Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments
Communities Working Together

Meeting Agenda
Legislative Committee
Monday, June 1, 2026, 8:30 AM

In-Person
Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments Upper Conference Room
15 S. 7th St., Colorado Springs, CO 80905

Virtual: Microsoft Teams (Video and Audio)
Meeting ID: 222 716 555 500 334
Passcode: mA9GQ6WL

Virtual: Phone (Audio Only)
Phone: (929) 242-8427
Conference ID: 139 310 841

This meeting is for PPACG directors, PPACG staff and PPACG's lobbyists to develop positions on legislation for consideration by the PPACG's Board of Directors. Guests are welcomed to attend and listen in, but guest participation is at the discretion of the chair/co-chair and attending directors.

A quorum of Board of Directors members may be present.

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Federal Issues**
   A. BUILD America 250 Act ✉
   B. Federal updates ✉
3. **Member Open Discussion**
4. **Set Committee Schedule**
5. **Adjournment**

The Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities. Meetings are available to join remotely via Microsoft Teams, and meetings include live transcription for remote and in-person attendees using automated software. Should you require any additional auxiliary aids or services to participate, please contact ppacg@ppacg.org or (719) 471-7080 x139 as soon as possible so that we can do our best to

accommodate your needs.

Si necesita ayuda con traducción, llame por favor al (719) 471-7080 x139 o ppacg@ppacg.org.

Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments
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Date: June 1, 2026

To: Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments Legislative Committee

From: Jared Verner, Public Policy and Communications Manager

Through: Andrew Gunning, Executive Director

Subject: BUILD America 250 Act

Action Requested: Review and Approve

Summary

Federal

The Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments Board of Directors Legislative Committee met on June 1, for consideration of a position on federal bill H.R. 8870 (BUILD America 250 Act), the five-year surface transportation reauthorization bill. Staff had been actively engaged in the effort to address several priorities in the bill, which replaces the existing reauthorization bill, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

The bill addresses several priorities of the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments:

- For metropolitan planning organization planning funds, the bill includes increased funding, lower local match, greater flexibility and option of direct allocation of funds
- Greater focus on formula versus grant funding, but maintain the Safe Streets and Roads for All
- Focus on funding dedicated to local projects, accomplished through the bridge programs and dedicated set-aside for locally-maintained and off-system bridges

The bill did not address population apportionment, but it does include study requirements on apportionment.

The bill authorizes $580 billion over five years, with $474 billion in guaranteed funding. The bill's authorizations for Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 funding, which is used by the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments to support specialized human transportation for individuals with disabilities, will initially decrease by 2.2% in fiscal year 2027, before slowly increasing through fiscal year 2031:

Previous Years:

FY 2023: $428,004,567
FY 2024: $438,190,064
FY 2025: $443,948,114
FY 2026: $457,204,506

Future Proposal:
FY 2027: $447,300,000
FY 2028: $453,100,000
FY 2029: $459,000,000
FY 2030: $465,000,000
FY 2031: $471,000,000

The bill has advanced out of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee on a 62-2 vote. Notable endorsements of the bill have come from:

- American Public Transportation Association
- Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations
- National Association of Counties
- National Association of Regional Councils

Background

The Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments' Legislative Committee is a subcommittee of the Board of Directors. The purpose of the committee is to review and discuss proposed legislation and determine whether the Board of Directors would like to monitor, amend, support or oppose any bills. The scope of this committee is limited to Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments issues as identified in the Board's legislative themes and priorities documents.

Strategic Plan Goals

☒ Advocacy: Serve as an effective advocacy voice for common ground issues.
☒ Information Sharing: Serve as a significant resource for PPACG members to collect and share information with regional partners.
☒ Aging: Expand and extend senior access, awareness, education, and connectivity to support age-friendly communities and empower individual seniors.
☒ Transportation: Maintain and improve a coordinated, validated plan for transportation needs across the PPACG region.
☒ Program Excellence: Continue to excel in the key fundamental areas of PPACG: Military support, Environmental programs, Transportation, Area Agency on Aging, and regional communication and collaboration.

Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments
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Current as of May 29, 2026

Jump to:

- Bills PPACG is supporting
- Bills PPACG is opposing
- Bills PPACG is monitoring
- Bills for PPACG consideration

Bills PPACG is supporting

Bill #	Title	Bill Summary	Sponsors	Status
H.R. 3030	Highway Formula Fairness Act PPACG Legislative Theme: Transportation	To amend title 23, United States Code, to provide for a discretionary increase in certain highway funding to take into account population growth of a State, and for other purposes.	House: Stanton (D-AZ) Gonzales (R-TX) Neguse (D-CO)	House: Assigned to House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Highways and Transit
H.R. 1733 S. 784	Rural Veterans Transportation to Care Act PPACG Legislative Theme: Transportation, Aging	To expand and modify the grant program of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide innovative transportation options to veterans in highly rural areas, and for other purposes.	House: Marie Gluesenkamp (D-WA) Ciscomani (R-AZ) Vasquez (D-NM) Davis (D-NC) Johnson (R-SD) Joyce (R-OH) Golden (D-ME) Pettersen (D-CO) Fitzpatrick (R-PA) Harder (D-CA) Nunn (R-IA) Vindman (D-VA) Strickland (D-WA) Lofgren (D-CA) Schrier (D-WA) Barr (R-KY)	House: Assigned to Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Health Senate: Committee on Veterans' Affairs Hearing on May 21

			Horsford (D-NV) Whitesides (D-CA) Bresnahan (R-PA) Senate: Ossoff (D-GA) Collins (R-ME) Padilla (D-CA) Rosen (D-NV)	
H.R. 502	Protecting Infrastructure Investments for Rural America Act PPACG Legislative Theme: Transportation	To ensure the rural surface transportation grant program is accessible to rural areas, and for other purposes.	House: Finstad (R-MN) Golden (D-ME) Stauber (R-MN) Mann (R-KS) Fischbach (R-MN) Van Orden (R-WI) Moolenaar (R-MI) Flood (R-NE) Tiffany (R-WI)	House: Assigned to House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Highways and Transit
S. 2120	Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2025 PPACG Legislative Theme: Aging	To amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2026 through 2030, and for other purposes.	Senate: Cassidy (R-LA) Sanders (I-VT) Scott (R-FL) Gillibrand (D-NY) Collins (R-ME) Kaine (D-VA) Mullin (R-OK) Markey (D-MA) Murkowksi (R-AK) Luján (D-NM) Justice (R-WV) Moody (R-FL) Bennet (D-CO) Warnock (D-GA)	Senate: Assigned to Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and, Pensions
H.R. 4585	Agricultural and Rural Road Improvement Program Act PPACG Legislative Theme: Transportation	To amend title 23, United States Code, to establish an agricultural and rural road improvement program, and for other purposes.	House: Bost (R-IL) Riley (D-NY) Mann (R-KS) Nehls (R-TX)	House: Assigned to Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure,

			Hurd (R-CO) Onder (R-MO) Miller (R-IL) Feenstra (R-IA) Van Orden (R-WI) DesJarlais (R-TN) Finstad (R-MN) McClain (D-MD) Gray (D-CA) Wied (R-WI) Taylor (R-OH) Lucas (R-OK) Vasquez (D-NM) Hageman (R-WY)	Subcommittee on Highways and Transit
H.R. 6387	FIRE Act PPACG Legislative Theme: Air Quality	To amend the Clean Air Act to require revisions to regulations governing the review and handling of air quality monitoring data influenced by exceptional events or actions to mitigate wildfire risk.	House: Evans (R-CO) Gray (D-CA) Gosar (R-AZ) Crank (R-CO)	Assigned to Senate Environment & Public Works
H.R. 7437	BASICS Act PPACG Legislative Theme: Transportation	To improve Federal transportation programs, and for other purposes.	House: McDonald-Rivet (D-MI) Bresnahan (R-PA) Vasquez (D-NM) Baird (R-IN) Mrvan (D-IN) Calvert (R-CA) Carbajal (D-CA) Morrison (D-MN) Van Orden (R-WI) Mackenzie (R-PA) Neguse (D-CO) Smith (D-WA) Valadao (R-CA)	House: Assigned to Transportation & Infrastructure

