



MEMORANDUM

TO: IEDA Board
FROM: Ed Gerak
RE: Federal Legislative Committee Report
DATE: March 8, 2024

Federal Legislation

Hydro Act – Senator Kelly & Representative Maloy (R-UT) introduced a new iteration of legislation that was introduced last year. This iteration grants/allows WAPA Administrator to reduce costs if reduction in generation triggers are met. These limits were set last year based on DCP triggers. Due to the differences in contracts (firming vs. run of the river), some people have questioned the levels. Possibly a bigger issue is that a better vetting process is necessary.

Help Hoover Dam Act – Senator Sinema and Representative Lee (D-NV) are putting the finishing touches on legislation that would allow the BOR to access the PRB funds. We were able to get Rep. Lee to sponsor an amendment to the appropriations bill in September, but it got declined by the parliamentarian. Initially planned as a stand-alone bill, California has pushed for a modification of the Boulder Canyon Project Act. This has caused us some concern that this might be a larger lift than expected. We have attempted to accommodate some requests from CA to get their support (trying to get members from all the Lower Basin states). *See Attached Draft Legislation*

Hill Update

LNG Export Permit Pause – Administration's Decision to Pause LNG Exports (New Plants, not those already approved) is irritating Pennsylvania Voters. Pennsylvania is the second largest natural-gas-producing state, employing

thousands of workers. Pennsylvania is also a key toss-up state in the presidential election, some have gone so far to say that it all comes down to PA.

Government Shutdown – The Senate passed a package of six government funding bills Friday evening just hours ahead of a shutdown deadline. The Senate vote was 75 to 22. The House vote was 339 to 85, with 132 Republicans voting in favor and 83 Republicans opposed. Two Democrats voted in opposition.

The spending package includes funding for the departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Justice, Veterans Affairs, Energy, Interior, Transportation, Housing and Urban Development as well as the Food and Drug Administration, military construction and other federal programs. WAPA received \$99M in the energy bill, with other AZ projects receiving funding. The number of Freedom Caucus members in our delegation may have impacted appropriation asks because of the runaway debt level.

Lawmakers still need to finalize and pass a second slate of funding bills ahead of a March 22 deadline.

2025 Appropriations – Senators Sinema & Kelly have released their appropriation forms for the next cycle of bills. Of the House delegation, I was only able to find a link from Representative Staton at this time.

Senate Leadership – Senator Mitch McConnell has decided to step down from leadership has caused some jockeying to replace him. The three Johns (Barrasso-WY, Cornyn-TX & Thune-SD) are down to two, as Barrasso has decided to pursue Senate whip. Others seen as viable are Moore Capito-WV, Ernst-IA, Scott-FL and Former President Trump is encouraging Sen. Steve Daines-MT to replace McConnell.

Campaign Updates

Super Tuesday – Despite a victory in Vermont (50.2% for Haley), Nikki Haley suspended her candidacy the day after Super Tuesday. Donald Trump won all other Super Tuesday States, mostly by a wide margin. Back on the ballot in Colorado, he took the primary with 63.3% of the vote. Former President Trump

eked out a victor in Utah, taking only 56.3% of the vote. He currently has 1,066 of the 1,215 delegates needed to win the Republican nomination.

President Biden has carried most states by securing in the mid-to-high 80%. There were a few areas of concern, where almost 19% of Minnesotans voted uncommitted. In Oklahoma, two candidates secured about 9% of the votes. Biden ended up with 73% in Oklahoma. The most surreal story of the evening is the results in American Samoa, when Jason Palmer won 56% to 44% (Only 91 total votes cast). Currently, President Biden has secured 1,866 delegates out of the 1,968 delegates required.

AZ Senate Race – It's official, Senator Sinema is not running for reelection. Rep. Gallego and Kari Lake both took the high road and thanked Senator Sinema for her service to the state. Polling shows that Sinema was pulling more Republican support, and a current head-to-head (Gallego & Lake) show Gallego leading by 7 to 10 points (2 polls).

New RNC Chairs - Michael Whatley, chair of the North Carolina Republican Party, has been named the new chair of the RNC, replacing Ronna McDaniel. The committee also installed Lara Trump, the former president's daughter-in-law, as co-chair.

Bills Introduced Since Feb. 1st

Biggs –

- H.R. 7594 – Enacting Executive Orders for Border Security
- H.R. 7584 – Amend CBA to Require CBO to Provide Cost Estimates
- H.R. 7580 – Effective Use of Immigration Detainers for Public Safety
- H.R. 7570 – Rescind Unused Funds of ARPA, IJJA & IRA
- H.R. 7551 - COVID-19 Manufacturer Lawsuit Immunity Prohibition
- H.R. 7544 – Prohibits Transfer of Water Rights to DOI or USDA
- H.R. 7533 - Modernizing Retrospective Regulatory Review
- H.R. 7530 - DC CRIMES Act
- H.R. 7526 - D. C. Consumer Vehicle Choice Protection Act
- H.R. 7455 - Sunset Act of 2024
- H.R. 7404 - Subterranean Border Defense Act
- H.R. 7366 – Timely Publication of CBP Border Encounters
- H.R. 7365 - VETS Safe Travel Act

