

Emlyn Struthers

From: TRP Tip Sheet
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To: Emlyn Struthers
Subject: Senators Dig In on Stalled Appropriations Process

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The TRP Tip Sheet

June 17, 2026

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

QUICK TAKES

- **SENATORS DIG IN ON STALLED APPROPRIATIONS TALKS.** Disagreements over the President's \$1.5T defense request have gridlocked the Senate Appropriations Committee.
- **CONGRESS REACHES BIPARTISAN, BICAMERAL HOUSING DEAL.** The 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act will pass the Senate and could reach the president's desk as soon as next week thanks to a bicameral agreement.
- **TRUMP URGES INTEL COMMITTEE TO DELAY DNI CONFIRMATION HEARING.** However, the GOP Committee Chair [said](#) the hearing will occur as scheduled.
- **TRP CONGRESSIONAL RETIREMENT TRACKER.** Click [here](#) to view TRP's retirement tracker.
- **SENATE ARMED SERVICES RELEASES NDAA WITH WIND PERMITTING PROVISION.** The Senate Armed Services Committee's version of the bill includes text aimed at preventing the Pentagon from delaying wind projects.

CAPITOL HILL UPDATE

— **SENATORS DIG IN ON STALLED APPROPRIATIONS TALKS.** Republicans and Democrats in the Senate are entrenched in partisan disagreements over the fiscal year (FY) 2027 government funding process after both sides traded accusations of un-cooperation. Appropriations Committee Chair Susan Collins (R-ME) and Vice Chair Patty Murray (D-WA) have continued to trade offers over how to split discretionary funding between defense and nondefense priorities, but the talks have been complicated by President Trump's push for a \$1.5 trillion defense budget. Democrats have strongly opposed the request, arguing it would tilt spending too heavily toward the Pentagon without comparable increases for domestic programs, whereas Senate Republicans have stated that Democrats have refused to engage in "regular order" appropriations. Congress has until Sept. 30, 2026 to fund the federal government, and it is looking increasingly likely that a funding extension will be needed to avoid a shutdown.

— **CONGRESS REACHES BIPARTISAN, BICAMERAL HOUSING DEAL.** Congress is on the cusp of finally sending a bipartisan package of housing bills to the president's desk after House and Senate lawmakers announced a bicameral agreement on the revised version of the 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act ([H.R. 6644](#)). The final agreement came to fruition yesterday after House Financial Services Committee Chair French Hill (R-AR) agreed to a reauthorization of the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program with a three-year sunset clause. That, coupled with a slate of community banking proposals, ultimately pushed the deal over the finish line. The Senate is expected to pass the 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act prior to the end of this week, sending the bill back to the House for one more vote before it can reach the president's desk.

— **TRUMP URGES INTEL COMMITTEE TO DELAY DNI CONFIRMATION HEARING.** President Donald Trump pushed the Senate Intelligence Committee to delay the nomination of former Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Chair Jay Clayton to serve as Director of National Intelligence (DNI), complicating Congress' effort to reauthorize a key foreign surveillance authority. The president announced in an early morning social media post that the Senate Intelligence Committee should postpone Mr. Clayton's hearing and that the Senate GOP should instead prioritize confirmation of Clayton's replacement as U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York, a post that he wants to fill with personal attorney James McDonald. Mr. Clayton is scheduled to appear before the committee today as senators work to move quickly on his nomination amid the broader push to renew Section 702 surveillance authorities covered under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA). Of note, Intelligence Committee Chair Tom Cotton (R-AR) [said](#) the hearing will proceed as scheduled "unless the president directs him not to appear or withdraws his nomination."

- **Context.** The president's decision last week to nominate the former SEC chair initially helped ease partisan tensions surrounding the appointment of Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) Director Bill Pulte as acting DNI. Democrats have insisted they will not support a 702 reauthorization with Mr. Pulte holding the top intelligence post, and this last minute shakeup adds another layer of uncertainty to what has been a difficult reauthorization effort to date.

WHAT WE'RE TRACKING

NEW TODAY...

— **FEMA POSTS FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.** The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) [announced](#) \$420 million in grant funding through two grant programs focused on bolstering emergency management operations.

— **CEQ SOLICITING ATTENDEES FOR PERMITTING TECHNOLOGY EXPO.** The White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), in collaboration with NASA’s Center of Excellence for Collaborative Innovation, [announced](#) that the attendee interest form for the Permitting Innovators Expo is now open.

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 19 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.

— **TRP MIDTERM ELECTION REPORT: JUNE 2026 UPDATE.** TRP’s second special report on the 2026 midterm elections includes slides that cover: (1) statistical context for recent midterm elections; (2) 2026 midterm election electorate issues; (3) the 2026 primary calendar for all 50 states; (4) context on mid-decade redistricting; (5) retirements in the House & Senate, including a look at who’s coming off of key committees in the House; (6) 2026 House and Senate ratings via the Cook Political Report; and more. Click [here](#) to view the special report.

— **WYDEN LEADS RFI ON NEW DRUG PRICING POLICIES.** Senate Finance Committee Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-OR) issued a request for information ([RFI](#)) seeking input on proposals that seek to lower drug costs.

— **NEW FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) [announced](#) a \$125 million funding opportunity through the Research Facilities Act program to support agricultural research infrastructure investments.

