



July 23, 2021



THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON:

Magic 8-Ball

When you were a kid did you have a Magic 8-Ball? The kind that when you shook it with a question in mind, it would tell you, “outlook unclear” or “ask again later”? More often than not in DC, we know the broad outlines – will we see a series of Continuing Resolutions? “as I see it yes” Will Appropriations legislation for DHS go through smoothly? “don’t count on it”, but questions often lie in the timelines. What we do know this week is that House leadership is NOT expected to bring the DHS and DoD Appropriations bills to the floor this summer. They’re controversial on both sides of the aisle and could fail to pass.

In fact, Politico Pro reported that House leadership privately warned Democrats this week that voting against spending bills this year will effectively cede power to Senate Republicans in negotiations over funding the government for fiscal 2022. “very likely”. This means Democrats will look to close ranks and coalesce further around funding decisions before bringing such legislation to the floor. As it currently stands, our Magic 8-Ball is calling this week’s Appropriations news, “outlook hazy”.

Hearings the Week of July 26, 2021

[Resources and Authorities Needed to Protect and Secure the Homeland](#)

Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs
Tuesday, July 27, 10:00am ET

[Pipeline Security: Protecting Critical Infrastructure](#)

Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation
Tuesday, July 27, 10:00am ET

[Assessing the Federal Government's COVID-19 Relief and Response Efforts and its Impact](#)

House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
Thursday, July 29, 11:00am ET

More News from the Nation's Capital...

U.S. DOC-EDA \$3 Billion in Funding for Community Economic Development

The Economic Development Administration at the U.S. Department of Commerce announced \$3 billion in funding from the American Rescue Plan to assist communities nationwide in building back better from COVID-19 by accelerating the economic recovery and strengthening local economies to be more resilient to future economic shocks. Economic development planning or implementation projects can include projects that help address the climate crisis including through the development and implementation of green products, green processes, green places and green buildings. More information is [available here](#).

FEMA Announces Initial Initiatives to Advance Equity

FEMA announced the formation of an Equity Enterprise Steering Group and the establishment of a stakeholder engagement process to develop the agency’s 2022-2026 Strategic Plan. Both initiatives will involve internal and external stakeholders to promote equity. The steering group is focused on assessing issues like access and delivery of FEMA programs, services, and activities. Equity will serve as a foundational priority for developing the Strategic Plan and stakeholders will inform the agency’s goals and objectives. These initial initiatives (try saying that five times fast) are expected to be followed by other actions later this year. See [more information here](#).

New Cybersecurity Requirements for Critical Pipeline Owners and Operators

DHS’s Transportation Security Administration (TSA) announced a second Security Directive that requires owners and operators of TSA-designated critical pipelines to implement protections against cyber intrusions in response to the ongoing cybersecurity threat to pipelines. It requires them to implement mitigation measures for ransomware attacks and other known threats, develop and implement a cybersecurity contingency and recovery plan, and conduct a cybersecurity architecture design review. More information is [available here](#).

Other News from DC and Around the Country:

The Washington Post: [Heat Waves are Dangerous. Isolation and Inequality Make Them Deadly](#)
KRDV.com: [Oregon Senators Introduce Three Wildfire Bills](#)

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