Bills PPACG is opposing

Bill #	Title	Bill Summary	Sponsors	Status
H.R. 5465	GREEN Streets Act PPACG Legislative Theme: Transportation	To amend title 23, United States Code, to require transportation planners to consider projects and	House: Huffman (D-CA) Lieu (D-CA)	House: Assigned to Committee on Transportation &

		strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and for other purposes..		Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Highways and Transit

Bills PPACG is monitoring

Bill #	Title	Bill Summary	Sponsors	Status
H.R. 4218	CLEAR Act PPACG Legislative Theme: Air Quality	To amend the Clean Air Act to facilitate State implementation of national ambient air quality standards, and for other purposes.	House: Carter (R-GA) Griffith (R-VA) Allen (R-GA) Balderson (R-OH) Latta (R-OH) Newhouse (R-WA) Weber (R-TX) Pfluger (R-TX) Obernolte (R-CA)	House: Passed by Energy & Commerce on Jan. 21, 27-23, awaiting House floor vote

Bills for PPACG consideration

Bill #	Title	Bill Summary	Sponsors	Status
H.R. 8870	BUILD American 250 Act PPACG Legislative Theme: Transportation	To authorize funding for Federal-aid highways, bridge construction and rehabilitation, highway safety programs, transit programs, and rail programs, and for other purposes.	House: Graves (R-MO) Larsen (D-WA) Rouzer (R-NC) Webster (R-FL) Rulli (R-OH) Del. Norton (D-DC)	House: Passed by Transportation & Infrastructure on May 22, 62-2, awaiting floor vote

Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments

Communities Working Together

Federal updates compiled by Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments

May 29, 2026

Jump to:

- Updates from National Association of Regional Councils
- Updates from the federal delegation
  - Senator Bennet
  - Senator Hickenlooper
  - Senators Bennet / Hickenlooper
  - Representative Crank
  - Representative Pettersen
  - Representative Boebert
- Updates from Congressional committees of interest
  - House Joint Transportation & Infrastructure
  - House Majority Energy & Commerce
  - Senate Minority Environment & Public Works
  - Senate Aging

Updates from National Association of Regional Councils

CONGRESS

The House and Senate are in recess.

House Committee Advances Surface Transportation Reauthorization

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee completed its markup of the bipartisan BUILD America 250 Act, voting the bill out of committee in the early hours of Friday morning, June 22 around 1:00 a.m. The five-year, $474 billion surface transportation reauthorization measure, led by Chairman Sam Graves (R-Mo.) and Ranking Member Rick Larsen (D-Wash.), emphasizes policy reforms such as consolidation of programs and an emphasis on formula funding over discretionary funding.

During the markup, Rep. Kristen McDonald Rivet (D-Mich.) offered amendment #061 incorporating the BASICS Act, to expand local access to federal transportation funding and strengthen the role of MPOs and RTPOs. The bill's cosponsor, Rep. Rob Bresnahan (R-Penn.), also spoke in favor of the bill, as did Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-Cal.). Rep. McDonald Rivet ultimately offered and withdrew the amendment, signaling that she and Rep. Bresnahan intend to continue advancing the BASICS Act as the broader surface reauthorization process moves forward. With committee passage now complete, attention shifts to the next stages of the legislative process, including the addition of other House committee products, a House floor vote, and Senate legislative text.

White House-Backed Rail Safety Bill Added to Transportation Package

Last Thursday during the markup of the BUILD America 250 Act, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee adopted a rail safety amendment introduced by Rep. Troy Nehls (R-Texas). The measure would strengthen requirements for trains transporting hazardous materials and eliminate time limits on inspections. It would also include a pro-labor union mandate for a minimum two-person train crew, which has drawn fire and stalled the bill previously.

Supporters, backed by President Trump and Vice President Vance who introduced the original Railway Safety Act in 2023 as the senator from Ohio, framed the measure as a response to the 2023 East Palestine, Ohio derailment and a step toward stronger federal rail oversight. Opponents, including Graves and industry groups, argued against the amendment, saying that it wasn't tied to the causes of the derailment and raising concerns that it could raise costs for the rail industry. Following a recorded vote, the committee adopted the rail safety amendment by a vote of 54–11.

ADMINISTRATION

Amtrak President Roger Harris to Step Down in July

Amtrak President Roger Harris will step down on July 31 as part of a planned leadership transition. The move follows last year's departure of CEO Stephen Gardner, who stepped down in 2025 as the railroad sought to align with priorities of the new administration. Longtime executive William "Byl" Herrmann will serve as interim president while the board conducts a search for permanent leadership. During his tenure, Harris helped lead Amtrak through record ridership growth, major service expansions, and significant infrastructure investments. The leadership changes come at a pivotal moment as Amtrak continues efforts to expand and modernize passenger rail nationwide.

TSA Faces Staffing Concerns Ahead of Summer and World Cup Travel Surge

As the summer travel season begins, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) expects to screen millions of passengers nationwide and says it is preparing for increased demand tied to major events like the FIFA World Cup. At the same time, reports indicate the agency is facing staffing challenges, with approximately 1,100 officers having left during the recent Department of Homeland Security shutdown. While federal officials say they are ready to manage high passenger volumes, some experts warn that reduced staffing levels could lead to longer wait times and potential strain on security operations. Travelers are advised to ensure they have compliant identification, such as a REAL ID or passport, and to plan ahead for screening requirements.

OTHER NEWS

Planners Share Real-World Lessons on Using AI in Practice

A recent column by urban planning professor Tom Sanchez highlights how planners are cautiously incorporating artificial intelligence into their daily work. Drawing on interviews with five practitioners, the article finds that most professionals begin with small, low-risk tasks—such as drafting communications or organizing data—before expanding their use. Many cited a turning point when AI significantly reduced the time needed for routine assignments, making it a valuable tool for improving efficiency rather than replacing expertise. Writing remains the most common entry point, with planners using AI as a brainstorming aid rather than a final product. At the same time, the article emphasizes ongoing concerns about accuracy, data privacy, and over-reliance, reinforcing that thoughtful, incremental adoption is key.

Updates from the federal delegation

SENATOR BENNET

Bennet, Bipartisan Colleagues Demand Secretary Hegseth Immediately Release Congressionally Approved Funding to Ukraine and Baltic Allies

Denver — Colorado U.S. Senator Michael Bennet, a member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, joined Senators Dick Durbin (D-Ill.), Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.), Thom Tillis (R-N.C.), and Catherine Cortez-Masto (D-Nev.) on a bipartisan letter demanding that Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth immediately release stalled Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 funding for Ukraine and the Baltic Security Initiative (BSI), a Department of Defense program to bolster the defense capabilities of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

"We write to follow up on bipartisan concerns recently expressed in Congressional hearings about seemingly stalled disbursement of key Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 defense appropriations. Specifically, we urge you to obligate Congressionally appropriated FY26 funds in Public Law 119-75 for Ukraine and the Baltic Security Initiative (BSI) without any further delay," wrote the senators.

"Ukraine has persistently and bravely repelled a four-year Russian onslaught, but its military needs and deserves continued American support," continued the senators. "The $400 million in security assistance for Ukraine that was included in the FY26 defense appropriations bill should be disbursed immediately."

