



July 2, 2020



THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON:

Happy Independence Day

You did it! You've made it! As of July 1, we are halfway through the year 2020, the year that keeps on giving. While we can't predict the rest of the year in the wider world, Capitol Hill is continuing on according to its previously ascribed schedule.

As the Senate moves into its two-week recess this week, expectations are growing for a Coronavirus relief package to be passed at the end of the month before both chambers depart for August recess. All signs point to yet another tortured round of negotiations with significant disagreements on what level of funding is required and for what purposes. For its part, NEMA [joined a letter](#) this week sent to the Senate by more than 170 organizations calling for additional federal aid to state and local governments to provide for a quicker economic recovery and continued pandemic response.

In the meantime, the House will continue its committee work this month. This week was the annual National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) week, where the Ways and Means Committee conducts marathon debates over the landmark annual legislation. With issues including nuclear policy, it frequently is the subject of hot debate, but this year's expected inclusion of language requiring the Pentagon to rename bases named after Confederate officials may delay its full passage into law until after the election. Other committee work this month includes the House Homeland Security Committee and a markup of FEMA appropriations for the coming year.

With that, we wish you a happy Fourth of July weekend and hope that you are able to relax and celebrate.

More News from the Nation's Capital...

Selection of Recently Released Federal COVID-19 Resources

Understanding that it is a challenge to quickly review all the available grant programs for COVID-19, we are creating and updating a list of links for information on programs from FEMA, HHS, CDC, HUD, and others. While it is not comprehensive, it can be quickly consulted for resources on topics that have recently been of interest across the federal interagency including the recently released FEMA Public Assistance cost-share clarification.

This is updated weekly.

[Read More](#)

House Passes Massive Infrastructure Bill

The bill, a monster piece of legislation, looks to invest more than \$1.5 trillion in roads, bridges, transit, rail, ports and harbors, schools, housing, broadband, drinking and wastewater systems, postal service, clean energy sector, health care infrastructure, and much more. Significant additional movement before Election Day is not currently expected.

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House Committee Releases Congressional Action Plan on Climate Crisis

The plan outlines plans for a clean energy economy and a healthy and resilient nation, with a significant focus on integrating emergency management and climate risk adaptation work.

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DHS OIG: DHS has Limited Capabilities to Counter Illicit Unmanned Aircraft Systems

The OIG report found that DHS has not been able to follow the directive of a previous DHS Secretary to provide a uniform approach to expanding the agency's C-UAS capability.

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New Report Shows Significantly More Properties at Risk for Flood Losses than Previously Known

The report, by First Street Foundation, identified 14.6 million properties as having substantial risk for flood loss. The current number identified by FEMA is 8.7 million.

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Other News from DC and Around the Country:

Politico: [Testing Czar Says Coronavirus Surge is Straining Testing Capacity](#)

E&E News: [Disaster Loans Foster Disparities in Black Communities](#)

Concord Monitor: [Nursing Homes Receive Loads of Defective Equipment from FEMA](#)

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