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DOI In The News

Trump To Order Review Of National Monument Designations.

The [AP](#) (4/25, Colvin, Daly) reports that President Trump will sign an executive order Wednesday directing Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "to review the designation of tens of millions of acres of land as 'national monuments.'"

According to Zinke, "the order will cover several dozen monuments across the country designated since 1996 that total 100,000 acres or more, including two recent monuments in Utah." Zinke "says he'll provide a preliminary review with a recommendation on Bears Ears in 45 days."

[CBS News](#) (4/25, Alemany) reports that Zinke says the "Review of Designations under the Antiquities Act" won't "jeopardize monuments or public lands for the purposes of developing oil, gas, coal, drilling." Zinke claimed "that the new order would restore trust between local communities and Washington, sending the message that they have a voice in the process." When pressed by "skeptical reporters," Zinke asserted "that the idea that this review is an assault on public lands is a 'false narrative' perpetuated by the 'modern media that we live in today.'"

[The Hill](#) (4/25, Henry) reports that "the review itself won't strip monument designations, and Zinke said Trump's review aims to see 'if any improvements can be made' and to 'give state and local communities a meaningful voice in the process.'" Zinke said "he would not 'predispose what the outcome is going to be' on any of the monuments, including Bears Ears." He added that "any reforms he proposes would focus on opening the door to more public input on monument designations."

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (4/25, Burr, Maffly) reports that Sally Jewell, "who headed Interior when Bears Ears was named, defended the designation as having gone through a serious review." She said, "We worked very closely with our scientists, people on the ground, people in the communities that know these landscapes well, the tribes, particularly in case of Bears Ears, that understood what's needed for hunting, gathering and traditional practices and sacred sites. Those shaped the boundaries of these monuments which were very carefully thought out." She added that "there's no question the monuments set aside during her time were 'legitimate and appropriate in the spirit of the Antiquities Act.'"

[Politico](#) (4/25, Whieldon) reports that environmental groups say the Antiquities Act review "will undermine a crucial conservation tool and open up sensitive areas to fossil fuel development."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (4/25, Colvin, Daly), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (4/25, Colvin, Daly), [U.S. News & World Report](#) (4/25, Colvin, Daly), the [Daily Mail](#) (4/25, Colvin, Daly), and [Yahoo! News](#) (4/26, Colvin, Colvin, Daly).

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (4/25, Cama), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (4/25, Eilperin), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (4/25,

Yardley), [CNN](#) (4/25, Merica, Liptak), [CBS News](#) (4/25, Shabad), [NBC News](#) (4/26, Vitali), [Reuters](#) (4/25, Volcovici), [Bloomberg News](#) (4/25, Natter), [NPR](#) (4/25, Siegler), the [Huffington Post](#) (4/25, Hanson), [E&E Publishing](#) (4/25, Hiar), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (4/25, Wolfgang), the [Washington \(DC\) Examiner](#) (4/25, Siciliano), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (4/25, Sharp), the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (4/25, O'Donoghue), the [San Diego \(CA\) Union-Tribune](#) (4/25, Eilperin), the [Boston \(MA\) Globe](#) (4/26, Abel), the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (4/25, Eilperin), the [Honolulu Civil Beat \(HI\)](#) (4/26, Downey), the [New York Post](#) (4/25, Morrongiello), the [Colorado Springs \(CO\) Gazette](#) (4/25, Bunch), the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Review-Journal](#) (4/25, Martin), the [Santa Rosa \(CA\) Press Democrat](#) (4/25, Kovner), the [Daily Caller](#) (4/25, White), [Law360](#) (4/25, Goldberg), the [New Republic](#) (4/25, Atkin), [UPI](#) (4/25, Ware), [EcoWatch](#) (4/25), [Grist](#) (4/25, Merchant), [KPRC-TV Houston \(TX\) Houston](#) (4/26), [KSAT-TV San Antonio \(TX\) San Antonio](#) (4/26), [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\) Salt Lake City](#) (4/25, Colvin, Daly), [KSTU-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\) Salt Lake City](#) (4/25, McDonald), [KWYB-TV Butte \(MT\) Butte, MT](#) (4/25, Crossley), [WCVB-TV Boston \(MA\) Boston](#) (4/25), [WFSU-FM Tallahassee \(FL\) Tallahassee, FL](#) (4/25, Siegler), and [WLRN-FM Miami \(FL\) Miami](#) (4/25, Siegler).

Report Touts Outdoor Industry's \$887B Economic Impact. [USA Today](#) (4/25, Bowerman) reports that "outdoor recreation accounts for \$887 billion in consumer spending each year and supports 7.6 million American jobs, according to a new report." The Outdoor Recreation Economy report, released by the Outdoor Industry Association "highlights the massive economic impact of outdoor recreation which includes hunting, fishing, hiking, and wildlife viewing, in the United States." According to the report, "national parks, wildlife refuges, national monuments and other public lands and waters account for \$35 billion in economic output and 396,000 jobs in the U.S."

The [Denver Post](#) (4/25, Blevins) reports that the report "affirms the industry's ascent to economic powerhouse, a climb that mirrors its recent efforts to evolve into a political force." Amy Roberts, the Outdoor Industry Association's executive director, said, "There is a sense of urgency around keeping public lands public and making sure members of Congress preserve what is one of America's greatest heritages. We definitely see public lands as the infrastructure of the industry the same way the highway system services transportation."

Additional coverage was provided by [Think Progress](#) (4/25, Rowland).

Hatch Hopes Bears Ears Designation Will Be Rescinded. In an op-ed for the [Washington Post](#) (4/25, Hatch), Sen. Orrin G. Hatch, writes that when the President Obama declared the Bears Ears National Monument, "he ignored the best interests of Utah and cast aside the will of the people — all in favor of a unilateral approach meant to satisfy the demands of far-left interest groups." According to Hatch, Obama used the Antiquities Act "as a blunt instrument for executive overreach." Hatch urges President Trump "to undo the harm" and "to fix this disaster." Hatch looks forward to setting "a new precedent regarding the management of federal lands — a precedent that restores the original meaning of the Antiquities Act, returns power to the people and rebuilds trust between the states and the federal government."

Trump To Order Expansion Of Offshore Drilling.

The New York Times (4/25, Davenport) reports that President Trump on Friday will sign an executive order "aimed at opening up protected waters in the Atlantic and Arctic Oceans to offshore drilling." Bloomberg Politics (4/25, Dlouhy) says that the order will set up "a certain clash with environmentalists."

Additional coverage was provided by Inland News Today (CA) (4/25) and Yahoo! Finance (4/25, Dlouhy).

Secretary Zinke Looks To Improve Employee Morale.

The Morning Consult (4/25, Fitzpatrick) reports that speaking at an Outdoor Industry Association event Tuesday, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "said he hopes to improve employee morale and foster a more welcoming image for federal lands." Zinke cited issues with the appearance of "heavy-handed" law enforcement of public lands and sexual harassment in the National Park Service. According to Zinke, "the department has also consolidated too much authority in Washington, D.C. and has a problem with micromanagement and lack of resources for employees who work on public lands." Zinke hopes to address the "breach of trust" between land management officials and the public.

Tester Introduces Bill To Permanently Ban Mining Near Yellowstone.

The AP (4/25) reports that Sen. Jon Tester has "introduced legislation to permanently ban new mining in an area of Montana just outside Yellowstone National Park." Tester's proposal would "withdraw federal mineral rights on some 30,000 acres of public land in the Custer Gallatin National Forest just north of Yellowstone." The article notes that "the Obama administration had placed a temporary, two-year ban on mining in the area late last year."

The Billings (MT) Gazette (4/25, French) reports that "Tester said with more people visiting national parks each year, and the reliance of area businesses on the health of the environment to generate income, the legislation is needed to ensure protection for current and future generations." Tester "said he had forwarded the information about his proposal to U.S. Sen. Steve Daines, R-Montana, who has never taken a stance on the mining issue." Tester's Yellowstone Gateway Protection Act "drew a flurry of praise from conservation groups and local business owners who had lobbied for federal protection."

Politico, WPost Analysis: Top-Tier Vacancies Impeding Administration's Progress.

Assistant Editor Danny Vinik writes for Politico's (4/25) "The Agenda" that President Trump's "government so far is as notable for who it's missing as for what it has done." The "host" of empty seats for "crucial lower-profile" positions is "likely to have serious effects on Trump's ability to put his promises into action" because they "do the day-to-day work ensuring Trump's ideas make real headway through the massive government bureaucracy."

In a front-page story, the Washington Post (4/25, A1, Rein) writes that Trump's Cabinet secretaries increasingly are "exasperated" at how slowly the White House is processing and nominating candidates for top-tier posts. The Post

says only 26 out of 556 senior-level jobs have personnel confirmed by the Senate, and Trump has put forth just 37 more nominees, according to data the Post and the Partnership for Public Service's Center for Presidential Transition have tracked – less than half the number former President Obama had sent to the Senate at the same point. The Post says partly to blame is the "chaotic transition" due to Trump replacing New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie with Vice President Pence as director. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, "who has publicly expressed frustration with the process, has routinely peppered the White House Personnel Office for updates and called Trump directly to press for faster action on filling vacant jobs at the Interior Department, said two people familiar with his contacts, who like others spoke on the condition of anonymity for this report because of the sensitivity of hiring discussions." According to the article, "with 16 senior jobs still empty, Zinke has been airing his 'frustration on the process.'"

CBO Report: Federal Employees Make Three Percent More On Average Than Private Sector Workers.

The Washington Post (4/25, Yoder) reports a report the Congressional Budget Office issued Tuesday showed federal employees on average earn three percent more than private sector workers with similar educational backgrounds, a gap that widens to 47 percent when the value of benefits are included. The report concluded that federal workers with a high school education or less have 34 percent advantage, while those with a professional degree or doctorate earn 24 percent less than their private sector equivalents. The Post says the findings "fall roughly in the middle" of "various studies" that "have reached widely varying conclusions" about how salaries compare.

Additional Coverage: Secretary Zinke Visits National Parks In California.