"Congress has repeatedly supported strong assistance for the Baltic States. These front-line NATO allies have a powerful memory of living under the Soviet yoke [...] They also are the targets of sustained Russian belligerence, threats, and sabotage. In fact, a Russian testing of NATO might very well start in the Baltics. As such, Congress appropriated $200 million in the FY26 defense appropriations bill for the BSI, which was codified in the FY26 National Defense Authorization Act (Public Law 119-60), funds we similarly expect to be released without delay," wrote the senators.

"Any further delays—particularly as the Department reportedly plans troubling U.S. troops withdrawals from the region—risks our ability to adequately deter Russia," concluded the senators.

Bennet has long fought to ensure continued U.S. support for Ukraine and our Baltic allies. He helped codify the BSI and enhance regional planning as part of the FY26 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which also included several provisions supporting Ukraine. Bennet also recently secured language in the Senate FY27 Intelligence Authorization Act bolstering intelligence-sharing with Ukraine. Additionally, earlier this year, Bennet joined Durbin and Grassley to introduce the Baltic Security Assessment Act, legislation requiring the Secretaries of State and Defense to report to Congress on emerging threats posed to the Baltic countries.

The text of the letter is available HERE and below.

Secretary Hegseth:

We write to follow up on bipartisan concerns recently expressed in Congressional hearings about seemingly stalled disbursement of key Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 defense appropriations. Specifically, we urge you to obligate Congressionally appropriated FY26 funds in Public Law 119-75 for Ukraine and the Baltic Security Initiative (BSI) without any further delay. These two specific allocations have strong and broad bipartisan Congressional support.

Ukraine has persistently and bravely repelled a four-year Russian onslaught, but its military needs and deserves continued American support. Maintaining Ukrainian capabilities and pressure are particularly timely as the Administration tries to negotiate an end to the war and amid increasing signs of a weakening Russian economy. Accordingly, the $400 million in security assistance for Ukraine that was included in the FY26 defense appropriations bill should be disbursed immediately.

Similarly, Congress has repeatedly supported strong assistance for the Baltic States. These front-line NATO allies have a powerful memory of living under the Soviet yoke. They are consistently among the top NATO countries in terms of military spending as a percentage of GDP. They also are the targets of sustained Russian belligerence, threats, and sabotage. In fact, a Russian testing of NATO might very well start in the Baltics. As such, Congress appropriated $200 million in the FY26 defense appropriations bill for the BSI, which was codified in the FY26 National Defense Authorization Act (Public Law 119-60), funds we similarly expect to be released without delay. We understand from recent testimony that there was a minor drafting error in the FY26 appropriations tables related to the Defense Security Cooperation Agency, and while that issue will be resolved, there is no reason to delay execution on the $200 million for the BSI.

We urge you to swiftly obligate these Congressionally appropriated funds for Ukraine and the Baltics and request that you immediately provide a spend plan for execution, which was promised to Congress by May 15. Any further delays—particularly as the Department reportedly plans troubling U.S. troops withdrawals from the region—risks our ability to adequately deter Russia.

Thank you for your continued support of our partners and allies on the frontlines of democracy.

Bennet, Crow Reintroduce Legislation to Support Law Enforcement and Strengthen Community Policing During National Mental Health Awareness Month

Denver — Colorado U.S. Senator Michael Bennet and U.S. Representative Jason Crow reintroduced the Supporting Mental Assistance Responder Teams (SMART) Community Policing Act during National Mental Health Awareness Month.

The legislation would provide dedicated funds for collaborative partnerships between law enforcement, health professionals, case managers, and outreach teams to improve public safety

and connect people with mental health services and community resources. Instead of treating situations primarily as criminal matters, the goal is to stabilize the person, reduce escalation, and connect them with care.

“Too often, people experiencing a mental health crisis end up in situations that escalate because they are not getting the care and support they need,” said Bennet. “Law enforcement agencies across Colorado are partnering with behavioral health specialists to help de-escalate crises, connect people to treatment and long-term support, and ensure individuals receive the help they need in the moment. This legislation builds on that approach so that communities across the country can better respond to mental health crises while strengthening public safety.”

“Effective policing relies on building trust within communities,” said Crow. “Our legislation, drawing on the state of Colorado’s leadership, supports local law enforcement and expands community policing efforts nationwide. I’m glad to partner with Senator Bennet to better protect our communities, improve public safety, and connect people with life-saving mental health, substance use, and other life-saving services.”

Public safety in Colorado and across the country demands a comprehensive response. Mental assistance responder teams play a critical role in partnering with law enforcement and emergency responders to connect at-risk individuals with resources, prevent crime, and improve public safety. Mobile crisis teams, co-responder units, and case managers are vital to these efforts. They engage people experiencing crises related to mental health, poverty, homelessness, or substance use disorders to de-escalate challenging situations and connect them to services. The mental assistance responder teams reduce the strain on law enforcement and allow safety departments to focus on violent crimes. Studies confirm this approach yields better public safety outcomes while conserving limited resources.

Specifically, the SMART Community Policing Act would create or expand programs that:

- Pair a mental health clinician with a paramedic or emergency medical technician (EMT) to respond to certain low-risk calls to the 911 system;
- Train crisis workers to respond to calls for service and help stabilize encounters;
- Provide mental health services for persons, including those in crisis who may need further evaluation and treatment;
- Stabilize encounters between law enforcement officers and people experiencing behavioral health crises and connect them with appropriate support programs; and
- Build case management and outreach teams to follow up with people to develop specific solutions to reduce repeat interactions with emergency services.

“By combining the skills of highly trained Police Officers with mental health clinicians we are able to provide a safer environment to address the needs of an individual experiencing a mental health crisis,” said Matt Smith, Chief of Police, Grand Junction Police Department. “This collaborative effort allows many individuals to get resources at home or the most appropriate treatment facility for their individual needs.”

"The SMART Community Policing Act supports programs that emphasize training, partnerships, and community-based solutions that strengthen both public safety and behavioral health response capabilities and helps ensure that co-responder programs have the long-term support and resources necessary to continue providing these critical services to the community," said Ryan Kenney, Police Chief, Vail Police Department. "The SMART Community Policing Act strengthens the Eagle County co-responder program's ability to address behavioral health and mental health crises. Individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis benefit from trained professionals who can recognize, assess, and respond to their specific needs. The co-responder model has helped reduce unnecessary law enforcement involvement in behavioral health incidents while allowing officers to remain focused on core public safety responsibilities."

"Our co-responder program has been integral to keeping our communities safe," said Sean Smith, Sheriff, La Plata County. "Having behavioral health clinicians to help respond in difficult cases not only helps my deputies – it ensures that those in crisis get the resources and support they need. I'm glad to see Senator Bennet working to provide critical funding for specialty teams like ours."

"Because we have witnessed the measurable success of these programs on a local scale, the City of Alamosa strongly advocates for the dedicated federal funding and framework provided by the SMART Community Policing Act. We stand as a testament to the fact that this model works, and we urge its full passage and widespread adoption," said George Dingfelder, Chief of Police, Alamosa Police Department. "Our local efforts have proven that meeting mental and behavioral health crises with resource-based, specialized care yields better outcomes. This approach effectively de-escalates high-stress situations, connects vulnerable or at-risk individuals with long-term stabilization services, and significantly reduces the strain on our emergency infrastructure. Most importantly, it allows our law enforcement officers to dedicate their time and focus to protecting public safety and addressing violent crime."

Bennet originally introduced the SMART Community Policing Act in July 2022. In May of the same year, Bennet requested increased funding for the Department of Justice's Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring Program. The COPS Program provides funding directly to law enforcement agencies across the country to hire additional police officers to strengthen community policing and crime prevention efforts, which includes expanding crisis intervention teams.
The text of the bill is available HERE. A summary of the bill is available HERE. A letter of support from the Alamosa Police Department can be found HERE.

