:** Senate Postpones Reconciliation Votes As Congress Breaks for Memorial Day

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## The TRP Tip Sheet

May 22, 2026

*Editor's note: The TRP Tip Sheet will resume publication on Tuesday, May 26 following the Memorial Day holiday.*

### QUICK TAKES

- **SENATE POSTPONES RECONCILIATION VOTES AS CONGRESS BREAKS FOR MEMORIAL DAY.** Congress will return for a busy summer session the week of June 1.
- **TRP CONGRESSIONAL RETIREMENT TRACKER.** Click [here](#) to view TRP's retirement tracker.
- **SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BILL APPROVED BY HOUSE COMMITTEE.** House T&I advanced a long-awaited bill aimed at reauthorizing the nation's surface transportation programs.

### CAPITOL HILL UPDATE

- **SENATE POSTPONES RECONCILIATION VOTES AS CONGRESS BREAKS FOR MEMORIAL DAY.** Congress has departed for the Memorial Day state and district work period, and will return for legislative business the week of June 1. Republicans will look to pick up where they left off on the budget reconciliation bill for immigration enforcement after the GOP failed to come to an agreement on amendment votes to address funding for the White House ballroom, as well as a separate issue tied to legal compensation for those arrested in connection with the Jan. 6, 2021 Capitol riots. These disagreements ultimately forced the Senate GOP to delay the amendment "vote-a-rama" until after President Donald Trump's self-

imposed June 1 deadline for the reconciliation 2.0 bill. In addition to reconciliation, lawmakers will look to make headway on a slate of key priorities such as housing, appropriations, surface transportation funding, cryptocurrency, and more. Congress must also address the looming expiration of Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA), with floor action on another shorter-term extension expected ahead of the June 12 deadline.

## WHAT WE'RE TRACKING

### *NEW TODAY...*

— **NIH DIRECTOR TESTIFIES BEFORE SENATE APPROPS.** On May 21, the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies held a hearing to review the National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding requests laid out in President Trump's fiscal year (FY) 2027 budget request, featuring testimony from NIH Director Jay Bhattacharya and several institute directors. Click [here](#) to read TRP's hearing summary.

— **E&C APPROVES PUBLIC HEALTH LEGISLATION.** On May 21, the House Energy and Commerce (E&C) Committee convened a markup to consider a suite of legislation, including 14 bipartisan bills aimed at improving public health through reauthorizing various grant programs, as well as modifying Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations on nonclinical testing methods. Click [here](#) to read TRP's summary of the markup.

— **WAYS AND MEANS ADVANCES HEALTHCARE BILLS.** On May 21, the House Ways and Means Committee held a markup to consider eight healthcare bills across a range of issues, including physician reimbursement, pharmacy access, pandemic unemployment fraud, and more. Click [here](#) to read TRP's summary of the markup.

— **HFSC PANEL HOLDS HEARING ON BANK SECRECY ACT MODERNIZATION.** On May 21, the House Financial Services (HFSC) Subcommittee on National Security, Illicit Finance, and International Financial Institutions held a hearing on the Bank Secrecy Act (BSA), anti-money laundering (AML), and countering the financing of terrorism (CFT) frameworks. Click [here](#) to read TRP's hearing summary.

— **E&C HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE HOLDS HEARING ON PHYSICIAN PAY & MACRA.** On May 20, the House E&C Health Subcommittee held a hearing to examine the Medicare physician fee schedule (PFS), the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA), and additional opportunities for policy reform. Click [here](#) to read TRP's hearing summary.

### *RECENT DEVELOPMENTS...*

— **TRP RURAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION FUND STATE ROADMAP: KEY UPDATES.** To help clients navigate the One Big Beautiful Bill Act's (OBBBA) Rural Health Transformation Fund (RHTF), TRP provides a state-by-state "roadmap" that translates each application into a standardized profile of proposed initiatives, priority activity areas, use-of-funds categories, and (now) FY 2026 award amounts. TRP's [RHTF State Roadmap](#), recently updated with new details from 16 states, is designed to remain a live resource and will be updated as states finalize budgets, negotiate implementation details with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and begin issuing funding and procurement opportunities tied to RHTF initiatives.