Additional coverage of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's visits to national parks in California was provided by the Kaweah (CA) Commonwealth (4/21, Elliott).

Physicians Urge Support For Carbon Fee & Dividend.

The Billings (MT) Gazette (4/25, Masis, Byron), Kathy Masis and Lori Byron, both physicians, note that "in their March 22 guest opinion, 'Celebrate U.S. energy on Earth Day,' Ryan Zinke, Rick Perry and Scott Pruitt stated, 'Together, we can achieve a clean environment and a strong economy' in our pursuit of clean energy, a 'more reliable grid, and responsible and sustainable energy solutions'." They argue that "to get to sustainable energy for all of us, and to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases we and other countries emit in the atmosphere, we need to take a big leap together, as a nation." Specifically, they urge support for "the national market-based policy from the Citizens' Climate Lobby, the Carbon Fee and Dividend (CFD)."

America's Great Outdoors

National Park Service

NPS Says 61 Million Visited D.C.-area Parks In 2016.

The AP (4/25) reports that the National Park Service "says 61 million people visited its monuments, memorials and other sites in the Washington area last year." The article notes "that's an increase of nearly 5 million over 2015." The NPS "said Tuesday that those visitors spent \$1.2 billion while visiting parks in the U.S. capital, Maryland and Virginia." The park service "says that spending supported more than 18,000 jobs and contributed \$1.75 billion to the regional economy."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the San Francisco (CA) Chronicle (4/25), the Seattle (WA) Times (4/25), Philly (PA) (4/25), U.S. News & World Report (4/25), the Washington (DC) Post (4/25, Press), and the Daily Mail (4/25).

Additional coverage of the economic impact of national park sites was provided by the Black Hills (SD) Pioneer (4/25, Van Zee), the Maui (HI) Time Weekly (4/25, Kayian), the Alamogordo (NM) Daily News (4/25), the Pensacola (FL) News Journal (4/25, Gabriel), and the Staunton (VA) News Leader (4/25, Peters).

Anniston Officials Plan To Celebrate Freedom Riders Monument.

The Anniston (AL) Star (4/25, Burkhalter) reports that "Anniston city officials on Tuesday continued to plan a community celebration for the city's Freedom Riders National Monument, to take place in May." National Park Service officials will "host the celebration on May 13 between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the former Greyhound bus station on Gurnee Avenue downtown." Kent Davis, city manager, said Tuesday "that he doesn't believe Anniston's national monument is among those Trump's administration is looking to review, and that the focus of much of the outcry has been largely in the West, where he said some recent national monuments were established without the support of local legislators."

World War II Veterans Visit D.C. Memorials On Central Valley Honor Flight.

The McClatchy (4/25, Doyle) reports that 66 veterans are "participating in this week's Central Valley Honor Flight." According to the article, "the all-expenses paid, three-day trip, part of a national network started in 2004, brings veterans back to visit war memorials and Arlington National Cemetery, among other sites."

Big South Fork To Celebrate Spring Planting And Music Festival.

The Knoxville (TN) News Sentinel (4/25, Ahillen) reports that the Spring Planting and Music Festival at Big South Fork will be celebrated at Big South Fork on April 29. According to the article, "the free event draws thousands of people for a day of music, food booths and immersion in a frontier way of life."

Support Urged For National Park Service Legacy Act.

In an editorial, the Chinook (WA) Observer (4/25) urges federal lawmakers and the president to support the National Park Service Legacy Act. The paper argues that "the shameful \$12 billion deferred-maintenance backlog in our national parks" must become "a top national priority." According to the article, the

National Park Service Legacy Act is “the tool we need today, a way to support many more jobs through reconstruction of obsolete park highways, bridges and other aging infrastructure like sewer and water systems.”

Fish and Wildlife Service

Appeals Court Lifts Injunction On Wolf Releases In New Mexico.

The [AP](#) (4/25, Elliott) reports that “a federal court on Tuesday removed an obstacle to the U.S. government’s plan to release more endangered wolves in New Mexico over the state’s objections, but it was not clear whether additional animals would be reintroduced under the Trump administration.” The 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals “lifted a temporary order issued by a lower court that stopped the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from releasing more Mexican gray wolves after New Mexico refused to agree to the plan.” The state Game and Fish Department is “disappointed, but it will keep pursuing the case in federal court in New Mexico, where it was originally filed, spokesman Lance Cherry said.”

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Boston \(MA\) Globe](#) (4/25, Elliott), the [La Crosse \(WI\) Tribune](#) (4/25, Elliott), [U.S. News & World Report](#) (4/25, Elliott), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (4/25, Elliott), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (4/25, Dan Elliott |, Ap), [ABC News](#) (4/25, Elliott), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (4/25, Elliott, Press), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (4/25), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (4/25, Elliott), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (4/25, Elliott), the [Albany \(NY\) Times Union](#) (4/25, Elliott), and the [Daily Mail](#) (4/25, Elliott).

Additional coverage was provided by the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (4/25, Villagran), the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (4/25, Moss), and [Law360](#) (4/25, Phillis).

Appeals Court Returns Wolf Management To Wyoming.

The [AP](#) (4/25, Gruver) reports that “a court on Tuesday formally lifted endangered species protection for wolves in Wyoming and put the state back in charge of their management, clearing the way for the animals to once again be hunted south and east of Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks.” The order of the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia “follows a March ruling by a three-judge panel of the court that federal officials adequately responded to concerns about Wyoming’s wolf-management plan.” Environmental groups declined to appeal.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (4/25, Peterson) and [KTWO-AM](#) Casper, WY (4/25, Burk).

West Mims Fire Exceeds 90 Square Miles.

The [AP](#) (4/25) reports that “officials say a wildfire on public lands near the Georgia-Florida state line has burned more than 90 square miles (233 sq. kilometers) as winds spread the flames through dry areas of the Okefenokee Swamp.” According to a news release by the firefighting command team, “the overall area of the blaze grew more than 22 percent between Monday and Tuesday.” The article notes that “so far, nearly all of the burned acreage has been confined to the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge in southeast Georgia

and the neighboring Osceola National Forest and John M. Bethea State Forest in Florida.”

The [Florida Times-Union](#) (4/25, Dickson) reports that “the West Mims Fire ate through nearly 11,000 additional acres of the Okefenokee Swamp overnight Monday and was at an estimated 59,318 acres by noon Tuesday, the incident response team said.” As of Tuesday, “there were eight helicopters, 45 wildland fire engines, seven bulldozers, 34 tractor plows, two hot shot crews and one initial attack crew on the fire.” Meanwhile, “with winds of eight to 10 miles expected Tuesday, there was a potential for ‘significant fire growth to the east,’ the incident team said.”

Open House On Onondaga Lake Plan To Be Held Thursday.

The [Syracuse \(NY\) Post-Standard](#) (4/25, Coin) reports that “a plan that proposes how to compensate the public for the damage from industrial pollution to Onondaga Lake took 10 years to compile.” But “the public is now getting just three days notice of the only scheduled public meeting on the plan.” The “damages assessment” was released on Monday afternoon, and “the open house – the only scheduled public event to discuss the plan – starts at 4 p.m. Thursday.” According to Anne Secord, a biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, “the open house is being held this week because of fears of a federal government shutdown.”

Securing America’s Energy Future

Onshore Energy Development

Coal Miners Surprised By Trump’s Silence On Health, Pension Benefits.

[USA Today](#) (4/25, Przybyla) says President Trump has been silent in the “battle over the health and pension benefits of retired US coal miners” and that is “perplexing” the miners “who took center stage in his 2016 campaign.” Trump’s “choice to remain mum on the coal miners is notable since he made them the face of the ‘forgotten man’ he vowed to prioritize once in office.” USA Today adds that in interviews, several miners, who were in Washington on Tuesday, “cited their states’ strong support for the billionaire businessman in November.” The issue “is the latest example of the challenge Trump faces in delivering on his populist promises while remaining true to his party’s core values of limited government and fiscal restraint.”

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (4/25, Cama, Henry, Carney) and the [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (4/25, Zullo).

Study: Coal Communities Won’t Benefit From Roll Back Of Obama Environmental Regulations.

The “Morning Energy” blog of [Politico](#) (4/25) reported the Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University has released paper “arguing Trump’s efforts to roll back a host of Obama-era environmental regulations won’t materially alter economic conditions in coal communities.” The paper contends “low natural gas prices are responsible for 49 percent of the domestic coal industry’s decline,

lower-than-expected electricity demand accounts for 26 percent and renewable energy growth is responsible for 18 percent." The paper also concludes "changes in the global coal market have played a far greater role in the collapse of the U.S. coal industry than is generally understood."

Coal Miners Surprised By Trump's Silence On Health, Pension Benefits. USA Today (4/25, Przybyla) says President Trump has been silent in the "battle over the health and pension benefits of retired US coal miners" and that is "perplexing" the miners "who took center stage in his 2016 campaign." Trump's "choice to remain mum on the coal miners is notable since he made them the face of the 'forgotten man' he vowed to prioritize once in office." USA Today adds that in interviews, several miners, who were in Washington on Tuesday, "cited their states' strong support for the billionaire businessman in November." The issue "is the latest example of the challenge Trump faces in delivering on his populist promises while remaining true to his party's core values of limited government and fiscal restraint."

Fmr. Energy Secretary Moniz Says Economic Development Critical To Coal Country. National Journal (4/25) reports that former Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz is questioning the Trump administration's campaign pledges to revive coal country in light of his proposed budget, which would end the "Appalachian Regional Commission, which funds economic-development projects in 13 Appalachian states." The ARC program during the Obama administration "awarded \$75.5 million to programs to help diversify the region's economy amid coal job losses, including technology training." According to Moniz, "I would have thought that this would have resonated completely with the approach, frankly, of the Republican Party. So I don't know what is going on exactly."

Additional Coverage: BLM Challenged Over Cancellation Of Montana Oil, Gas Leases.