Bennet Demands Investigation, Will File Amendment and Legislation to End Trump's Slush Fund

Legislation Would Prevent Any Payments to Tina Peters and January 6 Rioters
DENVER — Colorado U.S. Senator Michael Bennet, a senior member of the Senate Finance Committee and Ranking Member of the Senate Finance Subcommittee on Taxation and IRS Oversight, took action this week to block President Trump's corrupt settlement with the

Department of Justice (DOJ), including Trump's efforts to shield himself and his family from IRS scrutiny and the creation of an "Anti-Weaponization Fund" to reward his political allies.

"President Trump continues to undermine our institutions, weaponize the Justice Department for political purposes, and abuse taxpayer dollars to create a slush fund for his allies," said Bennet. "This is not just about stopping the misuse of taxpayer dollars, it is about fighting the attempts of a sitting president to use the federal government to reward political allies while shielding himself and his businesses from independent oversight and tax enforcement. Congress cannot stand by while Trump turns the federal government into a political operation for his friends and cronies."

On Friday, Bennet joined all Senate Finance Committee Democrats to demand a bipartisan investigation into the Trump Administration's interference with independent tax enforcement, including allegations that the DOJ directed the IRS to halt audits of President Trump, his family, and businesses tied to returns filed before May 19, 2026.

The investigation request follows revelations that the DOJ structured the agreement to draw nearly $1.8 billion from the federal Judgment Fund, meaning taxpayer dollars are directly financing the settlement, while shielding Trump and his businesses from future scrutiny. Senate Democrats raised concerns that the settlement circumvents proper judicial review and the congressional appropriations process, creating serious constitutional and oversight concerns about illegal interference with independent tax enforcement.

Bennet also prepared and plans to file legislation and an amendment as part of the upcoming budget reconciliation process to eliminate the "Anti-Weaponization Fund" entirely, and prohibit any similar fund from being created in the future. In addition, Bennet will co-lead Colorado U.S Senator John Hickenlooper's amendment to block funds from going to election denier Tina Peters.

Earlier this week, Vice President J. D. Vance suggested former Mesa County Clerk Tina Peters could potentially be eligible for a payout from the fund, despite a Colorado jury convicting her of four felonies.

"For Coloradans, this issue is not theoretical," Bennet added. "Tina Peters broke the law, undermined our elections, and was convicted by a jury of her peers. Lawlessness breeds lawlessness, and she should not receive a single dime from taxpayers."

The text of Bennet's amendment can be found HERE. The letter sent by Senate Finance Committee Democrats can be found HERE.

Bennet Statement Welcoming Shoshone Permanency Project Funding After Years of Work

Denver — Colorado U.S. Senator Michael Bennet issued the following statement on the newly released and overdue full funding of $40 million for the Shoshone Permanency Project:

“This is a big day for one of the most important water conservation efforts in our state’s history. For more than a century, the Shoshone Water Rights have helped keep water flowing through our state’s namesake river. These senior water rights are a lifeline for Colorado — providing certainty for farmers and ranchers, sustaining outdoor recreation, protecting wildlife habitat, and helping stabilize flows when the Colorado River runs low.

“The $40 million released today, coming from drought funding I secured in the Inflation Reduction Act, will protect the headwaters of the Colorado River Basin, the Western Slope economy, and help us confront the realities of a relentless decades-long drought. Today’s announcement is thanks to the hard work of bipartisan leaders across the Western Slope who fought for years to move this project forward.”

Bennet has led the fight for the Shoshone Permanency Project. The federal funding comes from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), in which Bennet helped secure $4 billion to mitigate the impacts of drought. He worked closely with the Biden Administration to secure $170 million for Colorado, including the Shoshone project, for drought resilience and ecosystem health. This funding was frozen after it was announced in January 2025 and Bennet has consistently called for its release.

Earlier this month, Bennet called for the release of the remaining $92 million in “Bucket 2E” funds, including Shoshone, after the Bureau announced funding for four additional projects. This came after Bennet led the entire Colorado delegation in calling on top officials at the Department of the Interior (DOI) and USBR to release $140 million in previously awarded federal funding for 15 Colorado projects to help fight the Colorado River crisis in August 2025.

In November 2025, Bennet issued a statement on the Colorado Water Conservation Board’s vote to approve the Shoshone Water Rights Acquisition. In October 2024, Bennet, Hickenlooper, Neguse, Crow, Pettersen, and DeGette wrote to the USBR in support of the Colorado River Water Conservation District’s application for federal funding for the Shoshone Permanency Project. Bennet will continue to advocate for the project to be finalized by the Colorado Water Court.

SENATOR HICKENLOOPER

Hickenlooper Statement After Being Denied Access to Hudson ICE Facility During Oversight Visit

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senator John Hickenlooper released the following statement after being denied access to a new ICE detention center in Hudson as he attempted to conduct an oversight visit.

“Congress has a responsibility to know what’s happening inside these facilities, and you deserve to know as well,” said Hickenlooper. “We tried to conduct congressional oversight – they said no. When we showed up anyway, they refused to let us in. The facility is not open yet, but if it does, we will be back. We won’t stop demanding answers and fighting to hold ICE accountable.”

After ICE denied Senator Hickenlooper access to the facility today, he released the following video raising concerns about the detention center.

Watch Hickenlooper's video on X, Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube

In February 2026, Hickenlooper wrote a letter to Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Kristi Noem demanding the agency abandon its plan to open the new ICE detention facility in Hudson.

Hickenlooper has been outspoken in the face of ICE's lawlessness and demanded a top-to-bottom overhaul of the agency to stop ICE from terrorizing our communities. Hickenlooper also voted against the DHS funding bill because it failed to overhaul ICE. He has consistently pushed for more oversight and transparency for federal immigration enforcement efforts, and has worked to help families desperately searching for loved ones arrested by ICE. In January, Hickenlooper spoke on the Senate floor to denounce the horrifying killings of Alex Pretti and Renee Good, condemn the reports that families in Eagle County found "Death cards" left in the cars of family members taken by ICE agents, and to demand the overhaul of ICE.
He's shown up at ICE facilities to conduct congressional oversight visits and raise concerns about ICE disregarding due process. He helped launch an investigation into ICE's unlawful obstruction of congressional oversight and introduced bills to ban ICE from wearing masks, prevent immigration enforcement from targeting schools, hospitals, polling locations, and places of worship, and cut back the excessive funding that MAGA Republicans gave them.

Hickenlooper Applauds Remissioning of Hundreds of Colorado Airmen

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senator John Hickenlooper applauded the reassignment of 393 members of the 233rd Space Group stationed at Greeley's Air National Guard Station. The remissioning comes after the Trump administration unilaterally shifted space missions to the U.S. Space Force, leaving the careers of hundreds of airmen in limbo.

"This decision gives much-needed clarity to our dedicated National Guard members and their families," said Hickenlooper. "The assignment also helps ensure these talented professionals can continue serving and making Colorado proud."

In last year's National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), a flawed provision allowed the Trump administration to transfer Air National Guard space mission jobs to the U.S. Space Force without obtaining the approval of state governors. This decision led to 14 airmen transferring to other units or retiring.

Earlier this month, Hickenlooper and the entire Colorado delegation urged Troy Meink, the secretary of the Air Force, and Kenneth Wilsbach, chief of staff of the Air Force, to finalize reassignments for the hundreds of airmen left without clear missions. The lawmakers emphasized how critical Colorado's military footprint is for national defense and the need for a clear and stable path forward for our servicemembers.

Hickenlooper has long been a leader on this issue. He led the introduction of bipartisan legislation to establish a Space National Guard, which would have enabled these airmen to continue fulfilling their space mission under the oversight of the U.S. Space Force. He also led an amendment and a bipartisan, bicameral letter during last year's NDAA process seeking to provide greater gubernatorial oversight over transfers of National Guard personnel to the Space Force.

