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The TRP Tip Sheet

September 17, 2025

Featuring a daily Capitol Hill update, news clips from our Washington insiders, and links to our trove of federal policy resources.

QUICK TAKES

- **HOUSE GOP FILES SEVEN-WEEK CR.** The CR does not include an extension of the ACA premium subsidies, setting up a showdown with Democrats.
- **THE LATEST ON THE SENATE NOMINATIONS PUSH.** Click [here](#) to view the 48 nominees set to be confirmed this week.
- **USTR REQUESTS PUBLIC FEEDBACK ON USMCA.** President Trump's signature trade deal from his first term will go under joint review next year.
- **FTC SUBMITS LIST OF 'ANTICOMPETITIVE' REGS FOR DELETION OR REVISION.** Click [here](#) to read the FTC Chair's letter to OMB.
- **TRP CONGRESSIONAL RETIREMENT TRACKER.** Click [here](#) to view TRP's retirement tracker.
- **CRUZ SAYS AI MORATORIUM WILL RETURN.** The idea of a 10-year moratorium on state and local artificial intelligence laws remains alive, according to Senator Cruz.

CAPITOL HILL UPDATE

— **HOUSE GOP FILES SEVEN-WEEK CR.** House GOP leadership filed bill text for a seven-week continuing resolution ([CR](#)) to keep the government funded until mid-November. This CR is void of Democratic health policy priorities, namely an extension of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) premium tax credits set to expire at year's end. Republicans have framed these subsidies as an end-of-year issue, while congressional proponents of the ACA premium extension have argued that this policy must be addressed ahead of November to provide certainty for marketplace premiums. While the chamber was originally expected to adhere to the "72-hour rule" and vote Friday, House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) has indicated his openness to moving on the bill as soon as tomorrow. If passed, Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD) intends to move the stopgap once it is transmitted from the House to the Senate. Accordingly, weekend votes are possible ahead of the September 30 deadline if floor action stalls.

— **THE LATEST ON THE SENATE NOMINATIONS PUSH.** Leader Thune is in the process of changing the Senate's rules to try and clear the backlog of pending Trump administration nominees. With more than 140 nominees still awaiting confirmation, the Senate Republican this change will allow for dozens of appointees to be confirmed by an "en bloc" vote — a plan that's largely modeled after one offered by Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) in the 118th Congress. Currently pending in the Senate is a resolution that would confirm 48 pending nominees to their respective posts. A full list of nominees within this first tranche can be viewed [here](#).

WHAT WE'RE TRACKING

NEW TODAY...

— **USTR REQUESTS PUBLIC FEEDBACK ON USMCA.** The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) [issued](#) a request for public feedback in advance of a joint review of the United States, Mexico and Canada Agreement (USMCA) on July 1, 2026. USTR is specifically seeking feedback on:

- Any aspect of the operation or implementation of the USMCA;
- Any issues of compliance with the Agreement;
- Recommendations for specific actions that USTR should propose ahead of the Joint Review;
- Factors affecting the investment climate in North America and in the territories of each Party, as well as the effectiveness of the USMCA in promoting investment that strengthens U.S. competitiveness, productivity, and technological leadership; and
- Strategies for strengthening North American economic security and competitiveness, including collaborative work under the Competitiveness Committee, and cooperation on issues related to non-market policies and practices of other countries.

— **FTC SUBMITS LIST OF 'ANTICOMPETITIVE' REGS FOR DELETION OR REVISION.**

Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Chair Andrew Ferguson [announced](#) that, pursuant to the Trump administration's executive order ([EO](#)) on Reducing Anticompetitive Regulatory Barriers, the FTC has submitted more than 125 recommendations for deleting or revising regulations across the entire federal government to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). While the full list of recommendations has yet to be published on the [FTC website](#), FTC provided the following examples from the list:

- Department of Transportation rules that give preference to businesses owned by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals when awarding transportation project contracts.
- Department of Education rules that allow colleges and universities to bundle the cost of textbooks and supplies into annual tuition charges.

- Consumer Product Safety Commission proposals that would require table saws to include patented finger-detection technology.
- A Forest Service handbook that sets eligibility requirements affecting the ability of younger ranchers to participate.

— **E&C TO MARK UP KEY HEALTH BILLS.** The House Energy and Commerce Committee (E&C) will meet today at 10:00 AM to mark up seven bipartisan bills that would reauthorize key programs set to expire at the end of fiscal year (FY) 2025. Click [here](#) to read TRP's summary of last week's subcommittee markup.

— **WAYS AND MEANS TO MARK UP NINE BILLS.** The House Ways and Means Committee will meet today at 10:00 AM to [mark up](#) nine bills pertaining to health care, Social Security, and accountability at the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

— **T&I TO MARK UP 'PIPES' ACT.** The House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee will meet today at 10:00 AM to mark up the Promoting Innovation in Pipeline Efficiency and Safety (PIPES) Act of 2025 — [legislation](#) that would reauthorize the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's (PHMSA's) pipeline safety programs for the next four years.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS...

— **TRP SPECIAL REPORT: END-OF-2025 HEALTH POLICY OUTLOOK.** This TRP [special report](#) provides an extensive overview of Congress' key health care priorities through the end of the year.

— **TRP FINANCIAL SERVICES REPORT: FALL 2025 LEGISLATIVE OUTLOOK.** This TRP [special report](#) provides an overview of key financial services policies through the end of the year.