Additional coverage that W.A. "Tex" Moncrief, head of Moncrief Oil Co., is "suing the federal government over the cancellation of a long-term oil/natural gas lease in the Badger-Two Medicine region in Montana" was provided by Natural Gas Intelligence (4/25, Fisher).

Empowering Native American Communities

Appeals Court Rejects Mishewal Wappo Tribe's Claim.

Law360 (4/25, Powell) reports that the Ninth Circuit on Monday "upheld the dismissal of the Mishewal Wappo Tribe of Alexander Valley Rancheria's claim that the federal government illegally terminated its land holdings more than 50 years ago, finding that the tribe waited too long to bring its claim."

Shoshone Enter Dispute Between Arapaho And BIA.

The Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (4/25, Rosenfeld) reports that "at the 11th hour, the Eastern Shoshone Tribe has successfully inserted itself into the legal battle between the Northern Arapaho and Bureau of Indian Affairs that appears near settlement." According to the article, "the development suggests that last fall's tribal elections, which saw significant turnover on both the Northern Arapaho

and Eastern Shoshone business councils, did not mark an end to the dispute over the funding of federal services on the Wind River Reservation in central Wyoming." The article says that "most of the questions related to both the tribal court and whether a joint body is required for the federal government to enter into contracts with the Arapaho and Shoshone will likely be addressed during mediation, which begins this week, and may be settled by Judge Morris in his final ruling on the case."

Blackfeet Tribal Members Pass Water Compact.

The Great Falls (MT) Tribune (4/25, Murray) reports that on April 20, Blackfeet tribal members "voted overwhelmingly to approve passage of the Blackfeet Water Compact – a complex document that, among other things, recognizes the tribe's control over more than 90 percent of all the water that flows down from the Rocky Mountains and crosses Blackfeet Indian Reservation land each year." According to the article, "sweetening the deal is the promise of \$471 million in state and federal funding, money that will go a long way to improving and expanding irrigation, community drinking water systems, fisheries, recreation and tribal land acquisition on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation." Blackfeet Water Resources Director Gerald "Jerry" Lunak, said, "This vote was so important from so many perspectives, but there's a whole other list of things that need to take place moving forward. This is going to fall into the hands of future leadership as far as turning the benefits of this into a reality."

Parents Concerned About Food Quality At Beclabito Day School.

KOB-TV Albuquerque, NM (4/25, Neeley) reports that parents are raising health concerns about the food being served at Beclabito Day School. According to Carletta Lee, the parent of a kindergartener at the school, "the cook at the school left in February and instead of replacing the cook, the school used teachers and bus drivers to prepare the food." The article notes that "following health inspections, the kitchen was closed and the school shut down for two days." The article says that "school was back in session Monday, but Lee said it is unclear where lunch is coming from now."

Office Of Insular Affairs

Compact Of Free Association Criticized.

For the "Pundits" blog of The Hill (4/25, Hill, Contributor), Malia Blom Hill, the policy director of the Grassroot Institute of Hawaii, criticizes the Compact of Free Association for its cost, inefficacy, inefficiency, and lack of accountability or transparency. According to Hill, "the dependence of many COFA migrants on government-provided social services is a growing problem that no longer can be ignored." Hill urges U.S. policymakers to "take a closer look at U.S. aid programs to COFA nations" and to "do something better — and more effective — than simply fling more federal dollars at a set of failed policies."

Tackling America's Water Challenges

Permit Change Sought For California WaterFix.

The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (4/25, Hart) reports that the Delta twin-tunnels project "relies on key changes to the water rights permit held by the Department of Water Resources and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, which are seeking to add new water diversion points." The Water Board is "assessing potential impacts of the project, called the California WaterFix, on water users and potential environmental damage to sensitive fish and wildlife habitat." State water officials, in requesting the permit change, said "it takes the sophisticated use of water to make California the most populous state in the nation, with the most productive farm economy and a rich abundance of wildlife and natural beauty...DWR pursues the California WaterFix to better protect native fish species in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and to safeguard water supplies for future generations."

Partners In Water Conservation To Host Community Water Conservation Festival.

The [Riverside \(CA\) Press Enterprise](#) (4/25, Shultz) reports there will be a free Community Water Conservation Festival at the Murrieta Community Center this Saturday. The festival "will offer information about retrofitting outdoor irrigation equipment, water-saving garden friendly plants and water-wise landscaping ideas." The event is sponsored by Partners in Water Conservation, which "consists of Bureau of Reclamation, California Department of Water Resources, Southern California Edison and the Eastern Municipal, The Metropolitan, Rancho California and Western Municipal water districts."

Top National News

Threat Of Shutdown Abates As Trump Drops Demand For Wall Funding.

Media coverage of President Trump's comments on Monday backing off his demand that the spending bill being negotiated by lawmakers include funding for his proposed wall along the US-Mexico border is largely positive for Trump, highlighting his willingness to drop his demand that funding be included in the spending bill – a position several reports say helped decrease the threat of a government shutdown – alongside his insistence on Tuesday that the wall will be built. Typical of the coverage is a report from [NBC Nightly News](#) (4/25, story 2, 1:00, Holt) in which anchor Lester Holt said that Trump "appears to be relenting for now in a fight with Democrats over funding to pay for his border wall," but correspondent Peter Alexander described Trump as "digging in, vowing his highly controversial border wall with Mexico will be built by the end of his first term."

Similarly, Jonathan Karl said on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (4/25, story 3, 2:15, Muir) Trump "insisted he's not backing down from his number one campaign promise," but he is "backing down on his demand that Congress start paying for the wall now" as "part of his effort to cut a deal with Democrats to avert a government shutdown." On the [CBS Evening News](#) (4/25, story 4, 1:00, Pelley), Major Garrett said it came down to "a choice between fighting for

that border wall funding and risking a government shutdown, and the White House blinked." But Trump "told reporters the wall will be a reality." Trump: "We're already preparing. We're doing plans. We're doing specifications. We're doing a lot of work on the wall, and the wall gets built." Garrett added, however, that what was missing from Trump's comment was "the conspicuous campaign promise that Mexico would pay for the wall."

The Washington Post (4/25, Snell, O'Keefe) says that while Trump "seemed to soften his demand for immediate funding for construction of a border wall on Monday afternoon, telling a small group of conservative reporters that he would be open to delaying a confrontation with Democrats over the border until September," on Tuesday he "seem[ed] upset with news reports about his comments." The New York Times (4/25, Baker, Steinhauer) says Trump "did not want his acquiescence to be seen as a sign that he was any less committed to the project."

The Washington Times (4/25, Miller) reports that in a tweet Tuesday, Trump wrote, "Don't let the fake media tell you that I have changed my position on the WALL. It will get built and help stop drugs, human trafficking etc." USA Today (4/25, Jackson) quotes Trump as telling reporters Tuesday, "We're going to have the wall built. ... I don't know what people are talking (about). I watch these shows, and the pundits in the morning, they don't know what they're talking about. The wall gets built, 100%." However, Trump "demurred on when the wall might get built, saying only that it would be 'soon.'"

Breitbart (4/25, Spiering) says Trump "reassured supporters that he was still planning to build a wall in his first term," after Democrats "seized on" Trump's claim that he could get the funding in September "as a sign that he was caving on his priorities." OMB Director Mulvaney said on a prime time edition of CNN's The Lead (4/25), "We're not backing down. This bill is just for the last five months of this year. ... The discussion for what to do in fiscal year '18...starts as soon as this bill is signed. We're going to continue these conversations. We just thought it would be a good first step to get these things that everybody agrees on and take that idea of a government shutdown off the table."

Counselor to the President Kellyanne Conway also affirmed Trump's commitment to building the wall, telling Fox News' Fox & Friends that the project "remains a very important priority," Politico (4/25, Nelson) reports. Conway said, "Building that wall and having it funded remains an important priority to him. But we also know that that can happen later this year and into next year. And in the interim, you see other smart technology and other resources and tools being used toward border security. ... We'll have those enhancements for border security and then moving on to funding and building the wall later on." Conway "also chided Democrats for being unwilling to support the wall when prominent members of the party...voted in favor of a 2006 bill that authorized roughly 700 miles of fencing along some portions of the US-Mexico border." Conway argued, "I suppose because they don't want this president to have a victory on this, and that's really petty and peevish and partisan."

In a post on the Washington Post (4/25, Hohmann) "The Daily 202" blog late Tuesday morning, Post national political correspondent James Hohmann wrote that while the "mainstream media" will cover Trump's willingness to wait "until September to have this fight" as "another failure," his "core supporters will not see it that way. They see someone fighting to keep his promises and will give him an 'A' for effort." Steve Hayes of the Weekly Standard said on Fox News' Special Report (4/25), "If we were to name three things that Donald Trump said repeatedly during the campaign that will be identified with his candidacy, this would be one of them." However, Hayes added, "The Administration is smart to back down on this in particular because it would have been odd if President Trump's White House were fighting to make US taxpayers fund a wall that he said Mexico was going to pay for."

Kathleen Parker offers a very negative assessment in her Washington Post (4/25) column, writing that Trump "has defined himself not as the Dealmaker in Chief but as the Backdown President." Parker adds that Americans "have learned three lessons: The best things happen when the Backdown President retreats; we, not Mexico, will be the ones footing the bill for the wall, if ever it is built; and Trump, in just under 100 days, managed to bring the government close to crisis on a promise that was always a con."

The New York Times (4/25, Steinhauer, Flegenheimer, Baker) says lawmakers from both parties "expressed confidence that a deal could be reached...a prediction that seemed safer as Mr. Trump backed off his demand that the border wall receive funding in this measure." The Times adds, however, that "several obstacles remain, most notably the fate of payments" to health insurers under the ACA. The Washington Times (4/25, Howell, Miller) says negotiators "closed in" on a deal after Trump "backed off his demand for border wall funding." While Trump's move "clear[ed] the way for Capitol Hill to hash out a bill that avoids an end-of-week government shutdown," the Times says the "shift in strategy at the White House raised doubt about funding for the rest of Mr. Trump's agenda."