He has consistently fought to keep Colorado as a premier destination for military readiness and space defense. When the Trump administration announced it would be moving the U.S. Space Command from Colorado to Alabama, Hickenlooper denounced the wasteful action.

Hickenlooper Welcomes Release of $40 Million in Federal Funding for Shoshone Permanency Project to Address Colorado River Crisis

Follows a nearly year and a half delay for a key Colorado River "Bucket 2" water project
Unfrozen funding comes after Hickenlooper highlighted the pressing need for these projects in a Senate ENR Hearing with Secretary Burgum
Senators continue pushing to release additional $52M in funding for remaining Colorado projects

WASHINGTON – Today, U.S. Senator John Hickenlooper welcomed the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's (USBR) announcement of $40 million in federal funding for the Shoshone Permanency Project to combat the Colorado River crisis. Earlier this month, Hickenlooper urged Interior Secretary Doug Burgum in a Senate Energy and Natural Resources (ENR) Committee to release funding for Colorado's water projects, which provide drought resilience for the entire Colorado River system.

"We all pushed the Trump administration to release this Upper Basin funding because Colorado is facing a water crisis," said Hickenlooper. "Thanks to the Inflation Reduction Act, this funding will support the Shoshone Permanency Project's efforts to protect the Colorado River, especially during dry years."

The federal funding comes from the Inflation Reduction Act, which included $4 billion to mitigate the impacts of drought in the Colorado River Basin, including activities to support environmental benefits and promote ecosystem and habitat restoration. Hickenlooper fought for $8 billion for western water infrastructure, $10 billion for forests, $19 billion for agricultural conservation, and $4 billion for drought in the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Seven of the 17 projects have now been awarded a total of more than $99 million. Nine other drought projects remain unfunded. Hickenlooper is continuing to push USBR to release the additional $52 million.

Earlier this month, Hickenlooper welcomed the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's (USBR) announcement of $47 million in federal funding for four projects in Colorado to combat the Colorado River crisis. Last August, Senators Hickenlooper and Bennet, and Representatives Jeff Hurd, Jeff Crank, Joe Neguse, Gabe Evans, Brittany Pettersen, Lauren Boebert, Diana DeGette, and Jason Crow called on top officials at the Department of the Interior (DOI) and USBR to

release $140 million in previously awarded federal funding for 15 Colorado projects to help fight the Colorado River crisis.

SENATORS BENNET / HICKENLOOPER

Bennet, Fischer Introduce Resolution Promoting Mental Health in Agricultural Industry and Workforce

Denver — Colorado U.S. Senator Michael Bennet and Senator Deb Fischer (R-Neb.) introduced a bipartisan resolution designating May 29, 2026, as Mental Health Awareness in Agriculture Day. U.S. Representatives Mike Bost (R-Ill.) and Kim Schrier (D-Wash.) introduced a companion resolution in the House of Representatives.

"Colorado farmers, ranchers, and farmworkers face unprecedented challenges from severe drought to increased costs that can take a toll on their mental health," said Bennet. "I've consistently worked to expand access to affordable, reliable mental health care for all Coloradans and am grateful to stand with Senator Fischer and my Senate colleagues to designate May 29th as Mental Health Awareness in Agriculture Day. Providing visibility and awareness to address these challenges is essential for progress."

"Farmers, ranchers, and ag workers have some of the toughest jobs in the country," said Fischer. "Right now, a struggling farm economy is making life even harder – and it weighs heavily on the minds of those who feed and fuel our nation. This resolution designates May 29th as Mental Health Awareness in Agriculture Day and sheds light on the resources available for those in need. I thank my colleagues for joining this bipartisan, bicameral effort as we keep working to ease the strain in farm country."

"Our farmers are proud, salt of the Earth people, but they face tremendous pressures in a tough industry," said Bost. "The stress that comes with the profession is real, with a suicide rate 3.5 times higher than the general population. Volatile markets, rising input costs, and unpredictable weather don't just threaten a family farm's bottom line, they take a toll on mental health, too. This legislation is a step towards making sure they know that if they're struggling, they don't have to struggle alone."

"Farmers in Washington state and across the country face a variety of challenges, from extreme weather and skyrocketing costs to changing markets at home and abroad," said Schrier. "Our agricultural industry is under stress, which has taken a toll on farmers' mental health. I am proud to introduce this resolution to raise awareness of this rural mental health crisis and commit to supporting our producers in every way we can as they feed our country, uplift our economies, and bolster rural America."

Bennet has consistently advocated in Congress to increase awareness of and support for mental health in agricultural communities. In addition to supporting this resolution each year, Bennet reintroduced the Agricultural Access to Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Mental Health Care Act in March 2025 to require the Government Accountability Office to study the barriers that farming and ranching communities face to access mental and behavioral health care. In

2023 and 2025, Bennet also joined his colleagues in supporting the bipartisan Farmers First Act to increase funding for the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network and connect farmers with mental health resources.

This legislation is supported by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, the National Farmers Union, the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, the National Rural Health Association, the American Soybean Association, the National Pork Producers, the American Farm Bureau Federation, the National Corn Growers Association, the Agricultural Retailers Association, and the Farm Credit Services of America.

In addition to Bennet and Fischer, this legislation is cosponsored by Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman John Boozman (R-Ark.) and Ranking Member Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), as well as U.S. Senators Pete Ricketts (R-Neb.), Angela Alsobrooks (D-Md.), Steve Daines (R-Mont.), Chris Coons (D-Del.), Mike Rounds (R-S.D.), Jacky Rosen (D-Nev.), Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.), John Hickenlooper (D-Colo.), John Hoeven (R-N.D.), Adam Schiff (D-Calif.), Mike Crapo (R-Idaho), Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.), Jerry Moran (R-Kan.), Tina Smith (D-Minn.), Roger Marshall (R-Kan.), Dick Durbin (D-Ill.), Thom Tillis (R-N.C.), Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.), Dave McCormick (R-Pa.), and Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-Del.).

The text of the resolution is available HERE. Statements of support can be found HERE.

Bennet, Warnock, Colleagues Demand Secretary Kennedy Allow CDC Experts to Do Their Jobs Amid Global Health Emergencies

The CDC's lack of communications response to the hantavirus and other infectious disease outbreaks has drawn criticism from public health experts; Reports allege that Trump Administration political appointees have been suppressing communications by career CDC professionals.

Denver — Colorado U.S. Senator Michael Bennet joined U.S. Senator Reverend Raphael Warnock (D-Ga.) and seven colleagues to demand that Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. allow expert scientists and physicians at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to speak freely, candidly, and "without political interference" about the hantavirus threat to the public.

"Let us be clear: we have complete confidence in the career experts at CDC who are, and have been, working to respond to this potential threat," wrote the senators. "What concerns us is the Administration's potential hamstringing of those experts' ability to convey scientifically backed information to the public."

"The absence of a trusted voice allows conspiracy theorists and misinformation to fester, creating more panic," continued the senators. "Getting factual, real-time information gives the American people confidence in the U.S.'s ability to keep them safe."

Criticism of the CDC's lack of public response has been growing since news agencies first reported that six Americans and 30 passengers had been sickened with hantavirus aboard a cruise ship in the Atlantic Ocean. The first death from the current outbreak occurred on April 11,

2026, with the second death occurring just two weeks later on April 26. The CDC did not issue an alert until May 8, nearly a month after the first reported death, roughly two weeks after the second death, and six days after the World Health Organization (WHO) issued its first notice about the potential outbreak on May 2.

At the same time, it is important for the public health experts to be able to share timely and factual information with the public – especially since last week Colorado saw its first death from hantavirus since 2024, according to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

The lawmakers' letter comes on the heels of another global health emergency in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda. As of May 25, the CDC has deemed the overall risk to the American public and travelers low.

