

NCDA

Inspiring Careers * Empowering Lives

6/21/21 Weekly Washington Update

Headlines to Know

- On Sunday, Senator Bernie Sanders (D-VT) stated that if the bipartisan infrastructure bill includes increasing the gas tax, the privatization of infrastructure, or the fee on electric vehicles to pay for the proposal, he would not support it. This is an indicator that Democrats are at risk of losing progressives' support in a 50-50 Senate even as they work with Republicans to produce the bill. On the other side of the aisle, Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) encouraged President Biden to support his 1 trillion-dollar proposal but warned that it may also be jeopardized if Democrats intend to follow it up with their own second package through reconciliation.
- House appropriators will begin taking up FY 2022 spending bills this week, kick-starting the annual appropriations process. The House last week cleared the way for committee markups to begin by approving a cap on discretionary spending of \$1.506 trillion for the new fiscal year, which begins on October 1st. This figure is aligned with the \$1.52 trillion President Joe Biden proposed in his budget request last month.
- Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer will bring voting rights legislation to the Senate floor on Tuesday afternoon. It does not have the 60 votes needed to overcome the filibuster, nor does it have the support of all 50 Senate Democrats. Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV), who came out against the legislation, offered a compromise proposal last week that received an endorsement from Democratic voting rights activist Stacey Abrams. Her support, however, meant that many Republicans still came out against the compromise legislation.

Other News to Know

- The Biden administration is considering banning imports of critical solar panel material from China's Xinjiang region. This would alleviate bipartisan pressure to crack down on human rights abuses but would undermine the White House's aggressive climate change goals.
- Dozens of state attorneys general are supporting bipartisan legislation that would allow them to take more control over their antitrust lawsuits against major tech companies. The State Antitrust Enforcement Act would help create more efficient, effective, and timely adjudication of antitrust actions.
- Industries enduring the greatest impact of the pandemic, such as restaurants and hotels, are lobbying for billions of dollars in new government funding to stay afloat. The outcry came even after Congress committed to more than 1 trillion dollars over the past year in grants and forgivable loans. However, the effort is

This Week on Capitol Hill *(continued)*

Other News to Know *(continued)*

gaining traction as Republicans are signing on to bills to give grants to restaurants and gyms.

Hearings of Interest:

- Tuesday, June 22nd | 9:30 AM Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Subcommittee on Rural Development and Energy hearings to examine renewable energy, focusing on growth and opportunities for rural economies.
- Tuesday, June 22nd | 2:00 PM House Oversight and Reform Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis Hybrid Hearing on “Lessons Learned: The Federal Reserve’s Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic.”
- Tuesday, June 22nd | 2:30 PM Senate Finance Subcommittee on International Trade, Customs, and Global Competitiveness hearings to examine the strategic benefits of a multilateral approach to trade policy in the Asia-Pacific region.
- Tuesday, June 22nd | 2:30 PM Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Subcommittee on Communication, Media, and Broadband hearings to examine building resilient networks.
- Tuesday, June 22nd | 2:30 PM Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Intellectual Property hearings to examine protecting real innovations by improving patent quality.
- Wednesday, June 23rd | 10:00 AM Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2022 for the Department of Energy, including the National Nuclear Security Agency.
- Wednesday, June 23rd | 10:15 AM House Education and Labor Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions hearings to Examining Pathways to Build a Stronger, More Inclusive Retirement System.
- Wednesday, June 23rd | 2:00 PM House Small Business Subcommittee on Rural Development, Agriculture, Trade, and Entrepreneurship hearing on Prioritizing Small Underserved and Rural Businesses in the SBIR/STTR Programs.
- Wednesday, June 23rd | 2:00 PM Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy hearings to examine existing programs and future opportunities to ensure access to affordable, reliable, and clean energy for rural and low-income communities.
- Wednesday, June 23rd | 2:30 PM Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, and Border Safety hearings to examine immigration and citizenship policies for U.S. military service members, veterans, and their families.

This Week on Capitol Hill *(continued)*

Hearings of Interest: *(continued)*

- Wednesday, June 23rd | 2:30 PM Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Subcommittee on Aviation Safety, Operations, and Innovation hearings to examine aviation infrastructure for the 21st century.
- Wednesday, June 23rd | 2:30 PM Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Policy hearings to examine the role of child care in an equitable post-pandemic economy.
- Wednesday, June 23rd | 2:30 PM Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee hearings to examine markets, transparency, and prices from cattle producer to consumer.
- Thursday, June 24th | 10:00 AM House Small Business Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Regulations hearing on CMMC Implementation: What It Means for Small Businesses.
- Thursday, June 24th | 10:00 AM House Oversight and Reform Committee hearing on “Leading by Example: The Need for Comprehensive Paid Leave for the Federal Workforce and Beyond.”
- Thursday, June 24th | 10:15 AM House Education and Labor Committee hearing on examining the Policies and Priorities of the U.S. Department of Education.

Schedule of Floor Activity:

Both the House and Senate are in session this week.