Reuters (4/25, Cornwell, Cowan) likewise says that after Trump "backed away" from his demand that funding for the wall be included in the spending bill, "the threat of a US government shutdown this weekend appeared to recede on Tuesday." Senate Minority Leader Schumer "welcomed" Trump's comments, saying on the Senate floor, "It's really good news that the president seems to be taking the wall off the table in the negotiations we're having on an appropriations bill this week. ... If the threat of the wall is removed, as I hope is the case, our negotiations can continue and we can, hopefully, resolve all of the outstanding issues by Friday." In a story posted late Tuesday morning, Roll Call (4/25, Lesniewski) described Schumer as "sounding optimistic that the commander-in-chief has caved" on the wall.

House Minority Leader Pelosi also "expressed relief at Trump's apparent willingness to drop his demand for immediate funding in the must-pass spending bill," USA Today (4/25, Kelly) reports. Pelosi called it "welcome news given the bipartisan opposition to the wall, and the obstacle it has been to the continuing bipartisan negotiations." However, Politico (4/25, Caygle) highlights a

disagreement between Pelosi and Minority Whip Hoyer over the issue of ACA subsidies. While Democratic negotiators, under Pelosi's leadership "are demanding the final funding bill include language to provide permanent Obamacare subsidies," Hoyer "publicly dismissed that idea Tuesday, saying the fix would be nice to have in the funding bill but should not be a requirement for supporting the legislation and should not be used as a political bargaining chip." Politico adds that Hoyer is "not alone in his stance on the issue," adding that a "handful of other Democratic lawmakers and staffers privately said they are irked by Pelosi and Schumer's public insistence on including a fix they say lawmakers shouldn't be negotiating at all."

Bloomberg Politics (4/25, House) says Republicans also "voiced relief" that Trump "appears to be retreating from a government shutdown fight by relenting on his demand that Congress immediately start funding a border wall." Trump's comments "that the wall could be funded later in the year are being seen as a signal that he's ready to sign the measure being negotiated in private by Democratic and Republican appropriators."

Politico (4/25, Ferris) says Republicans on Tuesday proposed a deal "that would give the Pentagon and homeland security budgets a substantial boost, according to sources familiar with negotiations." The GOP proposal "would deliver a major victory to the White House on military and border spending even as it leaves out funds specifically for a structure along the US-Mexico border." The Hill (4/25, Bolton, Wong) reports that with the "horse-trading...intensifying," Democrats "have offered to agree to President Trump's call for an additional \$15 billion in military funding...if Republicans in Congress agree to fund essential ObamaCare subsidies." The Democrats' offer "would ensure that the healthcare payments for insurers would continue, preventing an estimated 6 million people from getting kicked off the ObamaCare health exchanges," and "give something to defense hawks and Trump, who have been demanding additional money for the Pentagon." The Hill adds that "members on both sides of the aisle expressed optimism that an agreement was in reach." The Wall Street Journal (4/25, Peterson, Andrews) is a bit more cautious in its optimism, saying that while lawmakers moved closer to a deal, there are still a great many unresolved issues.

Conservative Groups "Largely Silent" During Talks On Spending Bill.

McClatchy (4/25, Clark) reports that conservative groups, "who in the past have waded into shutdown showdowns, have been largely silent" in the current round of negotiations. Several of the groups "say they've been more focused on other fronts, including a tax policy overhaul" and GOP efforts to repeal the ACA. The groups "noted it was possible they could get engaged as details emerge about the short-term spending bill." Heritage Action spokesman Dan Holler "said it would be 'very disheartening to conservatives' if the upcoming short-term spending bill did not include conservative priorities, but he said it was unlikely to be repeated on the long-term spending bill." Club for Growth spokesman Doug Sachtleben said, "If matters come up that are more central to our members and our mission we may decide to engage."

Cruz Bill Would Use Assets Seized From El Chapo To Pay For Wall. The New

York Post (4/25, Jaeger) reports that a measure introduced by Sen. Ted Cruz would "use cocaine-tainted money forfeited by Mexican drug lord Joaquín 'El Chapo' Guzmán to pay for" the wall. Cruz's "Ensuring Lawful Collection of Hidden Assets to Provide Order, or ELCHAPO" legislation would "repurpose \$14 billion in assets the feds plan to squeeze out of Guzman to fund the project, Axios first reported." Breitbart (4/25, Price) reports that Cruz "said that leveraging criminally forfeited assets from El Chapo and other Mexican cartel members and drug dealers can 'offset the wall's cost and make meaningful progress toward achieving President Trump's stated border security objectives.'"

Mexican Official Calls Trump's Wall Proposal An "Unfriendly, Hostile" Act. The AP (4/25) reports that Mexican Foreign Secretary Luis Videgaray on Tuesday called Trump's plan to build the wall an "unfriendly, hostile" act, adding that it is a "'bad idea' that will not accomplish anything." Speaking during a meeting with legislators, Videgaray "repeated...that Mexico's [sic] won't pay a cent for it." In addition, Videgaray "said Mexico's government would consider reducing security cooperation with the United States if talks on immigration and trade issues don't go well."

Bill To Block State Contracts For Wall Contractors Passes California Senate Panel. The Los Angeles Times (4/25, Myers) reports that a bill by California State Sen. Ricardo Lara which would "prohibit any company from receiving a new or extended contract with the state of California if it participates in a future effort to build" the wall, passed the Senate Governmental Organization Committee Tuesday on a party-line vote.

Federal Judge Temporarily Halts Trump's Order On Sanctuary City Funding.

A federal judge in San Francisco on Tuesday temporarily halted President Trump's order that could lead to the withholding of funds from sanctuary cities, saying the order is unconstitutional as it would infringe on local governments' rights. Coverage focuses on the ruling's specifics, but also – as was the case, for example, with NBC Nightly News (4/25, story 4, 0:25, Holt) – said it represented "another legal setback" to Trump's "immigration agenda." Reporting also highlights that the judge – US District Judge William H. Orrick – was appointed by former President Obama. The Washington Post (4/25, Sacchetti) says the judge "imposed a nationwide injunction" against President Trump's Jan. 25 executive order that allows the Attorney General to withhold grant money from jurisdictions that do not cooperate with immigration officials. The Wall Street Journal (4/25, Randazzo, Meckler, Lazo) indicates the ruling shows government efforts to withhold funds from sanctuary cities could be difficult, while the New York Times (4/25, Yee) calls it an "early verdict on the question of whether the White House can coerce cities and counties into helping federal immigration agents detain and deport" undocumented immigrants.

McClatchy (4/25, Ordoñez) reports the White House indicated it is reviewing the ruling, "but offered no further comment." However, Jim Acosta said on CNN's Anderson Cooper 360 (4/25) that White House Chief of Staff Priebus told reporters, "This is an example of the ninth circuit going bananas. We

will take action to appeal this." Acosta added that he "talked to a senior Administration official earlier today who said they believe they will prevail in all this, but keep in mind, this is the second time that the Trump Administration – that President Trump is seeing one of his main executive orders aimed at immigration tied up in the courts."

The Washington Examiner (4/25, Cohen) reports the judge said the Constitution "vests the spending power in Congress, not the president, so the order cannot constitutionally place new conditions on federal funds." USA Today (4/25, Gomez) reports the judge ruled a president has the authority to withhold some funding, including Justice Department grants that are directly tied to law enforcement. However, the judge said that threats to withhold all federal grants were "coercive" and unconstitutional. According to Politico (4/25, Gerstein), the judge "cited public comments from Trump and Attorney General Jeff Sessions in concluding that the order appeared intended to sweep more broadly than allowed by federal law." The judge said it was Justice Department arguments that Trump was attempting to only enforce compliance with existing law were "not legally plausible." Reuters (4/25, Levine) quotes the judge as stating, "And if there was doubt about the scope of the Order, the President and Attorney General have erased it with their public comments." The judge, according to the Miami Herald (4/25, Hanks), also "pointed" to Sean Spicer's reaction to Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez's decision to overturn county policy and direct local jails to accept all detention requests from immigration authorities. The judge wrote, "Spicer cited favorably the actions of Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez. Lauding Miami-Dade's actions, Spicer noted that Miami-Dade 'understand(s)' the importance of this order and encouraged other jurisdictions to follow his lead."

The Washington Times (4/25, Dinan, Noble) says the government can still utilize existing laws to withhold some federal money from jurisdictions that do not comply with immigration policies. The Hill (4/25, Firozi) reports the injunction indicates it "does nothing more than implement the effect of the Government's flawed interpretation of the Order." The judge wrote that the order "does not affect the ability of the Attorney General or the Secretary to enforce existing conditions of federal grants...nor does it impact the Secretary's ability to develop regulations or other guidance defining what a sanctuary jurisdiction is or designating a jurisdiction as such." David French writes in National Review (4/25) that the order "didn't do much at all." French says the order "was not changing the law at all" and that the Administration "hyped the order beyond its plain meaning." The court responded, French says, with a ruling that was "much like the executive order itself, 90 percent hype and 10 percent substance."

Bloomberg Politics (4/25, Mehrotra, Larson) reports the judge also rejected the government's position that any injunction should impact only the plaintiffs' jurisdictions. The judge said, "These constitutional violations are not limited to San Francisco or Santa Clara, but apply equally to all states and local jurisdictions."

The Los Angeles Times (4/25, A1, Dolan, Rubin) says the judge found the

plaintiffs showed the injunction was needed to prevent a significant impact on their budgets and the ability to provide services that would have occurred if Trump's order had gone into effect. The New York Post (4/25, Fredericks, Schultz) reports the judge wrote that the plaintiffs "have demonstrated that they are likely to succeed on the merits of their...challenge to the Executive Order, that they will suffer irreparable harm absent an injunction, and that the balance of harms and public interest weigh in their favor."

Democratic Mayors Say Jurisdictions Receiving Mixed Messages On Sanctuary City Policies. McClatchy (4/25, Harrell) reports Democratic mayors on Tuesday "urged" Sessions "to craft a unified federal policy that might eliminate what they see as mixed messages from various agencies." Columbia, South Carolina Mayor Stephen Benjamin said, "It's very difficult to send men and women onto the streets to enforce laws that must be square with the Fourth Amendment and getting mixed messages from various federal agencies."

