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## THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON:

### Congress' Busy Summer

The FY26 appropriations process is continuing to move forward, though it remains somewhat of an afterthought as reconciliation and foreign policies issues take up much of Congress' energy and attention. After being postponed earlier in the month, the House Appropriations Committee has scheduled the full committee markup of the Homeland Security funding bill for June 24. While top-line spending levels remain a source of contention between the parties, appropriators are pushing ahead with markups in hopes of avoiding the prolonged delays that plagued recent funding cycles.

The Homeland Security bill, typically one of the more politically charged appropriations bills due to its immigration and border security provisions, is likely to preview some of the key sticking points that could dominate the broader appropriations debate throughout the summer. Of course, the upcoming markup will also include FEMA's funding, which many lawmakers are watching closely ahead of what's expected to be an active hurricane and wildfire season.

Additionally, Senate Republican leaders are still facing significant internal divisions as they attempt to finalize the reconciliation package. Several GOP senators are uneasy with the current proposals, and House Republicans are also pushing back on key provisions. With almost no room for defections, GOP leadership is under pressure to resolve these disagreements quickly. The GOP is still hoping that the Senate will pass the reconciliation bill by July 4, aiming for enactment before the August recess, but many political hurdles still loom large.

A major roadblock remains the Senate parliamentarian's review to determine if the bill's provisions comply with reconciliation rules. GOP leaders have been vocal that failure to pass the bill would force them into unwanted negotiations with Democrats over issues such as the debt limit and the expiring 2017 tax cuts. With time running short, you can expect negotiations to get more intense in the coming days.

#### Upcoming Congressional Hearings...

[Full Committee Markup of Fiscal Year 2026 Homeland Security Bill](#)

House Appropriations Committee

Tuesday, June 24; 10:00 AM (ET)

[Fix Our Forests: Advancing Innovative Technologies to Improve Forest Management and Prevent Wildfires](#)

House Committee on Natural Resources | Subcommittee on Federal Lands

Thursday, June 26; 10:00 AM (ET)

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

#### FEMA REPORT: MAUI WILDFIRES OFFERS KEY TAKEAWAYS FOR EMERGENCY MANAGERS

This week, FEMA released a new report entitled [Maui Wildfires Mitigation Assessment Team Report](#) to provide guidance for communities working to reduce wildfire risk. The report is based on FEMA's assessment of the August 2023 wildfires that devastated Lahaina and Kula, Hawaii.

The report pulls together lessons from the damage, including:

- Detailed insights of how residential buildings performed under extreme wildfire conditions.
- Evaluation of building codes, standards, and permitting systems that shaped the constructed structures before the fires.
- Recommendations for rebuilding with wildfire resistance in mind, including making sure nearby vegetation has been treated or cleared, creating a space defensible from fires and using fire-resistant building materials.
- Five Recovery Advisories focused on minimizing risks for existing homes, designing new homes, utilizing fire-resistant materials, implementing multi-hazard planning, and providing resources for homeowners.

The report is grounded in the experiences of impacts on the Maui community, offering insights into the conditions that allowed the fire to spread so destructively. Emergency managers can use this report to provide:

- Wildfire communication and community education;
- Planning and zoning efforts;
- Recovery strategies after local fires; and
- Collaboration with building officials and planners.

#### HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING ANNOUNCED

On Monday it was [announced](#) that the Homeland Security Advisory Council will meet in person on **Monday, June 30, 2025 from 1:00-4:00 PM (ET)**. This meeting will be open to the public via livestream. This meeting will be led by senior leadership of Homeland Security. Senior Leadership will introduce the new Chair and Vice Chair of the Council, and the Council will discuss the Council's purpose, focus, and potential taskings.

The Council provides organizationally independent, strategic, timely, specific, actionable advice, and recommendations to the Secretary of Homeland Security on matters related to homeland security. The Council serves strictly as an advisory body with the purpose of providing advice upon request of the Secretary.

Members of the public may register to observe in this Council meeting via livestream. Registration to attend the meeting is required and must be received via email no later than **5:00 PM (ET) on Friday, June 27, 2025**. Each individual must provide their full legal name and email address to Alexander Jacobs, Alternate Designated Federal Officer of the Homeland Security Advisory Council, via email to [HSAC@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:HSAC@hq.dhs.gov). Members of the public who have registered to observe will be provided the agenda and livestream link.

#### PRESIDENT TRUMP SIGNS WILDFIRE EXECUTIVE ORDER

Late last week, President Trump signed an Executive Order (EO) entitled [Empowering Commonsense Wildfire Prevention and Response](#). This comes several weeks after a draft wildfire EO was widely reported on in the press. The two EOs differ significantly, however, with significant portions of the draft EO omitted from the signed order.

The new EO instructs federal agencies to streamline the governance of wildfire response; enhance coordination with state, local, and tribal partners; and eliminate regulatory obstacles to key mitigation tools such as prescribed fire and fire retardants. The EO establishes a series of implementation deadlines, ranging from 90 to 210 days, covering actions such as the consolidation of federal wildfire programs, public release of satellite data, and the development of technology roadmaps and performance metrics.

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

**CNN:** [Noem Demands More Control Over FEMA And Homeland Security Funding, Which Could Slow Disaster Response](#)

**Insurance Journal:** ['Abolishing FEMA' Memo Outlines Ways for Trump to Scrap Agency](#)

**NPR:** [Leader of Top FEMA Disaster Coordination Office Resigns, As Trump Moves to Eliminate Agency](#)

**Politico:** [Thune Eyes Mid-Week Start for Megabill](#)

**E&E News:** [Trump Budget Chief Said Disaster Fund Is 'Flush.' FEMA Expects a Huge Deficit](#)

**The Hill:** [When Wildfire Season Coincides with Threats to Federal Emergency Support](#)

**Boston University:** [Loss of NOAA, FEMA Expertise 'Will Be Really Difficult to Rebuild'](#)

**Homeland Security News Wire:** [Researchers Offer Hard-Hit Communities Solutions for Flood Recovery and Resilience](#)

**CBS News:** [Cuts to FEMA's Storm Prep Program Hammer Communities That Voted for Trump](#)

**Baker Donelson:** [Shifting the Burden: States Face Rising Pressure to Fund Disasters Alone](#)

**HS Today:** [PERSPECTIVE: What the Drone Community Needs Now: A Call to Action for Counter-UAS Preparedness](#)

**Houston Chronicle:** [Could FEMA's Chaos Trigger Another Hurricane Katrina? 'Ain't Happenin' in Texas,' Says Top Official](#)

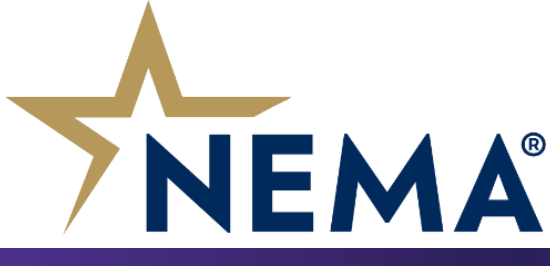
**Politico:** ['It will fail': Megabill Changes Have Republicans Doubting July 4 Timeline](#)

**RealClear Policy:** [FEMA Should Be Reformed. It Can't Be Replaced Overnight](#)

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**2025  
ANNUAL  
FORUM  
OCTOBER 9-12  
CHEYENNE**

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