— **HFSC ANNOUNCES JUNE HEARING SCHEDULE.** HFSC [announced](#) its June 2026 hearing schedule, featuring hearings on: (1) oversight of prudential regulators; (2) illicit money laundering and cartel financing; (3) local needs in disaster recover; (4) the future of investment, and more.

— **HFSC HOLDS SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON BANK-FINTECH PARTNERSHIPS.** On May 20, the HFSC Subcommittee on Digital Assets, Financial Technology, and Artificial Intelligence held a hearing to discuss how Congress and regulators can facilitate bank fintech partnerships while preserving consumer protections. Click [here](#) to read TRP's hearing summary.

— **SENATE COMMERCE EXAMINES SPORTS BETTING & PREDICTION MARKETS.** On May 20, the Senate Commerce Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Technology, and Data held a hearing on sports betting, prediction markets, and integrity. Click [here](#) to read TRP's hearing summary.

— **SELECT CHINA COMMITTEE DISCUSSES SCAM NETWORKS.** On May 19, the House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party held a hearing to discuss financial scam networks allegedly supported by the Chinese government and financed by allied southeast Asian countries. Click [here](#) to read TRP's hearing summary.

— **WH ISSUES ORDERS ON FINANCIAL SYSTEMS REGULATION.** The Trump administration issued an executive order ([text](#); [summary](#)) aimed at strengthening the U.S. financial system from illicit activity and fraud, including instructing regulators to propose changes to Bank Secrecy Act (BSA) regulations. Another order ([text](#); [summary](#)) would amend regulations to foster greater collaboration between financial technology (fintech) firms and federal agencies.

— **T&I RELEASES SURFACE TRANSPORTATION REAUTHORIZATION BILL.** This weekend, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee (T&I) released the Building Unrivaled Infrastructure and Long-term Development (BUILD) for America's 250th Act, a package aimed at reauthorizing federal surface transportation programs through FY 2031. Click [here](#) to read TRP's summary.

— **EPA ANNOUNCES UPDATED PFAS STRATEGY.** The Environmental Protection Agency (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. Click [here](#) to read TRP's summary of the announcement.

## WHAT WE'RE READING

### **[Roll Call: Surface transportation bill approved by House committee](#)**

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee advanced its sweeping five-year transportation reauthorization bill early Friday morning after adding on a White House-backed rail safety provision — a twist that could complicate the bill's support on the floor. The vote to approve the measure was 62-2, overwhelmingly giving panel Chairman Sam Graves, R-Mo., and ranking member Rick Larsen, D-Wash., the bipartisan package they had intended. The committee considered roughly 160 amendments during a markup that lasted more than 15 hours. Reps. Scott Perry, R-Pa., and Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., voted against the bill. The bill would authorize roughly \$580 billion for highway and rail programs through fiscal

2031 and would supplement Highway Trust Fund cash with a new annual registration fee for owners of electric vehicles and plug-in hybrids.

### **E&E News: Committee approves highway bill after sparring over EV fees, climate repeals (\$)**

Graves and Larsen touted the bill's proposed funding increases for bridge construction and repairs, as well as the new fees on lower-emission vehicles — the first new revenue for the Highway Trust Fund since the early 1990s. Members lauded proposed boosts for highways and transit, as well as provisions that would ease environmental reviews for certain infrastructure projects, update a wildlife crossing program and study fire risks associated with lithium-ion batteries. ...Democrats went after provisions in the bill that repeal environmental programs first authorized under the previous infrastructure law or the Inflation Reduction Act. They include the Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant, Carbon Reduction, Reduction of Truck Emissions at Port Facilities, and Healthy Streets programs. Republicans opposed the efforts to reinstate those programs, either describing them as wasteful or simply stating that there are "limited resources."

