



SACOG Board of Directors

**Board of Directors Regular Meeting**

**Meeting Date:** 10/18/2018

**Agenda Item No.:** 2018-October-21.

**Subject:** Federal Advocacy Update (Est. time: 0 minutes)

**Receive and File**

**Prepared by:** Christina Lokke

**Approved by:** James Corless

**Attachments:** No

**1. Issue:**

Federal Advocacy Update

**2. Recommendation:**

None, this item is for information only.

**3. Background/Analysis:**

September 30, 2018, marked the end of the federal fiscal year. Government funding expires on this date, absent a signed budget or Continuing Resolution (CR). Many federal programs also expire at the end of the fiscal year if they are not reauthorized.

**4. Discussion/Analysis:**

While Congress passed a significant portion of federal appropriation bills before the end of the fiscal year, there are a number still outstanding, including the Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development (THUD) appropriation bill. This bill includes funding levels for all discretionary transportation programs, including the Capital Investment Grants (CIG) program and Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grants. The House and Senate agreed to a CR to extend government funding in the new fiscal year through December 7, 2018, for the remaining federal agencies awaiting appropriations. Congress is expected to approve the remaining appropriations bills when it returns after the November 2018, election.

Negotiations also continue on the new farm bill, with the 2014 farm bill expiring at the end of the federal fiscal year. The House and Senate passed significantly different versions and negotiations appear to be moving slowly.

**5. Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:**

This item has no direct fiscal impact.

**6. This staff report aligns with the following SACOG Work Plan Goals:**

8. Build out our Council of Governments Functions, 9. Better Connect and Communicate with Members and Regional Electeds