The Washington Times (4/25, Noble) reports Austin, Texas Mayor Steve Alder said a meeting between a delegation of mayors and Sessions provided a better understanding of the definition of a sanctuary city. Alder said, "We heard a narrowing of what might be a sanctuary city." However, the Times says local officials indicated they still want clarity on how the "sanctuary city" label will be applied and whether cities have legal authority to detain individuals on immigration detainers until Federal authorities arrive.

Officials Meet With Congressional Budget Leaders On Eve Of Trump Tax Announcement.

The Wall Street Journal (4/25, Bender, Rubin) reports that President Trump will propose a reduction of the top corporate tax rate to 15 percent on Wednesday, according to Administration officials. Trump will also propose a cut in taxes on US firms' foreign profits and a tax break for child-care expenses. OMB Director Mulvaney was on CNN's The Lead (4/25) about the 15 percent number. Mulvaney said, "I don't want to confirm the actual numbers, but I can tell you that number is pretty accurate." Bloomberg Politics (4/25, Jacobs, Kapur) reports that Trump will also "propose a 10 percent tax on more than \$2.6 trillion in earnings that US companies have stockpiled offshore," as well as a cut in the "top income tax rate on pass-through businesses – a category that includes mom-and-pop grocers, hedge funds and Trump's own business empire." Kellyanne Conway said on Fox News' Fox & Friends (4/25), "The President has promised this will be the most dramatic tax reform relief package in decades – literally since President Reagan, and some say even bolder than that."

The Hill (4/25, Carney) reports that Treasury Secretary Mnuchin and National Economic Council Director Cohn met with Senate Majority Leader McConnell, House Speaker Ryan, Senate Finance Chairman Orrin Hatch, and House Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady to discuss the plan on Tuesday evening. While "both sides characterized the closed-door powwow – which lasted less than an hour – as 'productive,'" they "provided few details about what, if any, progress was made on nailing down a path forward on tax reform." The Washington Times (4/25, Sherfinski) reports that Mnuchin told reporters, "We

talked about a lot of things, and we look forward to talking about it more tomorrow. But it's no question the fundamental principles of tax reform – the White House, the Treasury, the Senate and the House all agree on what we're trying to do, and we're all committed to getting tax reform done."

However, some differences remain. USA Today (4/25, Jackson, Jackson) reports that Hatch "said he isn't opposed to tax cuts in general, but whacking corporate taxes to 15% could be too aggressive." Hatch said, "I'm not convinced that cutting taxes is necessarily going to blow a hole in the deficit; I actually believe it could stimulate the economy and get the economy moving. Now, whether 15 percent is the right figure or not, that's a matter to be determined." Politico (4/25, White, Cook) reports that "many Republicans" say Trump's plan "is unrealistic and could end up hurting the chances of getting anything done on the issue, long one of the party's top priorities."

The Washington Post (4/25, Mufson, Newmyer) says on its front page, "Washington braced for details of a White House tax reform package on Wednesday with lawmakers lining up on opposing sides and business interests calculating how the package would affect their bottom lines." Republicans "praised President Trump's ambitious effort...but they cautioned that some parts of the plan might go too far, illustrating the challenges the president continues to face in his own party."

Still, McClatchy (4/25, Daugherty) reports that House Republicans "have tried to downplay the significance of the gap between the GOP leadership's proposal and the president's." Brady said, "I think the bolder, the better, in tax reform. All these rates, if we're going to go bold, will be a challenge." The AP (4/25, Ohlemacher, Boak) reports that "Republicans who slammed the growing national debt" under President Obama say that they are "open" to Trump's plan, "even though it could add trillions of dollars to the deficit over the next decade."

NBC Nightly News (4/25, story 3, 0:55, Holt) ran a brief report that was critical of the Trump plan's "slashing the corporate tax rate from 35 to 15 percent," with Maya MacGuineas of the Committee For A Responsible Federal Budget shown saying, "A rate slash that high is going to cost above \$2 trillion. And without a plan to pay for it, that's going to explode the debt."

The New York Times (4/25, Cohen) reports that corporate executives are behind the plan. David French of the National Federation of Retailers said, "A 15 percent tax rate would be a huge win for our members." The Times writes that "a corporate tax of 20 percent or lower is also a top priority of the National Association of Manufacturers and music to the ears of gas and oil companies."

Joint Committee On Taxation: Corporate Rate Cut To 20 Percent Would Significantly Impact Revenue. The Washington Post (4/25, Paletta, Ehrenfreund) reports that the congressional Joint Committee on Taxation has found that cutting the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 20 percent over three years 2018-2020 "would lead to a \$489.7 billion drop in revenue over 10 years," and that tax receipts "would continue falling – albeit only slightly – in subsequent years."

Politico Analysis: Trump "Set To Steamroll" Ryan. Politico (4/25, Bade) writes that Trump "is set to steamroll Paul Ryan on tax reform, the issue the speaker

has devoted his political career to achieving." The White House plan is expected "to contradict the blueprint Ryan has been working on for more than a year," omitting Ryan's "controversial new tax on imports. ... And top Trump officials are insisting their tax plan need not be paid for, rejecting Ryan's stance that any package should not add to the deficit."

Plan Expected To Include Elements Intended To Appeal To Democrats. Politico (4/25, Cook, White) reports that Trump's plan is "expected to include infrastructure spending and a childcare tax credit, developed by Ivanka Trump – moves the White House hopes will bring Democrats to the negotiating table on a tax overhaul," according to sources familiar with the plan. It "is not expected to include details on ways to offset new spending, or deep tax cuts." However, the New York Times (4/25, Davis, Rappeport, Kelly, Abrams) reports that "as of late Tuesday, the plan did not include Mr. Trump's promised \$1 trillion infrastructure program," according to two sources.

WPost Says Administration Leaning Toward "Wishful Thinking." The Washington Post (4/25) says in an editorial, "The country will be improved if Mr. Trump leads the way toward lower rates, fewer loopholes and a simpler code. Where the plan could go dangerously astray is if the administration bases it on wishful thinking – specifically, that tax-cutting will pay for itself." The Post says that there are "several honest ways out of the resulting budget hole: end or limit tax breaks such as the mortgage-interest deduction; raise the rates of other taxes; cut spending; or some combination. The dishonest way is to pretend the hole is shallower than the experts predict it will be – or even that the hole does not exist," which was the approach Mnuchin "appeared to be taking" last week when he said the plan will pay for itself with economic growth.

Peter Baker of the New York Times (4/25) writes that the plan is rooted in economist Arthur Laffer's "theory that cutting taxes would spur enough economic growth to generate new tax revenue. ... What the president has called a tax reform plan is looking more like a tax cut plan, showering taxpayers with rate reductions without offsetting the full cost by closing loopholes or raising taxes elsewhere."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"Donald Trump's Trade Policy Is In Disarray." In an editorial, the New York Times (4/26) says President Trump's "populist, antitrade deal rhetoric was always hard to believe coming from someone who outsourced production of his clothes and other merchandise to low-wage countries like China. Now it is becoming clearer that he has no coherent plan to lower the trade deficit or bring back lost manufacturing jobs."

"The Flynn Story Isn't Going Away." The New York Times (4/25) editorializes House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman Chaffetz "should unleash his committee's formidable investigative powers," into whether former national security adviser Flynn violated the law, but he "has declined to open an investigation, or subpoena the records the White House is withholding." The Times says a special prosecutor is needed, "because each time this

administration is given a chance to clean up its Russia mess, it works instead to keep the facts under cover."

Washington Post.

"The Trump Administration's Magical Thinking On Taxes Would Bust The Budget." The Washington Post (4/25) says in an editorial, "The country will be improved if Mr. Trump leads the way toward lower rates, fewer loopholes and a simpler code. Where the plan could go dangerously astray is if the administration bases it on wishful thinking – specifically, that tax-cutting will pay for itself." The Post says that there are "several honest ways out of the resulting budget hole: end or limit tax breaks such as the mortgage-interest deduction; raise the rates of other taxes; cut spending; or some combination. The dishonest way is to pretend the hole is shallower than the experts predict it will be – or even that the hole does not exist," which was the approach Treasury Secretary Mnuchin "appeared to be taking" last week when he said the plan will pay for itself with economic growth.

"Celebrate One American's Release From An Egyptian Prison – But Don't Forget The Thousands Still Repressed." A Washington Post (4/25) editorial says that while Aya Hijazi's return from imprisonment in Egypt "is to be celebrated. It does not, however, justify what so far has been Mr. Trump's unqualified public embrace of the most repressive regime in Egypt's modern history." The Post argues that Trump's "friendliness toward Mr. Sissi will pay off if he can persuade the general to adopt desperately needed reforms in Egypt, such as rational counterinsurgency tactics in the Sinai, rather than mass repression, and the release from prison of secular opponents and Islamists who renounce violence."

"Larry Hogan Takes The Wrong Track In Attacking A Federal Judge." The Washington Post (4/25) editorializes that "there are several excellent reasons for exasperation, even outrage, at a poorly defended order by a federal judge last summer halting nearly \$1 billion of federal funding just days before it was to be awarded to the Purple Line, a 16-mile light-rail project that would connect Prince George's and Montgomery counties," but "those reasons do not include baseless allegations that U.S. District Judge Richard J. Leon, whose ruling blocked the project temporarily, and maybe permanently, has a conflict of interest in the case." The Post adds that "on the facts, there simply is no conflict of interest," but "those facts did not deter Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan (R)," who "accused the judge of harboring bias and a conflict of interest." The Post adds that "it is fair to criticize Mr. Leon's slapdash stance, which he is now reviewing," but "the judge's ruling is not unethical; it is merely unfounded."

Wall Street Journal.

