



TO: Legislative Committee
FROM: Brent R. Heberlee
DATE: September 5, 2018
RE: Federal Legislative Update

This memo provides a Federal Legislative Update on the items appearing on the agenda for the September 10, 2018, Legislative Committee meeting.

A. FY2019 Appropriations Update

Congress returned on September 4th and immediately began to confront the difficult decisions about how to fund the federal government in FY2019 before current funding runs out at the end of the month. House and Senate Republican leaders are pressing members of both parties to line up behind their plan to reach agreement and pass nine of the annual appropriations bills that leaders want on the President's desk by September 30th. They also want members to back a new continuing resolution ensuring money for programs covered by three other spending bills that will remain on the shelf until a post-election, lame-duck session.

Both the House and Senate have made progress on "minibus" packages of appropriations bills. The nine Senate-advanced measures cover almost 90 percent of the \$1.3 trillion in discretionary funds that appropriators oversee annually. So far the House has passed only six of the bills, and only the package with energy, veterans and congressional funding is officially in conference. While the Senate kept their bills free of policy riders, House measures carry many controversial add-ons. Three bills, Homeland Security, State-Foreign Operations, and Commerce-Justice-Science, appear likely to stay on the backburner until after the election in an effort to avoid debate on immigration policy, border wall funding, gun control, and other controversial issues.

Although the House-Senate negotiations are not finished, county priorities in the areas of transportation, housing, social services, agriculture, water, environmental protection, and health should receive adequate funding based on the budget deal that was reached earlier this year. Also, the appropriations rider that prohibits interference with the implementation of state medical cannabis laws would very likely remain in effect under a continuing resolution for the Department of Justice.

B. Proposed Corporate Average Fuel Economy Standards

The Trump Administration has put for a proposed rule that would freeze auto emission standards starting in 2021 and seek to block California's ability to set its own more stringent rules. If enacted, this proposal will cost consumers billions of dollars in additional gasoline to

run less efficient cars and light-duty trucks. It will also degrade air quality and put millions of additional tons of pollution into the atmosphere. The Trump Administration is also proposing to withdraw the waiver granted to California more than five years ago for the State's own greenhouse gas emissions standards and its successful zero-emission vehicle programs. The Administration proposal would also block the many other states that use California standards from moving forward.

Congressman Panetta has joined 69 of his Democratic colleagues in the House in supporting a resolution to oppose the proposal, and Senators Harris and Feinstein have joined 33 of their Democratic colleagues in the Senate in support of an identical resolution. Congressman Panetta has also cosponsored legislation (H.R. 5226) to codify the current fuel economy standards that were established in 2012.

Governor Brown, Attorney General Becerra and 17 other states have sued the EPA over a preliminary action it took that formed the basis for the proposed rule. Comments on the proposed rule are due on October 23rd. A coalition of 18 Democratic attorneys general have sent a letter to EPA requesting more public hearings and an extension of the comment period from 60 to 120 days.

The question for the Committee is whether the County should submit a comment in the above-referenced rulemaking.

C. Census Bureau Satellite Office

The Census Bureau is in the process of opening 248 area census offices (ACOs) around the country to support the 2020 Census. Based on the criteria used by the Census Bureau to delineate the ACO areas, the ACO closest to Monterey County will be located in San Jose. The Government Services Administration (GSA) is currently looking to lease office space in the San Jose area on behalf of the Census Bureau. The Census Bureau has noted, however, that "these locations could still change as a result of the process the Government Services Administration uses to identify locations and negotiate leases."

Congressman Panetta's office has been in contact with the Census Bureau about the possibility of locating an ACO in the Salinas area. The question for the committee is whether the County should send a letter to the Census Bureau/GSA in support of locating an ACO in the Salinas area.

Attachments:

- Federal Bill/Issues Track