



# MEMORANDUM

**TO:** IEDA Board  
**RE:** Federal Legislative Committee Report  
**DATE:** March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025

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## Hill Visits

As reported in the weekly recap, I was on the Hill at the end of February with AMPUA, APA & GCSECA to lobby for protecting our critical workforce, stumping for Sandy Fabritz and advocating for our Hoover legislative initiatives.

One of the surprising things was that it didn't matter if we were in a Republican or Democratic office, they both said the same thing, "we don't know what is going on."

There always seems to be a looming cloud over DC, no matter the time of year. During this trip, it was the Budget Reconciliation vote, which surprisingly passed.

Due to an extremely tight margin, there has been some resistance to confirming Elise Stefanik as the US Ambassador to the United Nations. The vote for reconciliation was aided by Congressman Grijalva not being present. According to Luis Heredia (Kelly State Director), Raul has trouble flying, has good weeks and bad weeks, and will probably resign soon. After the Joint Address, a democratic representative from Texas passed away, helping the margin.

Regarding AZ delegation offices, Paul Babbit (Energy & Water Policy) with Senator Kelly's office has left and Tracee Sutton (Chief of Staff/Former E&W Policy) is leaving. Paul joined a boutique law firm, but will continue to be engaged in the water and power space. Tracee is retiring. Emma Ready moved over to Senator Gallego's staff from his House office, providing continuity. Unfortunately, she couldn't take any of her House files, so we will need to help paper her new files.

## **Hoover Legislation**

We had a chance to discuss the Foundation bill with Zach Barnes (Bigg's Office). He had received some language from Leg Council, but the updates we sent him hadn't been incorporated yet.

Chad Michaels (Schweikert COS) offered to drop a bill for us regarding the entry fees at Hoover. We will be discussing our visit with CRCNV & SCE to gauge support and possibly bundling is with the PRB legislation for the offset we would need regarding the score.

## **Budget**

The Budget Resolution passed in the House (surprisingly). The Senate put forward a two-pronged approach, contrary to the House. With the House bill passing, the Senate said they will take up a single bill approach.

There continues to be concern over funding the government, with a discussion of another continuing resolution. Frozen funds seem to be being dislodged for constituents of concern (farmers, some DOI projects). We will see how it all shakes out soon.

## **DOGE – EPA Eyeing 65% Budget Reduction**

The DOGE cuts are being met with mixed results, impacting some Republicans at their town halls. The speed and indiscretion of the cuts are hurting their case. While the discovery of shocking expenditures has been highlighted, things like firing the "bird flu" scientists in the middle of this crisis hasn't. Early retirements may decimate satellite line crews, forcing WAPA to consolidate their crews back to Phoenix (from Yuma & Mead).