- H.R. 7271 - Fiscally Responsible Israel Security Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2024
- H.R. 7259 - SEND THEM BACK Act of 2024
- H.R. 7216 - Protecting Healthcare Employee Privacy Act
- H.R. 7207 - Preventing Racism in Medicare Act of 2024
- H.R. 7195 - Protecting the Mailing of Firearms Act
- H.R. 7187 - Protection of Women in Olympic & Amateur Sports Act
- H.R. 7183 - PROTECTS Act of 2024
- H.R. 7109 - Equal Representation Act

Ciscomani –

- H.R. 7532 – Post 9/11 National Guard Educational Assistance
- H.R. 7504 - Rural Veterans Transportation to Care Act
- H.R. 7480 - Disabled Veterans Housing Support Act
- H.R. 7467 - HEADWAY Act
- H.R. 7455 - Sunset Act of 2024
- H.R. 7411 - Recover Pride in Service Act
- H.R. 7397 – Establishes Essential Health Services in SSA Statute
- H.R. 7369 - CBP HiRe Act of 2024
- H.R. 7361 - Flowers for Fallen Heroes Act of 2024
- H.R. 7243 - Border Security State Reimbursement Act
- H.R. 7185 - HIDTA Reauthorization Act of 2024
- H.R. 7149 - EASE Act of 2024
- H.R. 7123 - QUIET Act

Crane –

- H.R. 7551 – COVID-19 Manufacturer Lawsuit Immunity Prohibition
- H.R. 7505 - American Worker Protection Act of 2024
- H.R. 7490 - Hire Veterans Act
- H.R. 7443 - Combating Transnational Repression Act of 2024
- H.R. 7404 - Subterranean Border Defense Act
- H.R. 7365 - VETS Safe Travel Act
- H.R. 7183 - PROTECTS Act of 2024
- H.R. 7161 - Abortion Funding Awareness Act of 2024
- H.R. 7129 - Put America on Commission Act of 2024
- H.R. 7109 - Equal Representation Act
- H.R. 7102 - Native American Entrepreneurial Opportunity Act
- H.R. 7049 – DAV Covid-19 Directive Repeal

Gallego –

- H.R. 7456 – First Responders Emergency Assistance Act
- H.R. 7369 - CBP HiRe Act of 2024

Gosar –

- H.R. 7580 – Immigration Detainers for Public Safety
- H.R. 7551 –COVID-19 Manufacturer Lawsuit Immunity Prohibition
- H.R. 7490 - Hire Veterans Act
- H.R. 7404 - Subterranean Border Defense Act
- H.R. 7365 - VETS Safe Travel Act
- H.R. 7322 - SUE for Immigration Enforcement Act
- H.R. 7216 - Protecting Healthcare Employee Privacy Act
- H.R. 7195 - Protecting the Mailing of Firearms Act
- H.R. 7190 - Fentanyl is a WMD Act
- H.R. 7187 - Protection of Women in Olympic & Amateur Sports Act
- H.R. 7183 - PROTECTS Act of 2024
- H.R. 7109 - Equal Representation Act
- H.R. 7049 – DAV Covid-19 Directive Repeal

Grijalva –

- H.R. 7573 – Amend Social Security Title XIX
- H.R. 7489 – School Based Mental Health Provider Recruitment
- H.R. 7481 – Improving Social Determinants of Health Act of 2024
- H.R. 7458 - Made in the U.S.A. Act
- H.R. 7416- Closing the College Hunger Gap Act
- H.R. 7329 - Election Day Holiday Act of 2024
- H.R. 7325 - Community Housing Act of 2024
- H.R. 7244 - End Tax Breaks for Dark Money Act

Lesko –

- H.R. 7526– D. C. Consumer Vehicle Choice Protection Act
- H.R. 7511 – Laken Riley Act
- H.R. 7427 – Let Pregnancy Centers Serve Act of 2024
- H.R. 7365 – VETS Safe Travel Act
- H.R. 7340 – Accurate VA Accreditation Information Act

- H.R. 7239 - Drug-Free Social Media and Digital Communities Act
- H.R. 7183 - PROTECTS Act of 2024
- **H.R. 7176 - Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2024**
- H.R. 7109 - Equal Representation Act

Schweikert –

- H.R. 7603 – Sec. of Defense, Dept of Defense Audit Using AI
- H.R. 7519 – Temp Increase in Homeland Security Grants
- H.R. 7425 – Amend Internal Revenue Code for Newborn Expenses
- H.R. 7147 - Medicare Transaction Fraud Prevention Act

Stanton –

- H.R. 7369 – CBP HiRe Act of 2024
- H.R. 7340 - Accurate VA Accreditation Information Act
- H.R. 7220 - EB-5 Regional Center Program Advisory Committee Authorization Act

Kelly –

- S. 3891 – Economic Development Reauthorization Act of 2024
- S. 3880 – Amend Federal Assets Sales and Transfer Act of 2016
- S. 3858 - Legacy Mine Cleanup Act of 2024
- S. 3853 – Expanding Radiation Exposure Compensation Act
- S. 3832 - Alternatives to PAIN Act
- S. 4 – Amend Voting Rights Act of 1965
- S. 3778 – Amend Safe Drinking Water Act
- S. 3746 - Gold Star and Surviving Spouse Career Services Act

Sinema –

- S. 3885 – Expands Benefits for Family Caregivers
- S. 3853 – Expanding Radiation Exposure Compensation Act
- S. 3834 – Veteran Affairs Payment Reimbursement
- S. 4 – Amend Voting Rights Act of 1965
- **S. 3826 - Modernizing Clean Air Permitting Act of 2024**