

==== ACSA E-News ====



Snow Happens
Trails Don't



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Funding Bill Sent to Biden for Signing

The House of Representatives passed a continuing resolution that will provide federal funding through December 16, with a government shutdown less than 12 hours away.

The continuing resolution includes \$12.3 billion in aid to Ukraine, as well as \$2.5 billion to support New Mexico's wildfire recovery and \$20 million to support Jackson, Mississippi's, water infrastructure. It also includes more than \$18 billion for the Federal Emergency Management Agency Disaster Relief Fund. Congress did not include the Biden administration's request for more than \$22 billion to combat COVID-19 and more than \$4.5 billion to combat monkeypox.

Seventy-seven House Democrats threatened to block the resolution and shut down the federal government if the Senate included West Virginia Democrat Joe Manchin's Energy Independence and Security Act in its version of the bill. Manchin pulled his proposal Tuesday after he failed to gather support from 60 senators.

National Environmental Justice and Civil Rights Office Creation Announced

Last Saturday EPA Administrator Michael Regan announced the creation of a national environmental justice and civil rights office.

The office will be elevated to the highest levels of the agency — placing it on par with other program offices that regulate air and water pollution and are led by a Senate-confirmed assistant administrator.

"We are going to change the structure of the system," Regan said. The new Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights will merge three existing programs:

- * Office of Environmental Justice,
- * External Civil Rights Compliance Office, and
- * Conflict Prevention and Resolution Center,

according to an EPA press release. The objective is to infuse equity and environmental justice principles into everything the agency does.

A push for the design came earlier this year from Congress, which gave EPA \$100 million for an environmental justice program. Lawmakers directed EPA officials to flesh out an environmental justice plan.

Regan's announcement comes at a trying time for the cause. Environmental justice leaders have been increasingly vocal in their disappointment with an administration that came into power promising to enact rapid change.

The recent federal climate law too has left activists with complicated feelings. While the Inflation Reduction Act infused \$60 billion for environmental justice, critics say it will also elongate the life of fossil fuels through "carbon removal" as well as limit the ability of communities to fight nearby industrial pollution.

Waters of the United States @ Supreme Court

The new term opens Monday for the Supreme Court with arguments in the landmark Clean Water Act case *Sackett v. EPA* and a new justice — Ketanji Brown Jackson — on the bench.

The Clean Water Act case — *Sackett v. EPA* — has the potential to limit safeguards for the nation's wetlands and is one of many battles that court watchers largely agree would not have been granted before the Supreme Court's conservative majority grew from 5 justices to 6.

In *Sackett*, Idaho landowners have asked the justices to instruct a lower court to apply a more restrictive definition of waters of the United States, or WOTUS, that they say would exempt their land from costly federal permitting requirements.

The decision by the justices to take up the case is giving some folks reason to believe the Supreme Court may be ready to make a move to change the way the Clean Water Act has been interpreted.

Many legal observers say they were surprised that the court granted the *Sackett* case at all instead of disposing of it, which the justices do with most petitions.

The Biden administration had urged the justices to reject *Sackett* until EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers had time to craft a brand-new WOTUS rule.

Implementing the Climate Bill

Federal agencies are posting “helped wanted” signs as the Biden administration tries to quickly hire thousands of people to implement the new climate law.

The Department of Energy will need hundreds of new employees, many in its loan office. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, meanwhile, says the IRS plans to hire 5,000 people. And EPA has to staff up the new national green bank.

Multiple challenges loom. Huge gaps already exist at some federal agencies, and one critical agency didn’t get any new funding for staff at all: the Department of Justice.

In addition, political appointees were being vetted for their commitment to rebuilding the federal workforce, according to the Revolving Door Project report.

The Department of Energy appears to be ahead of the game. It got a head start with \$60 billion in last year’s infrastructure law and launched the Clean Energy Corps to bulk up.

EPA got more than \$40 billion from the Inflation Reduction Act, including to implement the methane fee and stand up a national green bank.

At the Agriculture Department, officials are preparing to hire people to research and distribute more than \$9.7 billion for rural electrification. And there’s an additional \$20 billion for regenerative agriculture and investments for conservation.

Stock Trading Bill Stalled

Democratic leaders unveiled draft legislation to tackle the issue Tuesday, just days before Congress was set to leave for an extended recess. That left lawmakers little time to review the bill or offer changes, such as closing loopholes that critics say make the bill toothless, dooming its chances of a floor vote.

Today Rep. [Abigail Spanberger](#) (D-VA) issued a scathing statement, accusing Democratic leaders of slow-walking her own stock trading proposal — introduced 2 years ago with bipartisan backing — and ultimately offering a more complicated bill that was designed to fail. “This moment marks a failure of House leadership — and it’s yet another example of why I believe that the Democratic Party needs new leaders in the halls of Capitol Hill, as I have long made known,” Spanberger said in her statement.

The delay is a momentous setback for the stock trading reform effort, which drew a rare confluence of support from an overwhelming majority of Republican and Democratic voters.

Did You Know??

Animal agriculture is closing in on practices that could sharply reduce greenhouse gas emissions — if the federal government helps push along the effort — Jeff Simmons, an animal health executive told a farm policy conference Monday.

At issue is the methane that dairy cattle and other ruminants generate through digestion, making a greenhouse gas about 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide over a 20-year period, according to the U.N. Environment Programme. “Whether you like it or not, methane is the opportunity,” Simmons, Elanco president and chief executive, said.

Researchers say a number of feed additives, from seaweed to insects, can cut methane emissions, but questions linger about the ingredients' effect on milk production

Simmons' pitch to the conference runs against headwinds from the industry's critics and from high-profile advocates such as Bill Gates, who Simmons noted has urged people in the United States and wealthy countries to turn away from eating meat in favor of plant-based substitutes.

In Congress, too, lawmakers say the focus of climate and agriculture policy should be based on benefits to the farmer. Slashing meat consumption in the United States isn't realistic, Simmons said, given consumers' continuing appetite for it. Surveys suggest younger consumers — who are heavy influencers — are mostly not interested in shifting to synthetic meat, while as many as a quarter of

Generation Z respondents have been on a heavy-protein diet at some point, he said.

"The survey nobody can argue with is consumer demand," Simmons said.

In Case You Missed This....

U.P Trail: A possible trail closure in the U.P. of Michigan has caused great concern for many businesses.

The new owners of a ski resort have announced they will no longer be honoring the previous access, leaving a hole in the connected trail system, impacting Wisconsin and Michigan businesses, along with thousands of riders. Here's a brief tv news story [Click here](#).

EV Chargers: Earlier this month, President Joe Biden showed up at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit to announce spending \$900 million to build about 500,000 charging stations across dozens of states, CBS News reported.

The first tranche of \$900 million — out of \$5 billion in infrastructure money over five years — will be used to build electric vehicle chargers in 35 states.

The chargers will be found across 53,000 miles of highway with the goal of promoting electric vehicle use.

Upcoming Events

October 14-15

Milwaukee Snow Show

WSSA Snowmobile Show & Swap Meet

Puyallup Fairgrounds

Utah Snowmobile Show

October 21-23

MnUSA's Fall Workshop/Annual Meeting
Holiday Inn Conference Center, Austin

AWSC ANNUAL FALL WORKSHOP
Central Wisconsin Convention Center, Rothschild

November 11-13

Iowa Snowmobile Convention
Ames, Iowa

South Dakota Snowmobile Convention
Aberdeen, SD



So many trail projects being completed
by clubs across the snowbelt ...



Waiting for snow!



makes you wonder.....

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