According to numbers shared to Congress by HHS in April 2026, CDC has lost over 26 percent of its staff, or 3,369 employees, since January 2025, which raises questions whether the beleaguered agency and HHS can effectively fulfill its role of leading preparedness and response efforts to a larger outbreak or epidemic.

Bennet has constantly fought against Kennedy's anti-health and anti-science agenda. In April 2026, Bennet questioned Kennedy during a Senate Finance Committee hearing on Kennedy's long-standing skepticism of childhood vaccines amidst the largest measles outbreak in over thirty years.

In March 2025, Bennet joined 12 of his Senate colleagues in sending a letter to Kennedy to demand HHS reverse changes to the CDC and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) websites that promote false and dangerous information about autism. In September 2025, he questioned Kennedy during a Senate Finance Committee hearing on his actions undermining vaccine safety and access for American families. Bennet also joined members of the Senate Finance Committee in issuing a statement calling on Kennedy to resign due to the danger he poses to America's health, his lies to Congress, and his spread of disinformation.

In addition to Bennet and Warnock, U.S. Senators Angela D. Alsobrooks (D-Md.), Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-Del.), John Hickenlooper (D-Colo.), Ben Ray Lujan (D-N.M.), Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.), Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.), and Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) signed the letter.

The text of the letter is available HERE and below.

Dear Secretary Kennedy,

Given the growing threat of hantavirus, we write with a simple request: let the experts speak. The Department of Health and Human Services and particularly the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) employ hundreds of infectious disease experts, and their knowledge is needed now more than ever. We have been alarmed by reports that political appointees have

been muzzling CDC communications, and we urge you to allow our nation's expert scientists and physicians to speak candidly, without political interference. Given your previously expressed commitment to "radical transparency," we expect you will be able to easily honor this commitment.

The first death from this outbreak of the hantavirus was on April 11, 2026. The second death was two weeks later, on April 26. The World Health Organization (WHO) received notice about the potential outbreak on May 2. However, the CDC did not put out an alert on the Health Alert Network (HAN) to public health practitioners, officials, laboratorians and clinicians until May 8, nearly a month after the first death, nearly two weeks after the second death, and six days after the WHO received its first notification.

CDC held its first briefing on May 9, but only for invited press. According to reports, the invited media "could not cite the speakers by name under rules set by aides to Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr." An open press briefing in Nebraska on May 11 provided more answers, and we urge you to give CDC experts the flexibility to share information as it changes.

Let us be clear: we have complete confidence in the career experts at CDC who are, and have been, working to respond to this potential threat. What concerns us is the Administration's potential hamstringing of those experts' ability to convey scientifically backed information to the public. The absence of a trusted voice allows conspiracy theorists and misinformation to fester, creating more panic. Getting factual, real-time information gives the American people confidence in the U.S.'s ability to keep them safe.

We also worry that this outbreak shows the gaps in our country's ability to respond to threats, considering the United States' recent withdrawal from the World Health Organization (WHO). Additionally, the CDC has been crippled by staffing cuts over the past year, which has undoubtedly weakened its ability to promptly respond to emerging health threats. According to numbers shared to Congress by HHS in April 2026, CDC has lost over 26 percent of its staff, or 3,369 employees, since January 2025. These reckless staffing cuts call into question whether the beleaguered agency and HHS as a whole can effectively fulfill its role of leading preparedness and response efforts to a larger outbreak or epidemic.

According to experts, the current strain of the hantavirus outbreak has historically required very close contact with symptomatic individuals. However, if this virus or a different virus with high transmission and case fatality rates circulates, the country's lack of involvement with WHO, staffing shortages at CDC, and absence of frequent communication from experts will be a recipe for disaster. The least this Administration can do is allow CDC to communicate publicly to build trust with the American people and to keep families safe.

We do not need a lengthy or extensive response to our request. We respectfully request a "yes" or "no" to the following question: With the growing threat of hantavirus, will you permit public health experts and scientists at the CDC, and not the Administration's political appointees, to

make the final decisions on what is said to the public, when it is said, and through what manner, about the hantavirus and other infectious disease threats?

We also request a briefing on efforts to respond to this outbreak by CDC career subject matter experts within one week of receipt of this letter.

REPRESENTATIVE CRANK

Rep. Crank and SecAF Meink Announce New Investments in Colorado Springs

COLORADO SPRINGS, C.O. -- Today, Representative Jeff Crank (CO-05) joined Secretary of the Air Force Troy Meink at Schriever Space Force Base to announce new investments for the Pikes Peak Region.

Included in today's announcement:

- The Space Force's Infrastructure Portfolio Acquisition Executive (PAE) will be headquartered at Peterson Space Force Base (SFB):
    - Through Rep. Crank's leadership in the FY26 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), Space Force PAEs will have more than 90% of all decision authorities, making them powerful decision makers as the Space Force continues to grow.
    - This streamlined approach allows the Space Force to work with Colorado Springs companies to get cutting-edge technology to warfighters at speed.
    - Growing out of the Space Force's former Operational Test and Training Infrastructure office and its $4 billion portfolio, the Infrastructure PAE brings significant new investment and employment opportunities to the Pikes Peak Region.
- The Department will construct a new, $250 million Space Force Operations Facility at Schriever SFB that will support 2,500 civilian jobs:
    - This significant investment in our region exemplifies the growing necessity to own the "ultimate high ground" of space in modern combat.
    - The new facility will support essential missions such as Golden Dome, space-based reconnaissance, and all-domain command and control.
- Space Force Personnel Growth:
    - In the FY27 NDAA, Rep. Crank is securing language to support Secretary Meink's goal of doubling the size of the Space Force in the next few years
    - This year's bill will increase the number of 2nd Lieutenants coming to Peterson SFB to complete the Officer Training Course by 300%.
    - With over half of all Space Force Guardians calling El Paso County home, this end strength increase will further invest in our local economy.
- Rep. Crank expressed continued support for the potential increase in the United States Air Force Academy cadet wing to return the Academy to the same size as the Naval Academy and West Point and to support the additional needs of the Space Force.

"Over half of all Space Force Guardians live in the Pikes Peak Region," said Rep. Crank. "As the Space Force continues to grow, so will our community. I'm grateful to President Trump, Secretary of War Pete Hegseth, and Secretary Meink for their continued commitment to El Paso County

and delighted that the investments Secretary Meink announced today solidify that commitment for the long term. Colorado Springs is proud to have been a strong partner of the Department of the Air Force for over eight decades, and I'm confident that our best days are still ahead."

"The Department of the Air Force is grateful for our enduring partnership with the State of Colorado," said Secretary Meink. "As home to nearly half of all uniformed Space Force Guardians, Colorado remains a vital anchor for our national security mission. Our ongoing investments and collaboration are a tangible representation of our continued commitment to Colorado and the future of the Space Force."

REPRESENTATIVE BOEBERT

Congresswoman Lauren Boebert's Office Releases June Staff Hosted Mobile Office Hours

Highlands Ranch, CO-- Congresswoman Lauren Boebert's Office announced Mobile Office Hours hosted by staff in the month of June.

"Our staff-hosted Mobile Office Hours give constituents in the more remote areas of Colorado's 4th District direct access to the help they need," said Congresswoman Boebert (CO-04). "Meeting Coloradans where they are is a vital part of our office's work, and these Mobile Office Hours continue to be an invaluable resource for our rural communities."

Staff from Congresswoman Boebert's office will be available to help constituents who aren't getting answers from federal agencies, like veterans seeking to get the care they earned from the VA, travelers that need expedited assistance to receive a passport on short notice, taxpayers being harassed by the IRS, and senior citizens having issues with the Social Security Administration or Medicare. Additionally, constituents are invited to come to the office hours to express their viewpoints on legislative issues or request special Congressional Recognition from the Congresswoman recognizing outstanding public achievements.