— **TRP MEMO: GREAT AMERICAN AI ACT OVERVIEW.** TRP has published a new policy memo detailing provisions included within Rep. Jay Obernolte (R-CA) and Lori Trahan’s (D-MA) draft Great American Artificial Intelligence Act. Click [here](#) to read the memo.

— **WH ISSUES ORDER ON NATIONAL SECURITY GOVERNANCE.** The Trump administration issued a national security [memorandum](#) ([fact sheet](#)) amending the structure and governance of the U.S. National Security System (NSS) and directing the organization to establish baseline cybersecurity requirements.

— **SENATE BANKING HOLDS HEARING ON AI.** On June 11, the Senate Banking Committee held a hearing to discuss the economic effects of artificial intelligence (AI) and its supply chain. Click [here](#) to read TRP’s hearing summary.

WHAT WE'RE READING

[E&E News: Senate releases NDAA with permitting amendment \(\\$\)](#)

The Senate Armed Services Committee released its defense authorization for fiscal 2027 on Tuesday with a provision to curb the Pentagon’s delay in processing wind project permits.

The panel approved its National Defense Authorization Act behind closed doors last week — including an amendment on Pentagon reviews of energy projects — but had yet to release the text. Passage of the amendment from Sen. Angus King, a Maine independent who caucuses with Democrats, shows bipartisan support for checking the Trump administration move to stymie renewable energy.

E&E News: Disaster program authorization back in housing bill (\$)

House and Senate lawmakers on Tuesday announced a deal on housing affordability legislation with new language to extend the life of a critical federal disaster recovery program. An early iteration of the “21st Century ROAD to Housing Act” included a long-term extension of the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery program. But the latest House-passed version didn't have that language, with members on both sides of the aisle concerned about the program's effectiveness. On Tuesday, the House Financial Services Committee and the Senate Banking Committee finalized a compromise housing package with a shorter authorization. An initial procedural roll call in the Senate secured a bipartisan 87-8 vote. ... Both the House and Senate have already easily passed versions of the bill. It's also a priority for President Donald Trump. The compromise language almost guarantees it will soon become law. The new deal — like earlier versions of the legislation — includes provisions meant to accelerate and ease permitting for certain home construction.

Roll Call: ‘Time’s a-ticking’ on highway bill, senators acknowledge

With just over three months left to act, two key senators say movement on reauthorizing the nation’s surface transportation programs remains slow in their chamber, where four committees still have to weigh in. In the House, a bill that was marked up last month by three committees still requires input from Ways and Means before it reaches the floor. The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee approved the bulk of the five-year reauthorization bill with a strong bipartisan vote, 62-2, although a rail safety amendment attached during the markup may become a point of contention further down the road. One of the Senate committees with jurisdiction over the bill is Environment and Public Works, and Chairman Shelley Moore Capito, R-W.Va., and ranking member Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., in separate interviews Tuesday pointed to the multi-panel jurisdiction as a reason it is taking longer to write the Senate’s version.

POLITICO: How the FAA is using AI to prevent close calls on runways (\$)

Federal aviation officials are hoping to sharply reduce close calls on airport runways by using artificial intelligence — an effort that comes after a deadly runway crash in New York this year refocused attention on such incidents. The Federal Aviation Administration has partnered with technology company Palantir, which has developed a new AI tool that the agency is already deploying to distill a firehose of data and predict potential problems with takeoffs and landings. That work has accelerated in the past five months with funding from last year’s GOP-led megalaw, according to a high-ranking FAA official who works in the aviation safety management office. The official said the AI tool, known as Foundry, is pulling together information that had previously been scattered across the federal government and other sources. It is unclear how much money from the law is going toward the effort; FAA did not provide a dollar amount when asked.

Bloomberg: Senate Panel Seeks to Limit Pentagon Equity Stakes in Firms (\$)

The Pentagon’s Office of Strategic Capital would have a dedicated account for making equity investments under the annual \$1.15 trillion defense authorization measure filed Tuesday by the Senate Armed Services Committee. The bill would authorize an initial \$250 million in

fiscal 2027 for the new OSC account, which congressional appropriators would still have to approve. The director could only use money in the fund to finance critical minerals, materials, chemicals and batteries, according to the text of the authorization measure. The top Senate panel's decision on the government taking equity stakes in companies underscores that lawmakers from both parties are increasingly uncomfortable with the Trump administration's direct interventions in the private sector. The administration has justified those interventions as necessary to reshape the US military-industrial complex in a race to dominate production of munitions, rare-earth minerals, and AI, and to secure what it considers fragile supply chains in bottle-necked areas such as rocket motors and semiconductors.

POLITICO: Meta drops opposition to kids online safety bill if it overwrites state AI laws

A children's online safety bill at the center of the White House's push to preempt state regulations on artificial intelligence has an unlikely new ally: Meta. Meta helped kill the Kids Online Safety Act two years ago after reaching out to Speaker Mike Johnson to raise free speech concerns with the bill, drawing the ire of co-sponsor Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.). But the company has dropped its opposition because it's packaged with language preempting state artificial intelligence laws and a bill that would require app store platforms such as Google and Apple to verify users' ages, according to three sources familiar with the dynamics, granted anonymity to discuss private matters. ... Combining kids' online safety regulations with state preemption of AI regulations is seen as a compromise between tech industry groups that view a patchwork of state laws as unworkable and lawmakers who want regulations to protect children online. KOSA would require tech companies to implement safeguards for children online, such as limiting harmful design features and opting out of recommended content.

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