"Trump's New Housing Tax." The Wall Street Journal (4/25) writes in an editorial that the Administration's lumber tariffs do not constitute a new approach to negotiating trade with Canada – despite claims by President Trump that he has fresh ideas – because American politicians have been strongly influenced by US lumber interests claiming unfair practices by Canadian competition for about 30 years. As tensions over the tariffs and dairy product

executive order rise, the Journal says middle America will be hardest hit because of likely spikes in the cost of building new homes. This, in addition to his announcement on steel last week, show that Trump is placating domestic industries with the best lawyers and lobbyists rather than acting in the best interest of the middle-class voters who elected him.

“Learn Free Or Die.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/25) urges New Hampshire Republicans to keep their nerve in order to ensure passage of a bill that would enact the universal right to education savings accounts, expanding the modest tax-credit scholarship program already in place. The Journal says those concerned private schools have inferior accommodations for students with disabilities should rest assured because parents would be able to choose to keep their children at public schools. Meanwhile, GOP lawmakers worried the school-choice measure would hit rural school districts particularly hard should come to terms with the fact that the districts will have to address labor and overhead costs eventually anyway due to demographic changes.

“Testing China On North Korea.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/25) editorial says that while the Administration hasn’t revealed its strategy on North Korea, the use of military force shouldn’t be ruled out.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Trump Plans To Seek Tax Rate Of 15% On Owner-operated Firms](#)
[White House Intervened To Toughen Letter On Iran Nuclear Deal](#)
[Inside Turkey’s Irregular Referendum](#)
[Wells Fargo Directors Face Shareholders’ Ire](#)

New York Times:

[Trump’s Tax Plan: Low Rate For Corporations, And For Companies Like His](#)
[Trump Rides A Market Wave, But Business Looks For Results](#)
[Marine Le Pen May Get A Lift From An Unlikely Source: The Far Left](#)
[Amtrak Said To Weigh Extended Track Closings For Penn Station Repairs](#)
[Judge Blocks Trump Effort To Withhold Money From Sanctuary Cities](#)
[In China, Daydreaming Students Are Caught On Camera](#)
[Ivanka Trump Is Jeered In Berlin After Defending Her Father](#)
[As Rising Seas Erode Shorelines, Tasmania Shows What Can Be Lost](#)

Washington Post:

[Trump Plans Large Rise In Standard Deductions](#)
[Agencies “Stuck” In Staffing Limbo](#)
[Italy’s Deal With Libya Could Imperil Migrants](#)
[Gymnastics Sex Abuse Scandal Had Warnings](#)
[Trump Makes An Unambiguous Vow](#)

Financial Times:

[Ivanka Trump Has Awkward Foray Into Diplomacy](#)

[Arnault Tightens Grip On LVMH With Dior Buyout](#)
[Uber Venture Prepares To Test Flying Taxis By 2020](#)
[Nasdaq Composite Breaches 6,000 For The First Time](#)

Washington Times:

[Judge Says Trump Is Wrong To Tie Federal Funding To Sanctuary Status, Blocks Executive Order](#)
[Trump Prepares To Seat Judge Thapar, First Of Scores Of Conservatives For Federal Courts](#)
[Increasing Number Of Americans Are Willing To Drive Farther, Pay More For Ethanol-Free Fuel](#)
[Congress Close To Spending Deal After Trump Backs Off Demand For Border Wall Funding](#)
[Entire Senate To Get Rare Briefing At White House On North Korea Crisis](#)
[Ex-Spy Admits Anti-Trump Dossier's Sensational Charge Unverified, Says Clinton Backer Betrayed Him](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Flynn Investigation; Ivanka-Germany Visit; Trump-Border Wall; Canada-New US Wood Tariff; North Korea Threats; LA-Highway Inferno; United Feud-New Images; Severe Weather; Michigan-Police Violence; California-Police Car Chase; Connecticut-Small Plane Crash; FDA-Illegal Cancer Drugs; NASCAR-Driver Retirement; Leukemia Patient Prom.

CBS: Flynn Investigation; US Economy; Housing Market Boom; Trump-Border Wall; US-Canada Trade War; Ivanka-Germany Visit; North Korea Threats; Safe Driving Smartphone App; Severe Weather; NASCAR-Driver Retirement; CBS News History.

NBC: Ivanka-Germany Visit; Trump-Border Wall; Trump-Tax Plan; Trump-Sanctuary Cities; Flynn Investigation; George H.W. Bush-Health Condition; United Feud-New Images; Hollywood-Writer Strike; Emergency Care Bills; NASCAR-Driver Retirement; Supreme Court-Cell Phone Ringing; Texas-Hugs Cafe.

Network TV At A Glance:

Flynn Investigation – 8 minutes, 5 seconds
Ivanka-Germany Visit – 7 minutes, 50 seconds
Trump-Border Wall – 4 minutes, 15 seconds
United Feud-New Images – 3 minutes, 20 seconds
US-Canada Trade War – 2 minutes, 45 seconds
North Korea Threats – 2 minute, 35 seconds
Severe Weather – 1 minute, 20 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Sanctuary Cities Ruling; Trump-Border Wall; Flynn Investigation; Trump-Tax Plan.

CBS: Sanctuary Cities Ruling; Flynn Investigation; Trump-Border Wall; US-Canada Trade War; Trump-Tax Plan; Wall Street News.

FOX: Sanctuary Cities Ruling; Congress-Budget; Trump-Border Wall; Trump-Tax Plan; Wall Street News.

NPR: US-Canada Trade War; Trump-National Monument Executive Action; FCC Regulations Reform; George H.W. Bush-Health Condition.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Gives remarks and signs the Antiquities Executive Order; has lunch with Vice President Mike Pence; meets with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson; participates in a federalism event with Governors and signs the Education Federalism Executive Order; drops by an all Senators briefing on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea; holds a National Teacher of the Year event.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No announced public schedule.

US Senate: 9:30 AM Congressional Progressive Caucus introduces the 'Raise the Wage Act' – Congressional Progressive Caucus Co-Chairs Democratic Reps. Raul Grijalva and Keith Ellison and First Vice Chair Democratic Rep. Mark Pocan introduce the 'Raise the Wage Act' – which would raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2024 – via press event with Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders, Democrats Sen. Patty Murray and Rep. Bobby Scott, other CPC members, other Members of Congress, and minimum wage workers Location: U.S. Capitol grounds, Washington, DC cpc.grijalva.house.gov <https://twitter.com/USProgressives>

10:00 AM Senate HELP Committee hearing (Time change) – Hearing on 'S. 652, Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Act of 2017', 'H.R. 309, National Clinical Care Commission Act', 'S. XXXXX, Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act of 2017', 'S. 849, SMASH Act', and nominations of Scott Gottlieb to be Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Location: Rm 430, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://help.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Environment & Public Works Committee hearing on the WOTUS Rule – Hearing on 'A Review of the Technical, Scientific, and Legal Basis of the Waters of the United States Rule (WOTUS Rule) with testimony from American University Washington College of Law Associate Professor Ken Kopocis; Wetlands Research Associates Principal Dr Michael Josselyn; Wisconsin Solicitor General Misha Tseytlin; National Wildlife Federation President and CEO Collin O'Mara; and Maj. Gen. (Ret.) John Peabody of Arlington, VA Location: Rm 406, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://epw.senate.gov/public/>

10:00 AM Nominations hearing considers Courtney Simmons Elwood to be CIA General Counsel Location: Rm 106, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

10:00 AM Senate Transportation subcommittee hearing on 'expanding American free enterprise in space' – Space, Science, and Competitiveness Subcommittee hearing on 'Reopening the American Frontier: Reducing Regulatory Barriers and Expanding American Free Enterprise in Space', with testimony from Bigelow Aerospace founder Robert Bigelow; Blue Origin President

Rob Myerson; Virgin Galactic CEO George Whitesides; and Made in Space CEO Andrew Rush Location: Rm 253, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov>

10:00 AM Senate Small Business Committee hearing on running a small business in rural America – Hearing on 'The Challenges and Opportunities of Running a Small Business in Rural America', with testimony from Economic Innovation Group co-founder and Senior Director for Policy and Strategy John Lettieri; Alpaca Direct co-founder Jim Hobart; and Northern Forest Center President Rob Riley Location: Rm 428A, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://sbc.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Governmental Affairs Committee hearing on federal 'duplication, waste, and fraud' – Hearing on 'Duplication, Waste, and Fraud in Federal Programs', with testimony from U.S. Comptroller General Gene Dodaro; Department of the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration J. Russell George; University of Wisconsin-Madison Chancellor Dr Rebecca Blank; and VA St. Louis Health Care System Medical Center Director Keith Repko Location: Rm 342, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateHSGAC>

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Amul Thapar to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit; and Makan Delrahim to be Assistant Attorney General for the Antitrust Division Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:30 AM Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing on national guard and reserve programs – Defense Subcommittee hearing on 'A Review of National Guard and Reserve Programs and Readiness', with testimony from National Guard Bureau Chief Gen. Joseph Lengyel; Army Reserve Chief Lt. Gen. Charles Luckey; Air Force Reserve Chief Lt. Gen. Maryanne Miller; Navy Reserve Chief Vice Adm. Luke McCollum; and Marine Corps Forces Reserve Commander Lt. Gen. Rex McMillian Location: Rm 192, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

1:30 PM Senate Foreign Relations Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Tulinabo Salama Mushingi to be U.S. Ambassador to Senegal, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as U.S. Ambassador to Guinea-Bissau; and Todd Philip Haskell to be U.S. Ambassador to Congo Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

WE ARE GOLF mark National Golf Day on Capitol Hill – WE ARE GOLF mark National Golf Day on Capitol Hill, with industry leaders meeting Members of Congress, the executive branch and federal agencies to discuss golf's 15,000+ diverse businesses, two million employees, tax revenue creation, and tourism value Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC wearegolf.org [#NGD17](https://twitter.com/wearegolf)

US House: 8:30 AM Congressional Black Caucus policy forum on famine in Africa – Congressional Black Caucus Africa Taskforce policy forum on '#EndFamineNow: Continuing the Conversation', presented by Democratic Reps.

