



### **Client Note: Funding Impasse Triggers White House Meeting**

With the threat of a partial government shutdown coming this Friday night, the two sides appear deadlocked on an agreement over full-year spending bills.

While many were hoping for an announcement or breakthrough on Sunday, instead Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer released a “[dear colleague letter](#)” this morning laying blame for the current impasse at the feet of Speaker Mike Johnson, [who fired back over Twitter](#). Leaders are now negotiating yet another continuing resolution (CR) that (if passed) likely will fund the government until March 22nd to buy more time for negotiations.

President Biden has invited the four corners of Congressional leadership – Johnson and Schumer plus Minority Leaders McConnell and Jeffries – to the White House on Tuesday for a meeting to discuss the government funding stalemate and the separate, but related, issue of the languishing security supplemental appropriations bill for aid to Ukraine and Israel/Gaza that remains stalled in the House.

It’s unclear what progress the meeting can achieve. Speaker Johnson is largely on an island since McConnell has already allied with Schumer on both full-year appropriations bills and the security supplemental.

Once again, it all comes back to whether Johnson will reject the extreme demands of the far-right Freedom Caucus and pass bills with substantial Democratic support and, as a result, test the strength of his speakership to a possible vote on his ouster. Until Johnson decides to put up a full-year funding bill backed by Democrats, the chances of a government shutdown remain possible. The House comes back on Wednesday and they’ll need to quickly start the process to pass a CR to avoid a shutdown of the departments of Agriculture, Energy, Transportation, and Veterans Affairs on Friday night.

#### **The Heartbeat on the Hill**

**Tax Deal:** This remains stalled in the Senate.

**Farm Bill:** The legislation remains delayed as Speaker Johnson confirmed that appropriations would need to be finalized before additional progress would be possible. USDA Secretary Vilsack will testify before the Senate Ag Committee on Wednesday in an [oversight hearing](#) that will discuss programs funded in the Farm Bill.

**FAA:** This week, the House is planning to pass an extension of the FAA reauthorization until May 10.

**FISA:** There have been no updates on this since Speaker Johnson pulled his plan to vote on a reform package a couple of weeks ago.

[Mayorkas Impeachment](#): The timing for the Senate trial for DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas’s impeachment is decided by the House impeachment managers, though reports indicate that they will wait until after funding the government has been resolved. Either way, it’s likely that Senate Democrats will move relatively quickly to end the trial, which they can with a simple majority vote.

### [Funding Opportunities](#)

DOE and EPA [announced](#) a \$9.4 million funding opportunity for projects researching and developing advanced biofuels. Concept papers are due March 22nd.

The Department of Energy also [announced](#) their intent to issue a \$30 million funding opportunity for RD&D projects that accelerate the large-scale development and deployment of concentrating solar-thermal power (CSP) technology. Between six-to–sixteen awards are expected to be issued, each ranging from \$750,000 and \$10 million.

Finally, deadlines are approaching for the following funding solicitations:

- Concept papers for the [\\$15.7 million FOA](#) supporting the domestic manufacturing of next-generation battery and storage technologies are due Monday, March 4th.
- Letters of intent for the [\\$31 million FOA](#) for geothermal RD&D projects are due Friday, March 1st.
- Applications for the [\\$6.5 million to support Small Innovative Projects in Solar \(SIPS\)](#) are due Wednesday, March 6th.

### **This Week: [Hearings to Watch](#)**

*Tuesday, February 27th*

#### **Senate Environment and Public Works**

“A joint hearing to examine the presence of microplastics in water.”  
(2:30 PM EST), watch [here](#)

*Wednesday, February 28th*

#### **Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry**

“An oversight hearing to examine the Department of Agriculture.”  
(TBA EST), watch [here](#)

#### **Senate Energy and Natural Resources**

“Hearings to examine the opportunities and challenges associated with developing geologic hydrogen in the United States.”  
(10:00 AM EST), watch [here](#)

#### **House Investigations and Oversight Subcommittee**

“Examining the Risk: The Dangers of EV Fires for First Responders”  
(10:30 AM EST), watch [here](#)

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