



MEMORANDUM

TO: IEDA Board
RE: Federal Legislative Committee Report
DATE: May 15th, 2025

Help Hoover 2.0

A working group of IEDA, APA, CRCNV & MWD worked with Congresswoman Susie Lee's office and Senator Cortez Masto's office to reintroduce the Help Hoover Dam Act in this congress. Lee and Senator Sinema (AZ) introduced HR7776/S4016 in last congress, and the bill surprisingly scored. Cortez Masto asked to lead the Senate bill reintroduction. She is on Senate ENR (committee of reference), as is Senator Gallego.

The plan this year was to submit programmatic bill language into the House Energy & Water Appropriations Bill to avoid scoring. Lee's office wanted to reintroduce the bill to show support for the appropriations ask, for the press release and that they could say that the bill passed with their constituents if the appropriations request was included in the bill

Lee has been a champion of this cause for us since 2023, but given the current dynamics on the hill, we convinced her staff to have some republicans on the bill as well. She recruited Amodei (R-NV), Ciscomani (R-NV) and Stanton (D-AZ). What is great about the co-lead lineup is that 3 of the 4 are on appropriations, with Lee on the Energy & Water Subcommittee.

IEDA submitted the appropriations requests to the offices of Ciscomani (confirmed they submitted it), Ansari (confirmed they were advancing the request, she is on HNR), and Stanton's office. Lee, Amodei, Ciscomani & Calvert (R-CA, Energy & Water) are jointly supporting this request, and all are on appropriation. The House Energy & Water Appropriations hearing is scheduled for May 7th.

We were able to show a large group of supporters, with APPA/NRECA being the most notable. The bill numbers are HR3158 & S1570

Rocky Foundation

The Hoover Foundation bill that Congressman Bigg's office was working on for us has gotten a little rocky for us with his main staffer covering this moving over to the Freedom Caucus. Kate LaBorde, Chief of Staff, has taken on the project while they hire a replacement for Zach.

IEDA sent the working draft to Kate, but she is trying to get up to speed while balancing other issues (AZ Governor's race).

Didn't See the Blind Vendor Bill Coming

Hoover Dam has long been plagued by the Randolph Sheppard Act, a bill from 1936 that gives free space in federal facilities to blind people. During the Hoover Visitor Center remodel, blind vendors won in the court of public opinion to obtain/retain space at Hoover. There are currently 4 vending operations, two that include a gift shop and a full scale fast casual restaurant. Despite a recent solicitor's opinion that these operations violate the RSA, the vendors have been delaying negotiations due to, what we now know, a planned update of the definition in the RSA that would expand the scope of the program significantly.

The heads up occurred from BOR during the Visitor Services call, where they were made aware of a FRN that had already been posted. I sent an alert to the delegation but only received follow-up from Gosar's office.

While this would have little impact at Hoover, except for them possibly also getting the parking structure contract, it could have a huge impact across the country on all federal facilities. It could bypass current procurement rules, reduce/eliminate concessionaire fees and decimate small businesses that have existing contracts.

President's (Diet Coke) Skinny Budget

The President released his skinny budget recently. The budget proposes a 23% reduction (non-defense) despite a \$1T (13%) increase in military spending and increase of 65% at DHS. Some of the cuts will occur at EPA, with a 55% budget cut, targeting clean or green programs. The DOE budget proposed is \$19.3B less, mostly to IIJA and EERE.

The budget was short on details, but proposed elimination of LIHEAP in 2026. While Arizona has not been fairly compensated by LIHEAP, given it was initially meant for heating on the East Coast, IEDA should decide whether to support its continuation.

DOG(E) Gone

Elon Musk is stepping back (away) from leading DOGE. The program will continue, despite almost never starting to begin with. An article stated that Musk had to lobby President Trump 3 times about the government efficiency initiative.

Impacts so far are that DOGE has hollowed out or shut down 11 federal agencies. It has terminated more than 8,500 contracts and 10,000 grants. Finally, close to 250K employees either retired or were let go, with veteran affairs shouldering the most impact so far (70K).