Congresswoman Boebert's office has hosted Mobile Office Hours in every county in the district and returned over $14,126,532.48 to constituents.

Staff hosted Mobile Office Hours will be available at the following times and locations:

TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2026
Washington County Mobile Office Hours
Otis Fire Department
409 E 5th Ave
Otis, CO
10:30-11:30 am

TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2026
Kit Carson County Mobile Office Hours
Burlington Public Library
321 14th St

Burlington, CO
11:00am-12:00 pm

Lincoln County Mobile Office Hours
Limon Town Hall, Council Chambers
100 Civic Center Dr
Limon, CO
2:45-3:45 pm

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2026
Cheyenne County Mobile Office Hours
Municipal Complex, Council Chambers
151 S 1st St E W
Cheyenne Wells, CO
11:00am-12:00 pm

TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2026
Yuma County Mobile Office Hours
The Space in Wray
146 Main St
Wray, CO 80758
5:00-6:00 pm

ICYMI: Rep. Lauren Boebert Delivers Major Wins for Veterans

Washington, DC—In case you missed it, Rep. Lauren Boebert (CO-04) voted for H.R. 8469, the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2027, to fully fund America's veterans' healthcare and benefits. This bill also included five of Congresswoman Boebert's amendments that passed the House with unanimous, bipartisan support, redirecting an additional $10 million to veterans and their programs.

This week, Rep. Boebert also voted in support of H.R. 1041, the Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act, and H.R. 6047, the Sharri Briley and Eric Edmundson Veterans Benefits Expansion Act of 2026.

"Our veterans deserve our unwavering support," said Rep. Lauren Boebert (CO-04). "I was proud to vote in favor of the Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act, support the Sharri Briley and Eric Edmundson Veterans Benefits Expansion Act of 2026, vote to fully fund the VA which included my amendments to that deliver an additional $10 million for veterans across America."

Background: Last week, the House passed H.R. 8469, the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2027 with Congresswoman Lauren Boebert's support by a bipartisan vote.

Congresswoman Boebert passed five amendments to this bill with unanimous bipartisan support through the House of Representatives to improve veterans' benefits and services as part of the bipartisan en bloc amendment package.

Congresswoman Boebert's amendments that passed the House include the following:

- Boebert Amendment No. 4: Redirects $2 million to the Board of Veterans Appeals to help reduce its backlog so that veteran claims can be adjudicated in a timely manner.
- Boebert Amendment No. 5: Redirects $2 million to provide additional resources for medical and prosthetic research to ensure our veterans receive cutting-edge medical care from the VA.
- Boebert Amendment No. 6: Redirects $2 million to provide additional funding for the construction of new state-extended care facilities.
- Boebert Amendment No. 7: Redirects $2 million to fund grants for the construction of veteran's cemetery programs to assist state and tribal governments in providing burial benefits for veterans in rural areas lacking a VA national cemetery.
- Boebert Amendment No. 8: Redirects $2 million to the Office of the Inspector General to combat waste, fraud, and abuse.

Rep. Boebert also voted in support of two additional key veterans measures that passed the House of Representatives this week:

H.R. 1041, the Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act, which safeguards veterans' constitutional rights by prohibiting the VA from automatically reporting veterans to the national firearms background check system (NICS) simply for having a fiduciary assigned to help manage their benefits. The bill requires a judicial determination of dangerousness before any such reporting can occur.

H.R. 6047, the Sharri Briley and Eric Edmundson Veterans Benefits Expansion Act of 2026, which expands compensation for catastrophically disabled veterans and increases Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) for Gold Star surviving spouses and families — delivering the first significant increase in certain survivor benefits in decades.

Updates from Congressional committees of interest

HOUSE JOINT TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

T&I Committee Approves BUILD America 250 Act

The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, following a 14-hour legislative markup today, approved H.R. 8870, the BUILD America 250 – a bipartisan, five-year surface transportation reauthorization bill that invests in America's roads, bridges, transit, rail transportation, and highway and motor carrier safety programs.

The BUILD America 250 (Building Unrivaled Infrastructure and Long-term Development for America's 250th) Act emphasizes moving people, goods, and freight safely and efficiently across the country. The bill provides the largest ever investment in America's bridges, focuses on proven surface transportation infrastructure programs, provides passenger rail investments and reforms, improves rail safety, ensures that transportation projects and programs are more efficient, encourages innovation, provides the first ever autonomous commercial motor vehicle framework, and injects the Highway Trust Fund with its first new stream of revenue in over three decades.

"The purpose of the BUILD America 250 Act is right there in its name. We are celebrating the 250th anniversary of our nation and the infrastructure that has helped form it, and this bill is about building the infrastructure we need for America's future," said Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Sam Graves (R-MO). "This bill makes historic investments in our bridges and other critical infrastructure, reduces costs and delays in building, ensures states have the resources and flexibility they need, bolsters the Highway Trust Fund, fosters innovation, and provides a framework for safely integrating autonomous commercial motor vehicles onto our highways. I want to thank all the Committee Members on both sides of the aisle for the longs hours of debate they put in today on this vital legislation. I look forward to moving this bill on the House floor in the near future, and to working with the Senate to pass a final bill before the current law expires on September 30th."

"You can't have a big-league economy with little-league infrastructure," said Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Ranking Member Rick Larsen (D-WA). "The BUILD America 250 Act will create good paying jobs while restoring aging bridges, repairing crumbling roads, and supporting safe, accessible rail, transit and bike infrastructure. My top priority this Congress was building on the momentum that the last bipartisan infrastructure law created for our transportation system and our economy and that's exactly what the BUILD America 250 Actdoes. I want to thank Chairman Graves for his partnership and all my colleagues on the committee for their input and support. I look forward to swift passage by the full House."

HOUSE MAJORITY ENERGY & COMMERCE

Chairmen Guthrie and Palmer Announce Hearing on the Modernization of the Clean Air Act's Mobile Source Requirements

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, Congressman Brett Guthrie (KY-02), Chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, and Congressman Gary Palmer (AL-06), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Environment, announced a hearing titled Rules of the Road: Examining Legislation to Modernize the Clean Air Act's Mobile Source Requirements.

"The Clean Air Act regulates not just the cars we drive but also the trucks and trains that transport and deliver food, consumer products, and even the energy needed for our daily lives. Actions by the Biden-Harris Administration and states like California have taken away consumer choices and driven up costs to advance a radical environmental agenda instead of focusing on responsible environmental policies that complement lower costs and innovation," said Chairmen Guthrie and Palmer. "This hearing will provide the opportunity to examine how burdensome regulations that have led to higher costs and unnecessary red tape can be addressed while continuing to protect the air we breathe."

Subcommittee on Environment hearing titled Rules of the Road: Examining Legislation to Modernize the Clean Air Act's Mobile Source Requirements

WHAT: Subcommittee on Environment hearing to discuss the modernization of the Clean Air Act's mobile source requirements.

DATE: Wednesday, June 3, 2026

TIME: 2:00 PM ET

LOCATION: 2123 Rayburn House Office Building

- Items to be considered:
  H.R. ____, Diesel Emission Fluid Flexibility Act (Rep. Fedorchak)
  H.R. ____, To prohibit engine idling restrictions for over-the-road buses and school buses if an engine idles for less than 15 minutes, and for other purposes
  H.R. ____, State Emissions Authority Act of 2026 (Rep. Grothman)
  H.R. 2140, Diesel Emissions Reduction Act of 2025 (Reps. Matsui and Langworthy)
  H.R. 2165, Choice in Automobile Retail Sales Act (Rep. Walberg)
  H.R. 3194, LOCOMOTIVES Act (Rep. Moolenaar)
  H.R. 6200, ESSENTIAL Act (Rep. LaMalfa)
  H.R. 6250, Cold Weather Diesel Reliability Act of 2025 (Rep. Begich)
  H.R. 7000, Freedom to Fuel Act (Rep. Moore)
  H.R. 8782, PLOW Storms Act (Rep. Bergman)

This notice is at the direction of the Chairman. The hearing will be open to the public and press and will be livestreamed online at energycommerce.house.gov. If you have any questions concerning this hearing, please contact Annabelle Huffman with the Committee staff at Annabelle.Huffman@mail.house.gov. If you have any press-related questions, please contact Katie West at Katie.West@mail.house.gov.

