



### **Client Note: Battle Over the Gavel Begins**

As you've undoubtedly seen, the House of Representatives entered historic and uncertain territory on Tuesday. Following Speaker Kevin McCarthy's work to pass a continuing resolution to temporarily avoid a government shutdown, a small group of far-right Republicans led a successful push to use the motion to vacate to vote him out of office. No Speaker has ever been removed this way, so we're all learning in real time exactly how this will play out.

For now, close McCarthy ally Rep. Patrick McHenry (R-NC) is Speaker pro tempore, presiding over the House until a new Speaker is elected (it appears nothing else can happen until a Speaker is chosen). He's scheduled an election for next week, which is bound to resemble the chaotic first few days in the House back in January. It's hard to picture any candidate for Speaker being able to check the boxes needed to win over 217 votes (there are two empty seats, reducing the threshold slightly) in the House Republicans' slim majority – appeasing both the far-right Freedom Caucus and the centrist Main Street Caucus is no easy task. McCarthy has already said he won't run again, so we're in for a fresh face.

Majority Leader Steve Scalise (R-LA) and Judiciary Chairman Jim Jordan (R-OH) are the current front runners. Scalise has a longstanding rivalry with McCarthy but has been part of leadership for a while and has an impressive fundraising operation. Jordan started out his career founding the Freedom Caucus and tormenting leadership, but recently became a McCarthy ally. Rep. Kevin Hern (R-OK), chair of a conservative member coalition, the Republican Study Committee, also appears to be considering running for Speaker, spending the last several days gauging support. The Republican Caucus plans to hold internal elections next Wednesday to nominate McCarthy's replacement, though there's no timing on a floor vote.

Until the House can elect a new Speaker, the House is paralyzed even as the clock continues to tick on federal funding (reminder: the stopgap only keeps the government open until November 17th) and on other critical reauthorization legislation. With every lost day, the likelihood that the House will need to pass a full-year CR omnibus funding bill increases, which was ironically one of reasons that the far-right was upset with McCarthy.

### **How the Next Speaker Could Affect Clean Energy Policy**

While former Speaker McCarthy was far from a climate ally, he has been open to some amount of bipartisanship, including on clean energy and climate issues (e.g., he has been encouraging permitting conversations and worked on the [Save Our Sequoias Act](#) with Rep. Peters). All of his potential successors will undoubtedly be climate-denying, far-right antagonists toward clean energy and EVs.

Scalise [has routinely](#) questioned the validity of climate change, is one of the Hill's biggest defenders of the fossil fuel industry, and is home to a state that depends on offshore oil drilling. Jordan doesn't look any better – his LCV scorecard for votes on green issues was zero last year. The Ohio Republican, known for his prominent oversight role in the conference, has been a strong critic of the Biden Administration's

clean energy agenda, and has a history of being a deeply partisan warrior willing to fight against anything Democrats support.

### **[Funding Opportunity Announcements \(FOAs\)](#)**

Last week, DOE [announced](#) \$16.4 million in funding for research projects supporting the installation of noise reduction and reliable moorings for offshore wind and marine energy. Concept papers are [due](#) November 9, 2023.

DOE [announced](#) the highly-anticipated [CDR Purchase Pilot Prize](#) last Friday, which provides up to \$35 million in cash awards for carbon dioxide removal offtake agreements. It is the first time the federal government will purchase high-quality CDR credits from commercial-scale suppliers. Eligible private entities are encouraged to apply before November 30.

Lastly, the concept paper [submission](#) deadline for the [\\$2 billion Domestic Manufacturing and Conversion Grants Program](#), which supports the domestic production of EVs, was extended to November 1.

### **Where in the World is Pioneer?**

Partner [Kim Corbin](#) co-authored an [op-ed](#) in the D.C. Journal to discuss how Congress can jumpstart Food Is Medicine policies right now.

On Tuesday, we held a happy hour on the rooftop of our new office at 700 Penn with food, drinks, and bluegrass amidst a beautiful sunset. Thanks to all who showed up and made it such a great time!



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