



**NEVADA
COUNTY**
CALIFORNIA

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

CLERK OF THE BOARD

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BOARD AGENDA MEMO

MEETING DATE: March 11, 2025

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jeffrey Thorsby, Chief of Staff

SUBJECT: Presentation on Federal Legislative Update and recent advocacy efforts

RECOMMENDATION: Accept the presentation.

FUNDING: N/A

BACKGROUND: On February 11, 2025, the Board of Supervisors adopted their annual Legislative Platform via Resolution 25-056 reflecting the Board of Supervisors' policy positions that inform the County's advocacy efforts to protect, sustain, and promote its core services and priority objectives. To advance the Board's legislative platform and priorities at the federal level, the county engages directly with its federal congressional delegates in the U.S. Congress, contracts with federal legislative advocacy firm Paragon Government Relations, and actively participates in the National Association of Counties (NACo), and its affiliate entity representing western counties on public land issues in the Western Interstate Region (WIR). Specifically, Supervisor Hall serves as the county's representative to NACo and sits on the Justice, Public Safety Policy Steering Committee and the Homeland Security Policy Subcommittee and is appointed by the California State Association (CSAC) to serve on the NACo Board of Directors and WIR. Moreover, Supervisor Bullock serves as the Board's alternate to NACo and sits on the Public Lands Policy Steering Committee and the County and Tribal Relations Subcommittee under the Finance, Pensions and Intergovernmental Affairs Policy Steering Committee. Your Chief of Staff also serves as the Vice Chair of the County and Tribal Relations Subcommittee.

Recently, county representatives attend the NACo annual legislative conference in Washington D.C. and held a series of meetings on Capitol Hill to advocate the county's

federal interests. Specifically, Nevada County met with congressional staff from the offices of Congressman Kevin Kiley (CA), Congressman Doug LaMalfa (CA), Senator Padilla (CA), Senator Schiff (CA), and U.S. Forest Service Chief Randy Moore. The topics discussed included the local Nevada County impacts associated with the new Administration's actions related to the funding freeze to local program and services, specifically on the U. S. Forest Service and concerns related to open space recreation and wildfire mitigation, and the mass federal reduction in force and early employment severances across the federal government.

Supervisor Hall and Supervisor Bullock also led a multi-county coalition with Napa County and Lake County advocating for federal action related insurance with congressional staff from the House Financial Services Committee, Senate Banking Committee, Senator Whitehouse (RI), Senator Wyden (OR), and Congressman Neguse (CO). Specifically, the coalition stressed the importance of federal oversight and need for regulation related to the crisis of the availability and affordability of residential and commercial insurance. Discussion highlights includes the need for applicable hearings on the crisis, a need for insurance premiums to reflect mitigation work being done at individual, community, and landscape levels (that translate into approximately 40-60% risk reduction), concerns that the mortgage-backed security financial market is creeping towards increased risk, and that tactical solution with bi-partisan support is needed.

County representatives also received a multitude of briefings, including on the current efforts of Congress to cut federal spending by approximately \$880 Billion over the next ten (10) years through a process known as reconciliation. The U.S. Congressional reconciliation process is a legislative procedure that allows expedited passage of certain budget-related bills in the Senate with a simple majority vote, bypassing the 60-vote filibuster threshold. Created by the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, reconciliation is used to adjust spending, revenues, or the federal debt limit to align with the budget resolution. It is limited to provisions with a direct fiscal impact and cannot be used for non-budgetary policy changes and is often employed when the majority party seeks to enact significant fiscal legislation without bipartisan support.

Currently, NACo has identified five (5) short-term Federal advocacy priorities related to issues being considered through the reconciliation process that would have major impacts to county core programs and services and funding that include:

1. **Disaster Reform:** Advocate for county representation on FEMA Review Council;
2. **Secure Rural Schools:** Reauthorize funding to prevent fiscal crises in rural communities;
3. **Counties and Medicaid:** Prevent cost shifts & increased in county indigent care costs;
4. **Tax-Exempt Municipal Bonds:** Prevent increases in county borrowing costs; and
5. **County HHS Services:** Modernize county-administrated programs, such as SNAP, TANF, and child welfare.

In addition, Supervisor Hall was appointed to serve on NACo's new Intergovernmental

Disaster Reform Taskforce with 18 other elected County Supervisors, Commissioners and Judges, leveraging her work and expertise on the growing national insurance crisis in the country. The Taskforce's purpose is to strengthen the nation's disaster mitigation, response and recovery capabilities by modernizing federal assistance policies and practices, strengthening intergovernmental partnerships and developing local capacities. During the Legislative Conference, the Task Force met with the White House Intergovernmental Affairs and National Security Council, seeking to help reform, not eliminate, FEMA and is advocating for a county seat at the President's new FEMA Review Council via Executive Order 14180 and is urging for much needed revisions to the Stafford Act.

Staff will provide a presentation to the Board regarding this Federal Legislative Update and recent advocacy efforts.

Item Initiated: 3.4.25

Approved: 3.4.25

Submittal Date: 3.4.25