— **CMS LAUNCHES RURAL HEALTH FUND.** The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) [announced](#) details on how states can apply to receive funding from the \$50 billion Rural Health Transformation Program created under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

- The \$50 billion program funding will be allocated to approved states over five years, with \$10 billion available each year beginning in FY 2026. Half of the funding will be evenly distributed to all states with an approved application.
- The deadline for states to apply is November 5, 2025. CMS notes that there is only one opportunity to apply for funding and one application period for this program. CMS will announce awardees by December 31, 2025.
- Additional details on the Rural Health Transformation Program and its accompanying notice of funding opportunities (NOFO) can be found [here](#).

— **SENATE BANKING HOLDS HEARING ON DEPOSIT INSURANCE.** On Sept. 10, the Senate Banking Committee held a hearing to examine a proposal to raise the deposit insurance threshold at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). Click [here](#) to read TRP's hearing summary.

— **HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES PANEL HOLDS HEARING ON ENERGY 'DOMINANCE.'** On Sept. 10, the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing to discuss the economic potential of U.S. energy "dominance." Click [here](#) to read TRP's hearing summary.

— **CRUZ UNVEILS LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH 'AI SANDBOXES.'** Senate Commerce Committee Chair Ted Cruz (R-TX) [introduced](#) legislation that would, among other things, establish a regulatory "sandbox" for artificial intelligence (AI) through the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP).

— **SENATE COMMERCE PANEL EXAMINES TRUMP AI ACTION PLAN.** On Sept. 10, the Senate Commerce Subcommittee on Science, Manufacturing, and Competitiveness held a hearing on the Trump administration's AI Action Plan. Click [here](#) to read TRP's hearing summary.

WHAT WE'RE READING

POLITICO: 'Not at all dead': Cruz says AI moratorium will return

Senate Commerce Chair Ted Cruz (R-Texas) insisted Tuesday the idea of a 10-year moratorium on state and local artificial intelligence laws remains alive — despite a Republican argument that knocked it out of the summer's budget bill. Cruz said the controversial proposal made it further than conventional wisdom in Washington suggested it could, ultimately passing scrutiny with the Senate's rules referee thanks to the "very creative" work of his staff.

The Hill: GOP rebels extract tariff concession from House leaders

GOP leaders agreed to shave two months off the length of a prohibition on votes that could end President Trump's tariffs, and agreed to create an informal tariff working group, according to two members who negotiated the deal. That deal was stuck in a dramatic scene on the House floor as six GOP members voted against a procedural rule. Rules tee up the terms for considering major legislation and are traditionally uniformly opposed by the minority and approved by the majority, but Republican factions have increasingly derailed them in order to exert leverage in recent years. On Tuesday, GOP Reps. Don Bacon (Neb.) Jay Obernolte (Calif.), Kevin Kiley (Calif.), Tom McClintock (Calif.) Thomas Massie (Ky.), and Victoria Spartz (Ind.) joined with all Democrats in initially voting against the rule. In the razor-slim GOP majority, that would have caused the vote to fail and scrambled GOP leaders' plans for the week.

Bloomberg: Public Land Sale Proposal 'Won't Happen,' Says GOP Appropriator (\$)

Idaho Republican Rep. Mike Simpson on Monday warned that any legislative effort to sell off millions of acres of public lands would fail. "It won't happen, I can tell you that," Simpson said of potential moves by Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairman Mike Lee (R-Utah) to reintroduce language to sell large swaths of public lands in the western US to create more housing on federally-owned tracts. Lee pushed hard to include his proposal to sell off roughly a million acres of public lands in the GOP tax-and-spending law Congress passed in July. But Lee ended up nixing his proposal after listening to the concerns of constituents. A coalition of outdoor recreation businesses, hunters, anglers, and public land advocates had lobbied hard against the language, saying it would significantly limit access to public lands across the West.

States Newsroom: GAO: Trump violated law for sixth time in withholding FEMA funds

The Government Accountability Office released a report Monday concluding the Federal Emergency Management Agency violated the law "when it withheld or delayed the obligation of" funding Congress approved for the Emergency Food and Shelter Program and the Shelter and Services Program. The finding is the sixth time this year the GAO has determined the Trump administration violated the Impoundment Control Act, which lays out a legal process for the president to request Congress cancel previously approved spending.

Bloomberg: EPA Ending Greenhouse Gas Reporting Blinds Companies, Agencies (\$)

The Environmental Protection Agency plans to nix a program requiring large emitters to report their greenhouse gas output, which attorneys and clean air advocates see as a leap backwards in US climate efforts and a potential disadvantage for companies. The decades-old

Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program mandates emissions reporting from more than 40 categories of industry, and it's at risk of elimination in the EPA's Sept. 12 proposal that touts \$2.4 billion in industry savings. The EPA says there's no requirement under the Clean Air Act's Section 114 to collect such information from businesses and the ongoing data collection isn't useful to "fulfill any of the agency's statutory obligations."

Reuters: Trump appointing board to mediate New York rail labor dispute

President Donald Trump on Tuesday signed an executive order to appoint an emergency board to conduct mediation to avert a work stoppage at the Long Island Rail Road, which serves nearly 300,000 passengers daily. Union leaders said the appointment of a White House board would trigger a 120-day period during which the board would make a recommendation, and no work stoppage could occur in that time. If no deal is reached, the White House could then name a second board with a cooling-off period until May 2026.

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