SENATE MINORITY ENVIRONMENT & PUBLIC WORKS

Forty-One Senators Push to Keep Harmful Environmental Riders Out of Appropriations Bills

Senators warn that inclusion of poison pills harming the environment would undermine Senate's ability to pass bipartisan spending bills

Washington, D.C. – Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works; Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Ranking Member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies; and 39 of their colleagues have sent a letter urging Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Susan Collins (R-ME) and Vice Chair Patty Murray (D-WA) to keep harmful anti-environment policy provisions out of FY2027 appropriations bills. These policy "riders" typically make changes to laws that would otherwise not withstand the scrutiny of regular-order congressional debate and would not advance without being attached to must-pass measures like appropriations bills.

"Anti-environment poison pills are giveaways to the fossil fuel industry at the expense of the health and financial wellbeing of the American people. They have no place in bipartisan spending deals," said Whitehouse.

"Harmful anti-environment policy riders are poison pills that will sabotage funding the government. As the Ranking Member of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, I've worked hard to keep these riders out. It's an important principle to preserve," said Merkley.

Several of the House Republicans' partisan spending bills have included riders aimed at weakening safeguards for air, water, and federal lands.

The letter was also signed by Senators Angela Alsobrooks (D-MD), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Michael Bennet (D-CO), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE), Cory Booker (D-NJ), Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Chris Coons (D-DE), Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV), Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Dick Durbin (D-IL), John Fetterman (D-PA), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Maggie Hassan (D-NH), Martin Heinrich (D-NM), John Hickenlooper (D-CO), Mazie Hirono (D-HI), Tim Kaine (D-VA), Mark Kelly (D-AZ), Andy Kim (D-NJ), Ben Ray Luján (D-NM), Edward Markey (D-MA), Chris Murphy (D-CT), Alex Padilla (D-CA), Gary Peters (D-MI), Jack Reed (D-RI), Jackie Rosen (D-NV), Bernie Sanders (I-VT), Brian Schatz (D-HI), Adam Schiff (D-CA), Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Elissa Slotkin (D-MI), Tina Smith (D-MN), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Mark Warner (D-VA), Raphael Warnock (D-GA), Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Peter Welch (D-VT), and Ron Wyden (D-OR).

The Senators' letter is available here.

SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

In Case You Missed It… Sen. Rick Scott Hosts Leading Pharmaceutical Executives for Discussion on Strengthening Domestic Drug Supply Chain

TAMPA, Fla. — Senator Rick Scott, Chairman of the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging, yesterday hosted Florida's pharmaceutical leaders at St. Joseph's Hospital for a roundtable conversation on securing and expanding the domestic drug supply chain.

Chairman Scott said, "What we're doing is saying 'How can we make the drugs, that people are taking all across our state, safe?' We don't want to be dependent on another country that might withhold their drugs, and we want to make sure the things we are putting in our bodies are safe. When you buy clothing, you know where it's made. When you buy a piece of produce at a grocery store, you know where it's made. We need to know where our drugs are made…

"Forums like these are really important because you get ideas. Ideas aren't going to come out of the federal government; they're going to come out of the people that are dealing with this every day."

Chairman Scott was joined by:

- Pat Witmer, Corporate Vice President, B. Braun Medical
- Scott White, Chief Commercial Officer, Belcher Pharmaceuticals
- Brian McMillan, CEO, Bravado Pharmaceuticals
- Les Louden, PharmD, Regional Director of Pharmacy Services, BayCare Health System
- Ken Komorny, PharmD, Vice President and Chief Pharmacy Officer, Moffitt Cancer Center
- Nicholas W. Carris, PharmD, MPH, Interim Assistant Dean of Clinical Affairs at the University of South Florida
- Zayne Smith, Senior Director of Advocacy, AARP Florida

BACKGROUND:
Chairman Scott has been a leading voice in Washington for drug supply chain reform. In January 2026, Chairman Scott introduced the Consumer Labeling for Enhanced API Reporting and Legitimate Accountability for Base Entity Listings (CLEAR LABELS) Act to add country of origin labeling requirements to the U.S.'s prescription drug supply chain.

Many prescription drugs, and their active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs), are manufactured overseas, particularly in China and India, and current federal labeling requirements do not require public disclosure of where those ingredients or finished products are made.

The legislation builds on an investigative report and more than a dozen inquiries to federal agencies and industry leaders requesting information on the U.S.'s dangerous over-reliance on foreign-manufactured generic drugs.

Gillibrand Announces Initiative To Protect And Improve Long-Term Care Amid Trump Administration Attacks

Today, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) announced a plan to improve access to and affordability of long-term care for seniors, Americans with disabilities, and their families. This plan builds on her work to support caregivers, protect Medicaid, and help seniors age with dignity as the top Democrat on the Senate Aging Committee.

"New York families are confronting a long-term care crisis that threatens their savings, their peace of mind, and their health," said Senator Gillibrand. "While Republicans roll back vital nursing home staffing standards and slash hundreds of billions from Medicaid, Senate Democrats are fighting back. I'm proud to join my colleagues in an effort to strengthen our caregiving infrastructure by expanding access to affordable care, securing living wages for caregivers, and raising standards for nursing homes. Supporting seniors is common sense. We cannot let partisan attacks jeopardize their safety or financial security."

New York is one of the least affordable states for long-term care. According to a new AARP report, in 2024, the median annual income for adults 65+ in New York was $59,909. In contrast, the annual cost of long-term care in New York matched or exceeded that number:

- $186,698 – Nursing Home Private Room
- $176,660 – Nursing Home Semi-Private Room
- $75,600 – Assisted Living
- $53,040 – Part-Time Home Health Aide

Additionally, long-term care costs in New York have grown faster than incomes in recent years, and seniors' savings are often insufficient to cover their care needs. The median household age 75 and older has about $50,000 in financial assets, only enough to cover about one year of home care or a few months of nursing home care.

Amid these challenging trends, Gillibrand and 16 of her Senate Democratic colleagues announced a new initiative to seek input and expertise in developing policies to expand home care, improve nursing homes, and address workforce shortages to create quality, sustainable jobs for both types of care. A letter detailing this initiative can be found here.

The letter describes three goals that will be the focus for policy development among the group in the coming weeks and months:

- Make home care affordable and accessible
- Improve the quality of care in nursing homes
- Use incentives to strengthen the long-term care workforce

This effort builds on Gillibrand's work to strengthen long-term care as ranking member of the Senate Aging Committee. Gillibrand leads the effort to reauthorize the Older Americans Act (OAA), which provides key supports and services for aging Americans and their caregivers to promote living with dignity in the setting of their choice. The senator has additionally long fought to secure minimum staffing standards in nursing homes to improve quality of care for residents. She has also introduced myriad legislation to increase wages and support for caregivers to bolster this vital workforce, including the Social Security Caregiver Credit Act, the Respite CARE Act, the Fair Wages for Home Care Workers Act, and the Domestic Workers Bill of Rights Act.

In contrast to these efforts, Republicans have spent their time in power making long-term care more expensive and harder to get. They cut Medicaid—the largest payer of long-term care services—by nearly $1 trillion. In addition, Republicans repealed staffing standards for nursing homes that guaranteed access to a registered nurse 24/7.