Gregory Meeks and Karen Bass, featuring a panel of Somalia Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Ahmed Awad, Africa Faith & Justice Network (AFJN) Executive Director Aniedi Okure, United Nations Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Director of Operations John Ging, and model and DJ Mari Malek Location: HVC 201 A&B, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <https://cbc.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/OfficialCBC> #EndFamineNow

9:30 AM Congressional Progressive Caucus introduces the 'Raise the Wage Act' – Congressional Progressive Caucus Co-Chairs Democratic Reps. Raul Grijalva and Keith Ellison and First Vice Chair Democratic Rep. Mark Pocan introduce the 'Raise the Wage Act' – which would raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2024 – via press event with Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders, Democrats Sen. Patty Murray and Rep. Bobby Scott, other CPC members, other Members of Congress, and minimum wage workers Location: U.S. Capitol grounds, Washington, DC cpc.grijalva.house.gov <https://twitter.com/USProgressives>

9:30 AM Poisoned Russian politician testifies to Helsinki Commission hearing on human rights abuses in Russia – Helsinki Commission hearing on 'Democracy & Human Rights Abuses in Russia: No End In Sight'. Witnesses include Open Russia Vice Chairman Vladimir Kara-Murza, Human Rights Watch Europe and Central Asia Division Deputy Director Rachel Denber, and Freedom House Executive Vice President Daniel Calingaert * Kara-Murza was hospitalized in 2015 and diagnosed with poisoning, before a recurrence of his symptoms earlier this year Location: Rm 124, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.csce.gov> <https://twitter.com/HelsinkiComm>

10:00 AM House Financial Services Committee hearing on the Financial CHOICE Act – Hearing on 'A Legislative Proposal to Create Hope and Opportunity for Investors, Consumers, and Entrepreneurs', with testimony from former Cato Institute President and CEO John Allison; Heritage Foundation Institute for Economic Freedom and Opportunity Senior Research Fellow for Financial Regulations and Monetary Policy Dr Norbert Michel; Mercatus Center Financial Markets Working Group Director Hester Peirce; R Street Institute Distinguished Senior Fellow Alex Pollock; American Enterprise Institute Fellow in Financial Policy Studies Peter Wallison; Michigan State University Associate Professor of Economics and International Relations Lisa Cook; and University of Michigan Law School Professor Michael Barr Location: Rm 2128, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

10:00 AM House Armed Services Committee hearing on security challenges in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region – Hearing on 'Military Assessment of the Security Challenges in the Indo-Asia-Pacific Region', with testimony from U.S. Pacific Command Commander Adm. Harry Harris, Jr. Location: Rm 2118, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.armedservices.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>

10:00 AM POSTPONED: House Veterans' Affairs subcommittee legislative hearing – POSTPONED: Economic Opportunity Subcommittee legislative hearing on several bills, all related to the Post 9/11 G.I. bill: H.R. 43, H.R. 245, H.R.

1104, H.R. 1112, H.R. 1216, H.R. 1331, H.R. 1384, H.R. 1793, H.R. 1956, H.R. 1989, H.R. 1994, and several pieces of draft legislation Location: Rm 334, Cannon House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

10:00 AM Hearing on 'Stopping Disability Fraud: Risk, Prevention, and Detection' Location: Rm 2020, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/WaysandMeansGOP>

10:00 AM House Judiciary Committee hearing on the BOP and the U.S. Marshals Service – Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on 'Oversight of the Federal Bureau of Prisons and the U.S. Marshals Service', with testimony from BOP Acting Director Dr Thomas Kane; and U.S. Marshals Service Acting Director and Deputy Director David Harlow Location: Rm 2141, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

10:00 AM House Energy subcommittee hearing on the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act – Environment Subcommittee hearing on 'H.R.XXX, the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2017', with testimony from Republican Sen. Dean Heller; bipartisan Reps. Ruben Kihuen, Jacky Rosen, Dina Titus, and Joe Wilson; Union of Concerned Scientists Global Security Program Senior Scientist Ed Lyman; United Association General President Mark McManus; Nuclear Infrastructure Council Backend Working Group Chairman Steven Nesbit; National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners Nuclear Issues Subcommittee Chairman Anthony O'Donnell; and former Department of Energy Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management Director Ward Sproat Location: Rm 2123, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM House Oversight subcommittee hearing on 'federally imposed burdens on state and local govt' – Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee hearing on 'Unfunded Mandates: Examining Federally Imposed Burdens on State and Local Government', with testimony from Utah State Senate President Wayne Niederhauser; North Carolina State Sen. Jim Davis; Boone County, KY, Judge/Executive Gary Moore; Kansas City, MO, Councilman Jermaine Reed; and Fairfax County, VA, Supervisor Jeff McKay Location: Rm 2154, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversigh>

10:00 AM House Space Committee hearing on 'the search for life' – Hearing on 'Advances in the Search for Life', with testimony from NASA Associate Administrator for the Science Mission Directorate Dr Thomas Zurbuchen; University of California-San Diego Center for Astrophysics and Space Science's Dr Adam Burgasser; National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine Workshop on the Search for Life Across Space and Time Planning Committee Chair Dr James Kasting; and SETI Institute Senior Astronomer Dr Seth Shostak Location: Rm 2318, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://science.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

10:00 AM House Transportation and Infrastructure subcommittee hearing on safety regulations – Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials

Subcommittee hearing on 'Building a 21st Century Infrastructure for America: The State of Railroad, Pipeline, and Hazardous Materials Safety Regulations and Opportunities for Reform', with testimony from American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association President Linda Darr; BNSF Railway Executive Vice President for Law and Corporate Affairs Roger Nober; Reusable Industrial Packaging Association President Paul Rankin (on behalf of Interested Parties for Hazardous Materials Transportation); American Petroleum Institute Group Director of Midstream and Industry Operations Robin Rorick; Interstate Natural Gas Association of America President and CEO Donald Santa, Jr.; and Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen Vice President and National Legislative Representative John Tolman Location: Rm 2167, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://transportation.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/Transport>

10:30 AM House Democratic Leaders Hold Press Conference on President Trump's First 100 Days – House Democratic Leaders to Hold Press Conference on President Trump's First 100 Days. Participants: Crowley (D-New York), Chairman of the Democratic Caucus; Linda Sánchez (D-California), Vice Chair of the Democratic Caucus; Congressman Tony Cárdenas (D-California) ; Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa (D-Hawaii). Location: Studio A (enter through HVC-117) – Capitol Visitor Center

10:30 AM Markup hearing on 'H.R. 1180, Working Families Flexibility Act of 2017' Location: Rm 2175, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://edworkforce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/EdWorkforce>

11:00 AM House Small Business Committee hearing on the SBA Disaster Loan program – Hearing on 'Storm Watch: Making Sure SBA's Disaster Loan Program is Prepared', with testimony from Small Business Administration Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance James Rivera, and Acting Inspector General Mike Ware; and Government Accountability Office Director of Financial Markets and Community Investment William Shear Location: Rm 2360, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://smallbusiness.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

12:00 PM House debates Register of Copyrights Selection and Accountability Act – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including 'H.R. 1695 – Register of Copyrights Selection and Accountability Act of 2017' Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

1:30 PM House Appropriations subcommittee closed hearing on USPACOM – Defense Subcommittee closed hearing on 'US Pacific Command', with testimony from U.S. Pacific Command Commander Adm. Harry Harris, Jr. Location: H-140, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

2:00 PM House Oversight subcommittee hearing on the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act – Government Operations Subcommittee hearing on 'Reviewing the Unintended Consequences of the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act', with testimony from Republican Sen. Rand Paul; The Bopp Law Firm attorney James Bopp, Jr.; AKSIONER International Security Brokerage Director Mark Crawford; Daniel Kuettel – a former U.S. citizen living in Switzerland who

renounced his U.S. citizenship; and Wayne State University Wayne Law Levin Center Washington Co-Director Elise Bean Location: Rm 2154, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

2:00 PM House Armed Services subcommittee hearing on IT management and acquisition systems – Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee hearing on 'Creating a Flexible and Effective Information Technology Management and Acquisition System: Elements for Success in a Rapidly Changing Landscape', with testimony from former Defense Deputy Chief Management Officer and Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Peter Levine; former DoD CIO and Department of the Navy CIO Terry Halvorsen; and former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Developmental Test and Evaluation Ed Greer Location: Rm 2118, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.armedservices.house.gov
<https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>

2:00 PM Hearing on 'The 2017 Tax Filing Season' Location: Rm 1100, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/WaysandMeansGOP>

2:30 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on sanctions on Sudan – Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee hearing on 'The Questionable Case for Easing Sudan Sanctions', with testimony from The Sentry Policy Director Brad Brooks-Rubin; Catholic Relief Services Vice President for Government Relations and Advocacy Bill O'Keefe; Sudan Relief Fund Senior Advisor David Dettoni; African Middle Eastern Leadership Project President Mohamed Abubakr; and U.S. Institute of Peace President's Senior Advisor Princeton Lyman Location: Rm 2200, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov>
<https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

2:30 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on 'China's technological rise' – Asia and the Pacific Subcommittee hearing on 'China's Technological Rise: Challenges to U.S. Innovation and Security', with testimony from Heritage Foundation Asian Studies Center Senior Research Fellow Dean Cheng; Information Technology and Innovation Foundation President Dr Robert Atkinson; and Economic Policy Institute Director of Trade and Manufacturing Policy Research Dr Robert Scott Location: Rm 2172, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov>
<https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

3:00 PM Congressional Caucus on Black Women and Girls convening on missing black women and girls – Congressional Caucus on Black Women and Girls hosts convening on the missing black women and girls nationwide, addressing 'the many structural and institutional components contributing to the issues, including economic disadvantages and/or poverty in communities of color, disparate treatment of missing black women and girls by law enforcement, and lack of public awareness or response' Location: Library of Congress (Thomas Jefferson Bldg), Washington, DC <http://watsoncoleman.house.gov/cbwgcaucus/>
<https://twitter.com/CBWGCAUCUS>