### **E&E News: Wright meets with Republicans on permitting — but deal remains elusive as ever**

Energy Secretary Chris Wright on Tuesday had dinner with a group of Republican lawmakers to discuss changes to the nation's permitting laws. That followed a dinner Monday between top Senate committee leaders engaged in negotiations toward a bipartisan overhaul. But despite signs of momentum and a goal among senators of reaching a deal by summer, permitting reform — for the moment — remains something that enjoys wide support and never a clear path to enactment. That's because for all the common ground in both parties around encouraging more energy production and accelerating projects of all types, permitting also touches on thorny issues for congressional Republicans, Democrats and this White House. Many Democrats are open to negotiating changes to bedrock environmental laws like the National Environmental Policy Act but their allies in the environmental community are wary of giving away too much. Republicans are skeptical of taking authority away from states over power lines. And President Donald Trump has been on a crusade against renewable energy, particularly wind.

### **E&E News: Trump punts climate rule in hopes of lowering food prices**

The president and his EPA chief on Thursday postponed requirements that grocery stores and frozen foods companies buy more climate-friendly refrigeration systems beginning this year — claiming the move would cut consumer food prices. Speaking from the Oval Office flanked by grocery industry executives, President Donald Trump asserted that pausing the Biden-era rule that supermarkets buy new refrigeration systems that don't contain climate superpollutants would produce savings that would be passed along to consumers. The 2023 "technology transfer" rule, Trump said, would have "forced companies to adopt specific high-cost refrigerants, massively driving up the price of transporting and storing refrigerants and various goods." He blamed the rule for driving grocery stores out of business and promised EPA's delay would save consumers and businesses \$2.4 billion.

### **The Atlantic: Homeland Security's Plan to Squeeze International Flights (\$)**

In early April, shortly after Markwayne Mullin took over the Department of Homeland Security, he floated an idea on Fox News that wasn't taken seriously...Mullin threatened to cut federal screening of international passengers and cargo at airports in cities with "sanctuary" policies, which limit cooperation with Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Such a move

would trigger flight cancellations to airports in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, and other major cities and force airlines to reroute to other destinations. ... The new secretary is pushing forward anyway. Last Wednesday, Mullin convened a small group of airline and travel-industry executives at DHS headquarters in Washington and told them he may reduce Customs and Border Protection staffing at major airports that serve sanctuary jurisdictions. ... Mullin did not indicate when DHS would begin the pullback, but it would likely occur sometime after the United States finishes hosting the World Cup in July, the two people told me.

### **E&E News: Court overturns landmark fluoride ruling, sides with EPA**

A federal appellate court on Thursday vacated a landmark ruling that ordered EPA to address the health risks of fluoride in drinking water, handing the agency a win in a seven-year legal fight with impacts on federal policy and White House politics. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals found a district court judge had “commandeered” the case and abused his discretion by postponing judgment and demanding new evidence and a second bench trial. The unsigned memorandum disposition, issued Thursday, sent the case back to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California to rule again — this time based only on the first trial’s record. Thursday’s ruling follows a contentious 2024 decision by Senior Judge Edward Chen in the district court, where he proffered a lengthy analysis that found fluoride in drinking water at the federally recommended level poses “an unreasonable risk of reduced IQ in children.” That determination triggered a federal rulemaking process under the Toxic Substances Control Act.

### **E&E News: FERC proposes faster permitting for gas pipeline projects (\$)**

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on Thursday proposed a revamp of a decades-old blanket certificate program for natural gas projects — framing it as beneficial for building more pipeline infrastructure amid rising energy demand. ...FERC’s blanket certificate program — which provides a path for natural gas companies to carry out certain routine activities without the need to get a case-specific permit — was last majorly updated 20 years ago and includes cost limits that FERC leaders say haven’t kept up with the pace of inflation. ... On a 5-0 vote, the commission Thursday introduced a notice of proposed rulemaking for the program that would roughly double its cost caps for types of blanket certificate projects.

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