



April 8, 2022



## THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON:

### New Justice on the Block

Another COVID-19 package was in the works this week, as a bipartisan group of senators appeared close to agreement on a \$10 billion supplemental package for treatments, vaccines, and other HHS initiatives. The bill came to a standstill, however, when a cloture vote failed. This price tag is less than the reported ask of the Administration, which was \$22 billion.

Some major EM bills passed this week as well. The House passed the SPEED Act ([H.R. 5641](#)), which would increase the small projects threshold to \$1 million – a major priority of NEMA and a measure we have supported wholeheartedly! Additionally, The Resilient AMERICA ([H.R. 5689](#)), which expands pre-disaster hazard mitigation to eligibility and increases grant amounts by 9%, passed the House this week as well. NEMA was pleased to see one of the association's recommended changes to the measure be incorporated into the passed legislation.

A 53-47 vote in the Senate on Thursday saw the confirmation of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson, who is now in line to replace Justice Breyer this summer at the end of the Supreme Court's session.

Thank you to all who attended and participated in our NEMA 2022 Mid-Year Leadership and Policy Forum! The discussions held and actions taken at the Forum are a testament to how partnership and coordination can advance the profession and our nation's resilience.

#### Hearings the Week of April 11, 2022

No relevant hearings.

#### More News from the Nation's Capital...

#### FEMA Accepting Nominations for Emergency Management Exchange Program

FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell announced the agency is accepting nominations for a new emergency manager exchange program. The staff exchange program will allow state, local, tribal and territorial government officials to work with FEMA leadership to develop and implement emergency management policies and programs. Program participants will work alongside FEMA leadership and staff from FEMA's Office of Response and Recovery or Resilience. These stakeholders will contribute to federal emergency management and see the impact of their contributions from a different governmental perspective.

There will be a total of four participants selected for this six-month assignment to FEMA from July through December 2022. A future session is planned from January to June 2023. Nominations are due by May 6. To submit a nomination, email [FEMA-EMX-Nominations@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-EMX-Nominations@fema.dhs.gov).

#### DHS Actions Urgently Needed to Better Protect the Nation's Critical Infrastructure

On Wednesday, GAO released a report on the current status of our Nation's critical infrastructure security and how secure it is. GAO finds that to improve critical infrastructure security, key actions Department of Homeland Security (DHS) needs to take include (1) strengthening the federal role in protecting the cybersecurity of critical infrastructure and (2) improving priority setting efforts. DHS generally agrees with these recommendations and has implemented or described planned actions to address these recommendations.

The full report can be found [here](#), and a summary of the highlights [here](#).

#### FEMA Release Federal Register Notice on Changes to Flood Hazard Determinations

On Wednesday, FEMA published a notice in the Federal Register with changes to specific county flood hazard determinations. The notice provides a table with new or modified Base (1-percent annual chance) Flood Elevations (BFEs), base flood depths, Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) boundaries or zone designations, and/or flood hazard determinations as shown on the indicated Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) for each of the communities listed in the table. New or modified Base (1-percent annual chance) Flood Elevations (BFEs), base flood depths, Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) boundaries or zone designations, and/or regulatory floodways (hereinafter referred to as flood hazard determinations) as shown on the indicated Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) for each of the communities listed

The full notice can be viewed [here](#).

#### HEERF Grantee Extension

On Monday, the Office of Postsecondary Education in the Department of Education published a notice in Federal Register relating to Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) grants. The notice specifically announced the automatic extension of HEERF grantees' performance period. The performance period for all open HEERF grants with a balance greater than \$1,000 is extended through June 30, 2023. HEERF received over \$40 billion in funding between the CARES Act and ARPA.

The full notice can be found [here](#).

#### Other News from DC and Around the Country:

Scientific American: [Most States Are Failing on Building Codes, FEMA Says](#)  
News Day (Opinion): [Turning Disaster Into An Opportunity For Change Critical](#)  
Dept. of State: [Establishment of the Bureau of Cyberspace and Digital Policy](#)

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