



**TO:** TOPSAIL ISLAND SHORELINE PROTECTION COMMISSION

**FROM:** MIKE MCINTYRE  
ANN DURAND, THE FERGUSON GROUP

**SUBJECT:** JULY/AUGUST JOINT MONTHLY REPORT AND LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

**DATE:** AUGUST 13, 2025

---

The July/August Joint Monthly Report and Legislative Update provides information on the following:

- **Advocacy Update**
  - o North Topsail Beach CBRA Mapping Issue
  - o EDA FY25 Disaster Supplemental Notice of Funding Opportunity
  - o House Introduces FEMA Reform Act of 2025
- **Washington News**
  - o FY 2026 Appropriations Proceeds in Senate as House Moves to August Recess
  - o Congress Approves Trump's \$9B Recissions Package
  - o EPA Hosts Public Feedback Meetings on CWA Section 401/PFAS Drinking Water Rule
  - o Bipartisan NEPA Reform Bill Introduced in House
  - o Trump EPA Plans Second Reorganization Phase
  - o TFG Special Report: Executive Order Improving Federal Grantmaking

## Advocacy Update

### North Topsail Beach CBRA Mapping Issue

Following productive discussions with congressional staff, we are pleased to report continued progress on H.R. 1885, the *Town of North Topsail Beach Coastal Barrier Resources System Map Amendment Act of 2025*. The Fish and Wildlife Service has provided technical assistance on the bill, offering constructive feedback that staff view as readily addressable rather than substantive obstacles to advancement.

While no markup date has been set, staff anticipate potential committee movement in September or October. We remain optimistic about advancing this legislation in the 119th Congress and extend our gratitude to TISPC and the Town of North Topsail Beach for their continued partnership with this important effort.

## EDA FY25 Disaster Supplemental Notice of Funding Opportunity

The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) has made \$1.45 billion available for North Carolina disaster-impacted communities through the FY-2025 Disaster Supplemental Grant Program. The program makes the funding available to support economic recovery activities in areas that received major disaster declarations because of hurricanes, wildfires, severe storms and flooding, tornadoes, and other natural disasters occurring in calendar years 2023 and 2024, such as PTC-8 and Hurricane Helene. Information on the EDA FY 2025 Disaster Supplemental NOFO is available on [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) and [eda.gov](https://www.eda.gov). EDA funding can support both construction and non-construction projects. We encourage the towns on Topsail Island to review the NOFO and consider applying for this available potential funding, if appropriate.

## House Introduces FEMA Reform Act of 2025

On July 24, 2025, bipartisan House leadership introduced H.R. 4669, the *FEMA Reform Act of 2025*, which aims to make federal disaster response faster and more reliable, representing the most comprehensive FEMA reform in over a decade. [TFG has put together this brief](#), which provides an overview of the changes outlined in the bill.

This bill makes substantial changes to FEMA's organizational structure by establishing FEMA as an independent Cabinet-level agency, removing it from the Department of Homeland Security, creates faster approval processes for rebuilding public facilities after major natural disasters, and makes it easier for disaster survivors to get financial assistance.

While several steps remain before this legislation becomes law, this bill could significantly change how FEMA's disaster response operations work. We will continue monitoring developments and are available to discuss any questions or concerns you may have.

## Washington News

### FY 2026 Appropriations Proceeds in Senate as House Moves to August Recess

Congress closed out the month of July with FY 2026 budget markups and appointment confirmations before adjourning for the August recess. Both chambers will be out for the traditional August recess, providing members with time to return to their districts and engage with constituents. The House and Senate have been working on various priorities, including ongoing legislative business that has carried over from earlier in the year.

Before adjourning for the recess, Senators approved three bipartisan FY 2026 spending bills, Military Construction-Veterans Affairs, Agriculture-FDA, and Legislative Branch, giving Congress a small breakthrough in an otherwise tense appropriations season.

When Congress reconvenes after Labor Day, they face a packed September schedule with significant deadlines looming. The most pressing issue will be addressing government funding, as the fiscal year ends on September 30th, requiring Congress to either pass appropriations bills or a continuing resolution to avoid a government shutdown. Both chambers are scheduled to be in session on Sept. 29 and 30, indicating the urgency of this deadline. With Congress far behind schedule and the September 30 end of the fiscal year deadline looming, leaders on both sides acknowledge a stopgap continuing resolution (CR) funding bill will likely be needed to avoid a government shutdown.

Beyond funding issues, Congress will likely address other priorities that have been building throughout the year, though specific legislative priorities may depend on ongoing negotiations between leadership and the administration.

### **Congress Approves Trump's \$9B Rescissions Package**

The House narrowly passed President Trump's \$9 billion rescissions package, which includes significant cuts to international climate, clean energy, and disaster aid programs. The package passed 216-213 after earlier Senate approval, despite concerns from some Republicans and most Democrats that it would undermine bipartisan appropriations efforts. Critics, including Senate Appropriations Chair Susan Collins (R-ME) and Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), warned the cuts could harm public health, safety, and national security. The Trump Administration indicated more rescissions could follow, raising tensions as lawmakers work to finalize FY 2026 spending and likely face the need for a temporary continuing resolution (CR) to avoid a government shutdown on September 30.

### **Bipartisan NEPA Reform Bill Introduced in House**

House Natural Resources (NR) Chair Bruce Westerman (R-AR) and Rep. Jared Golden (D-ME) have introduced the [\*Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development \(SPEED\) Act\*](#), a bipartisan proposal to overhaul the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The bill aims to speed up environmental reviews by narrowing what constitutes a "major federal action," limiting consideration of long-term climate impacts, and restricting litigation timelines and remedies.

Proponents say the bill will streamline permitting, promote economic development, and reduce regulatory delays. Critics, led by House NR Ranking Member Jared Huffman (D-CA) and environmental groups argue it favors fossil fuel interests, weakens public input, and undermines environmental protection.

The SPEED Act is intended as a starting point for broader bipartisan talks on permitting reform, a long-stalled priority in Congress. While some Democrats support NEPA reform to accelerate clean energy projects, many remain wary of sweeping changes that could limit environmental oversight.

## Trump EPA Plans Second Reorganization Phase

EPA has announced the second phase of its broad reorganization plan, focused on restructuring key offices, including the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA), the Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM), and the creation of a new Office of Finance and Administration. The agency describes the changes as efforts to improve efficiency, fulfill statutory obligations, and ensure fiscal responsibility. Critics, however, see the moves as part of a broader agenda aligned with conservative policy proposals like Project 2025, which call for downsizing enforcement functions and integrating OECA staff into other offices.

Although details remain vague, the OECA reorganization could involve transferring attorneys to the Office of General Counsel and technical staff to EPA's media offices, potentially reducing enforcement capabilities. The creation of the new finance office aims to consolidate administrative functions like contracts, grants, IT, and human capital. Updates to OLEM are intended to improve EPA's emergency response and land cleanup functions, though specifics were not provided.

The reorganization follows a May 2025 restructuring of EPA's air program and anticipates further changes under a Trump Administration plan that includes major budget cuts and workforce reductions.

## TFG Special Report: Executive Order Improving Federal Grantmaking

On August 7, 2025, President Trump issued an [Executive Order](#) (EO), Improving Oversight of Federal Grantmaking. The EO builds on October 2024 Uniform Guidance updates, making significant changes to the discretionary grantmaking process. This [TFG Special Report](#) outlines the EO and provides direction to TFG clients on how to remain compliant with current grant portfolios and prepare for the upcoming changes to future grant funding opportunities.