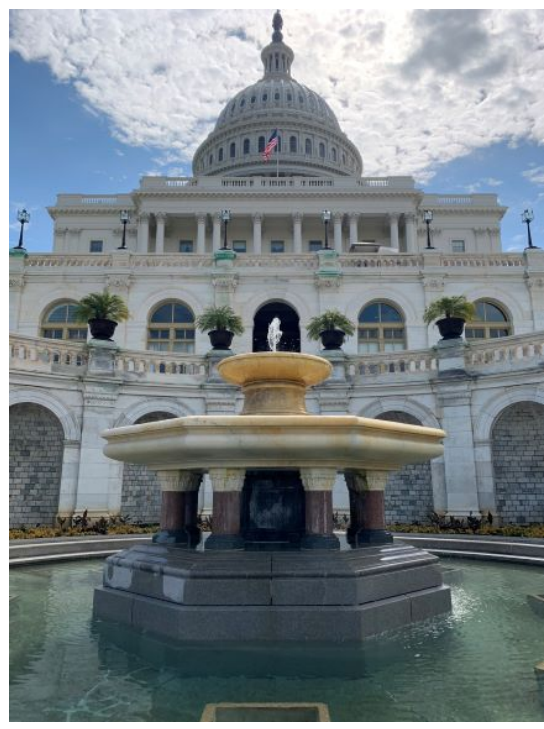




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June 2, 2023



THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON: Big Wheels Keep on Turning

In the wake of the loss of American icon Tina Turner last week, Washington found a way to keep the proverbial legislative wheels turning on the Bipartisan Budget Agreement.

The House passed the measure in a 241-187 vote, and last on Thursday, the Senate followed suit. By a vote of 63-36, the Senate finalized the legislation required to suspend the statutory \$31.4 trillion debt ceiling and impose two years of caps on discretionary spending.

Before passage, the Senate defeated 11 amendments considered mainly for political theatre. Passage was assured after Senate leaders reached a deal mid-day with appropriators and defense hawks who wanted a commitment from leadership they would take-up a supplemental defense bill.

Depending on how fast this defense supplemental is considered, it would logically and wisely provide an opportunity to ensure the health of the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) through the balance of the fiscal year. With funds dwindling and FEMA surely starting to eyeball Immediate Needs Funding and utilizing BRIC funds, the likelihood of the Fund surviving to the end of September seems suspect at best.

But perhaps we could embrace Tina's advice and check with people at the river. I hear if we got not money, people at the river are happy to give.

Hearings Next Week

Tuesday, June 6

10am; House Homeland Security

[Examining DHS Failure to Prepare for the Termination of Title 42](#)

Wednesday, June 7; 10am

10am; Senate Environment and Public Works

[Examine perspectives on ecosystem restoration projects of the US Army Corps of Engineers](#)

3pm; Senate Judiciary

[Artificial intelligence and intellectual property, focusing on patents, innovation, and competition](#)

More News from the Nation's Capital...

NEMA ACTION ON AM RADIO

As reported last week, some auto manufacturers have announced the intention to eliminate AM radio from their new vehicles. In the wake of this, Sens Cruz (R—TX) and Markey (D—MA) introduced legislation requiring the sustainment of FM's little brother. In response to this, NEMA brought together IAEM and BCEM to sign onto a letter endorsing the legislation. The letter is currently under review by the members of the National Homeland Security Consortium for their consideration as well. The hope is to gather some additional associations and submit the letter in time for a Senate mark-up on S. 3413 early next week.

CISA SECURITY WORKSHOP

DHS and CISA are partnering with the LGBTQI+ community and service providers to enhance their security and resilience to cyber and physical threats, including potential heightened threats of targeted violence and terrorism. The National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) Bulletin issued on May 24, 2023 highlighted potential threats to the LGBTQI+ community based on recent attacks and threats of violence. The 2.5 hour workshops will provide an overview of a multitude of no-cost resources available to the LGBTQI+ community through DHS and CISA, such as threat assessments, training, security self-assessments, and protective measures. Registration can be found online for [June 5: 1:00—3:30pm](#) and [June 29: 2:00—4:30pm](#).

GOVERNMENT WATCHDOG: RAIL SAFETY--POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF LONGER TRAINS

According to the Government Accountability Office (GAO), some recent derailments and other rail incidents have had something in common: they involved longer freight trains. Federal rail regulators are investigating the exact causes of these incidents and GAO has not examined them. They have, however, reviewed potential safety and other impacts of longer trains. This week's [WatchBlog](#) looks at [their work](#) about operating longer freight trains, their potential impact on communities, and concerns about safety.

Other News from DC and Around the Country:

4WWL: [FEMA Does Not Officially Use the Waffle House Index](#)

WDSU: [Louisiana AG Files Flood Insurance Lawsuit Against FEMA](#)

Federal News Network: [No More "Big Bang" Programs Under DHS IT Strategy](#)

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