4:00 PM House Natural Resources Committee markup hearing begins – Markup hearing begins on legislation including 'H.R. 220, To authorize the expansion of an existing hydroelectric project, and for other purposes', 'H.R. 497, Santa Ana River Wash Plan Land Exchange Act', 'H.R. 660, Bureau of Reclamation Transparency Act', 'H.R. 1135, To reauthorize the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Historic Preservation program', 'H.R. 1500, Robert Emmet Park Act of 2017', 'H.R. 1654, Water Supply Permitting Coordination Act', 'H.R. 1715, Medgar Evers House Study Act', 'H.R. 1769, San Luis Unit Drainage Resolution Act', 'H.R. 1807, Public Water Supply Invasive Species Compliance Act of 2017', 'H.R. 1873, Electricity Reliability and Forest Protection Act', 'H.R. 1967, Bureau of Reclamation Pumped Storage Hydropower Development Act', and 'H.R. 2085, To approve an agreement between the United States and the Republic of Palau, and for other purposes' * Concludes tomorrow Location: Rm 1324, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC

<http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

2017 Congressional Hispanic Leadership Institute Gala and Leadership Awards honoring Dr Oscar Elias Biscet Location: Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Washington, DC www.chli.org <https://twitter.com/TheCHLI>

WE ARE GOLF mark National Golf Day on Capitol Hill – WE ARE GOLF mark National Golf Day on Capitol Hill, with industry leaders meeting Members of Congress, the executive branch and federal agencies to discuss golf's 15,000+ diverse businesses, two million employees, tax revenue creation, and tourism value Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC wearegolf.org [#NGD17](https://twitter.com/wearegolf)

Other: 8:30 AM Treasury Secretary Mnuchin in conversation on tax reform – The Hill Newsmaker Series event 'Prospects for Tax Reform', with Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin in conversation on tax reform negotiations currently taking place in Washington, DC, before a panel of tax policy and budget experts – Center on Budget and Policy Priorities Senior Fellow Jared Bernstein, PricewaterhouseCoopers Senior Policy Advisor Dave Camp, Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget President Maya MacGuineas, and Americans for Tax Reform founder and President Grover Norquist – discuss 'key priorities when it comes to overhauling the tax code, prospects for bipartisanship, and a timeline for action' * President Donald Trump is making a tax reform announcement today Location: Newseum, 555 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC thehill.com <https://twitter.com/TheHillEvents> #TheHillNewsmaker

11:30 AM Dem Rep. Terri Sewell speaks at Financial Services Roundtable discussion on financial literacy – Financial Services Roundtable host 'Financial Literacy: Why Media Matters' panel discussion, in recognition of National Financial Capability Month. Speakers include Democratic Rep. Terri Sewell, Bank of America Better Money Habits Program Executive Rachel Gangel, SunTrust Brand, Advertising, and Digital Marketing Executive Corinne Cuthbertson, and Visa U.S. Financial Education Head Hugh Norton Location: Financial Services Roundtable, 600 13th St NW, Washington, DC www.fsround.org <https://twitter.com/fsroundtable>

11:30 AM DHS Secretary Kelly announces new 'victims of immigration

crime' office – Secretary of Homeland Security John Kelly and Immigration and Customs Enforcement Acting Director Tom Homan announce opening of new Victims of Immigration Crime Engagement (VOICE) office, via press conference Location: Immigration and Customs Enforcement, 500 12th St SW, Washington, DC www.dhs.gov <https://twitter.com/DHSgov>

12:00 PM Cato Institute policy forum on 'End the ED: Time to Dissolve the U.S. Department of Education?' – 'End the ED: Time to Dissolve the U.S. Department of Education?' Cato Institute policy forum, with Republican Rep. Thomas Massie, Independent Institute Research Fellow Vicki Alger, Center for American Progress Education Policy Vice President Catherine Brown, and Cato Institute Center for Educational Freedom Director Neal McCluskey Location: Cato Institute, 1000 Massachusetts Ave, Washington, DC <http://www.cato.org/> <https://twitter.com/CatoInstitute>

2:00 PM GOP Rep. Sean Duffy and Puerto Rico Gov. Rossello discuss 'Moving Puerto Rico Forward' at Heritage Foundation – Republican Rep. Sean Duffy and Puerto Rico Governor Ricardo Rossello in conversation at the Heritage Foundation, discussing 'Moving Puerto Rico Forward' Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave, Washington, DC www.heritage.org <https://twitter.com/Heritage>

6:00 PM GW forum on fake news – George Washington University holds forum on fake news, discussing the trend in last year's election and 'how it can be confronted moving forward'. Participants include CBS News chief White House correspondent Major Garrett, New York Times culture reporter Sopan Deb, Empowered Women founder Mindy Finn, Emily's List president Stephanie Schriock, and GW Graduate School of Political Management interim director Lara Brown Location: 805 21st St, NW, Washington, DC <https://cchs.gwu.edu/> <https://twitter.com/gwcchs>

FCC Chairman Pai expected to announce new net neutrality rules – Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai expected to unveil his net neutrality plans – likely maintaining Open Internet principles but rolling back the regulatory framework approved by the Obama administration – via a speech reportedly held at an event co-hosted by FreedomWorks and the Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council Location: Newseum, 555 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.fcc.gov/> <https://twitter.com/FCC>

White House holds regional media day – White House holds regional media day, with Cabinet officials and senior White House staff made available for interviews with local television and radio stations from across the nation Location: White House, Washington, DC <http://www.whitehouse.gov/> <https://twitter.com/whitehouse>

Color of Wealth Summit begins – 2017 Future of Wealth Summit: Technology, Inclusion and Social Change reception featuring actor and activist Jesse Williams and National Association of Professional Women President Star Jones* Organized in conjunction with the Congressional Black Caucus, Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, summit seeks to engage Members of Congress, Congressional staff, the media, and the public in a dialogue about the racial wealth gap, its effect on

marginalized households, its impact on the U.S. economy, and solutions for closing the gap Location: Washington Court Hotel, Washington, DC
globalpolicysolutions.org <https://twitter.com/policysolutions> #racialwealthgap

BakerHostetler Annual Legislative and U.S. Government Policy Seminar –
 BakerHostetler 28th Annual Legislative and U.S. Government Policy Seminar.
 Speakers include House Speaker Paul Ryan and Minority Whip Steny Hoyer, and
 bipartisan Sens. Roy Blunt and Sen. Tammy Baldwin Location: Hyatt Regency
 Washington on Capitol Hill, 400 New Jersey Ave NW, Washington, DC
www.bakerlaw.com <https://twitter.com/BakerHostetler> #BHLegSem

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Stephen Colbert: "We don't talk about international stories a lot on this show, but you see the news. It's a dangerous world, and every day, tensions are rising between the United States and our sworn enemy, Canada – cold Mexico, the great white North Korea."

Stephen Colbert: "Last night, President Trump held a meeting with conservative media outlets. It's his version of Comic-Con."

Stephen Colbert: "Since becoming President, Donald Trump has not left the country. He's barely left the country club."

Stephen Colbert: "Today, Trump sent Ivanka to Berlin to participate in a women's conference, making her the first Trump to attend a women's conference that didn't include a swimsuit competition."

Stephen Colbert: "They've had trouble moving Ivanka's line of clothing, so they secretly relabeled it as 'Adrienne Vittadini.' That's how unpopular the name 'Trump' is. Her clothing has been put in the witness protection program."

James Corden: "An article on an official State Department website had to be taken down after complaints because it was mostly just an advertisement for Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort and golf course. Trump has responded with a statement saying, 'If you think promoting Mar-a-Lago on a State Department website is a waste of tax dollars, why not book a trip to Mar-a-Lago and see for yourself?'"

James Corden: "Donald Trump's daughter, Ivanka Trump, is also in the news. She was booed at a women's entrepreneurship summit in Germany on Tuesday

when she described her father as 'a tremendous champion of supporting families.' You know you're on the wrong side of history when Germany's booing you."

Trevor Noah: "Yes, human trafficking is now worse than anytime in the history of this world. Yeah, you know who told him that? His good friend Frederick Douglass."

Jimmy Fallon: "I saw that President Trump did an interview the other day where he said that he never realized that being President was such a big responsibility. Somewhere far, far away, Hillary Clinton crushed the wine glass she was holding."

Jimmy Fallon: "Trump is asking Congress to fund his border wall, and there might be a government shutdown if they don't. Or as Trump put it, 'You hear that? The wall hasn't even been built, and it's already a huge obstacle.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Trump says he doesn't watch any television that he finds unpleasant. I guess that when you're the most powerful person on the planet and your wife doesn't live with you, nobody's fighting for the remote. So I mean, you can do whatever you want to."

Jimmy Fallon: "I also saw that Trump hasn't visited a single foreign country in his first 100 days, while Obama had visited nine. Today, Trump was like, 'Quick, take me to Epcot. I need to bang out ten countries ASAP.'"

Seth Meyers: "President Trump today spoke at the Holocaust Memorial Museum's National Days of Remembrance. He reminded the crowd that we must never forget the six million people who attended his inauguration."

Seth Meyers: "So here's my question: Is it weird that I'm a little relieved [President Trump] doesn't know how to say 'Nazi?'"

Seth Meyers: "President Trump is willing to back away from his demand that a government funding bill include money to build his proposed border wall. Wow, first Mexico was going to pay for the wall. Then we were going to pay for it. Now nobody's gonna pay for it."

Conan O'Brien: "In Germany, Ivanka Trump told a crowd that her father is a champion of supporting families, and she got booed. Yeah. Ivanka said she was surprised. She's always been told to open with a joke."

Conan O'Brien: "Seriously, Ivanka Trump was booed in Germany. That's a big story. Apparently she told the people of Berlin, 'Why would you get rid of a perfectly good wall. You had one, you got rid of it. You could have given it to us. We could have used it.'"

Conan O'Brien: "The US State Department has hired a female anchor away from Fox News. However, the State Department describes it as more of a rescue mission."

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Laura W. Damm, Attorney Advisor
Office of the Solicitor
Division of Land Resources
U.S. Department of the Interior
ph. 202-208-5431
fax 202-219-1792
laura.damm@sol.doi.gov

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