



# TRC QUARTERLY REPORT

FIRST QUARTER 2026

## CONGRESSIONAL OVERVIEW

With two government shutdowns this quarter alone, and one still ongoing, the first quarter in Washington, D.C. has been defined by funding disputes and partisan gridlock. In January, Congress raced the clock to pass the remaining nine appropriations bills before the continuing resolution expired on January 30th. Largely successful, Congress, after a brief weekend shutdown, approved the final fiscal year 2026 appropriations package, but excluded full-year funding for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), enacting a two-week stopgap measure to allow time for negotiations over reforms to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Patrol (CBP). In the two weeks allotted for negotiations, Democrats and Republicans made little headway toward an agreement. Progress remained stalled in the weeks that followed. As a result, DHS has been shut down for more than a month, and more than 260,000 employees continue to work without pay. Democrats and Republicans remain at a stalemate, with Democrats pushing for reforms to ICE and CBP, while Republicans refuse to support a partial funding package for DHS.

Amid outrage on both sides of the aisle with DHS leadership, President Trump fired Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem and nominated Sen. Markwayne Mullin (R-OK) to replace her. Sen. Mullin received a speedy confirmation process despite reservations from the Chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, Rand Paul (R-KY). The Senate voted to confirm Mullin as DHS Secretary on March 23rd by a vote of 54-45.

In February, President Trump's State of the Union address set a new record at 107 minutes, making it the longest in U.S. history. Just days after his speech, President Trump launched a major military campaign to overthrow the Iranian regime. Joint U.S.-Israeli airstrikes resulted in the death of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, with his son Mojtaba assuming leadership. Congressional Democrats' efforts to pass war powers resolutions restricting further strikes without legislative approval were defeated in both chambers. The ongoing conflict has claimed the lives of 13 American service members. Maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, a critical chokepoint for 20% of global oil and liquified natural gas shipments, has plummeted, driving oil prices to spike near \$120 per barrel. Democrats in Congress have continued to push for war powers resolutions to halt any military action without congressional approval, though these efforts have seen little success. ●

## TRC OVERVIEW

In January, TRC was excited to announce **Sophie Scott's** promotion to Legislative Aide and Research Assistant. Sophie previously served as a Government Affairs Coordinator at TRC and recently graduated magna cum laude from American University. During her time with TRC, she distinguished herself through strong policy analysis, legislative research, and a commitment to delivering value for our clients.

Additionally, in January, TRC welcomed **Jake Fales** and **Alexa Forbes** as Government Affairs Coordinators. Jake is currently pursuing a Master of Public Administration at American University and previously served as a Senior Policy Fellow at the Reserve Organization of America. Alexa is a student at the University of Maryland and a member of the university's mock trial team, bringing strong analytical and communication skills to the TRC team.



Jake Fales



Alexa Forbes

## The City of Aberdeen, Maryland

In January, President Trump [signed](#) the Commerce, Justice, Science, Energy and Water Development, and Interior and Environment Appropriations Act into law. As part of this funding package, specifically the Interior and Environment Appropriations Act, the City of Aberdeen will receive \$2,000,000 in congressionally directed funding for water infrastructure upgrades. The project was requested by Aberdeen's entire congressional delegation, including Rep. Andy Harris (R-MD-01) and Sens. Angela Alsobrooks (D-MD) and Chris Van Hollen (D-MD).

As part of the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, [signed](#) into law in February as part of a broader funding package, Aberdeen will receive \$300,000 to complete the outdoor recreation components of an activity center. This funding, requested by Sens. Alsobrooks (D-MD) and Van Hollen (D-MD), will support the construction of an ADA-compliant playground, a walking trail, and a multipurpose field.

In February, Rep. Andy Harris (R-MD-01) visited the Aberdeen Fire Department and Swan Meadows neighborhood, the site of the city's water and sewer infrastructure upgrade project.

In March, TRC hosted Aberdeen Mayor Patrick McGrady in Washington, D.C. to meet with Aberdeen's congressional delegation, including Rep. Andy Harris (R-MD-01) and Sens. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) and Angela Alsobrooks (D-MD).



Rep. Harris and Mayor Patrick McGrady with Members of the Aberdeen City Council.



**Top:** Sen. Alsobrooks (D-MD) with Mayor Patrick McGrady; **Bottom:** Sen. Van Hollen (D-MD) with Mayor Patrick McGrady

## Invest in the USA

In January, TRC hosted Invest in the USA (IIUSA) in Washington, DC, for their quarterly fly-in. Across five teams, IIUSA members met with nearly 30 congressional offices to advocate for reauthorization of the EB-5 Regional Center Program. Additionally, TRC joined IIUSA members who met with Department of Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy to discuss the work regional centers have done on infrastructure projects across the country.

While in DC, IIUSA hosted a fundraiser for Rep. Lance Gooden (R-TX-05), a champion of the EB-5 program.



Former IIUSA President Bob Kraft (right) and George McElwee (left) with Secretary Duffy

## Cyware

In February, Cyware met with Nick Andersen, former Executive Assistant Director for Cybersecurity at the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). Shortly after their meeting, Andersen was appointed to serve as CISA's Acting Director.

Additionally, in February, TRC hosted Cyware in Washington, DC, for their inaugural Information Sharing and Analysis Center (ISAC) fly-in. The group met with the Office of the National Cyber Director (ONCD) and several members of Congress and their staff, including Rep. August Pfluger (R-TX-11).



Cyware's Managing Director, Tom Stockmeyer, at CISA.



ISAC Representatives with Rep. August Pfluger (R-TX-11)

## Granite Construction

In January, TRC hosted Granite Construction in Washington, DC, for a series of congressional meetings to advocate for the use of progressive design-build for U.S. Coast Guard projects and to advance Granite's surface transportation reauthorization priorities.

In March, Granite Construction hosted a fundraiser for Rep. Juan Ciscomani (R-AZ-06) in Arizona.

## City of Kenner, Louisiana

As part of the Interior and Environment Appropriations Act, signed into law as part of a broader package in January, the City of Kenner received over \$8,000,000 in funding for its Sewer/Wastewater Treatment Plant Stabilization and Improvement Infrastructure project. This funding will support the replacement of critical infrastructure in its aging sewer system. Rep. Troy Carter (D-LA-02) requested \$1,092,000 for the project, while Sens. Bill Cassidy (R-LA) and John Kennedy (R-LA) requested \$7,000,000.

In March, Kenner met with their congressional delegation, including Reps. Troy Carter (D-LA-02), Steve Scalise (R-LA-01), and Sens. Bill Cassidy (R-LA) and John Kennedy (R-LA).

CN Railway operates key freight lines through Kenner, Louisiana, connecting the U.S. Gulf Coast to its extensive North American network. During their visit to D.C., Mayor Glaser, his team, and TRC were invited to attend the CN's Open House at their Washington, D.C., office. Mayor Glaser met CN Railway President and CEO Tracy Robinson and senior government relations staff.



Mayor Glaser with CN Railway President and CEO Tracy Robinson



Mayor Glaser with Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA)



Mayor Glaser with Rep. Troy Carter (D-LA-02)



Mayor Glaser with Kenner officials (left), CN Railway Head of U.S. Public and Government Affairs Andrea Niethold, and State and Local Affairs Manager Antoine Hawkins.

## National Technology Security Coalition

In February, TRC hosted National Technology Security Coalition Executive Director Chris Sullivan in Washington, DC, to meet with key players in the cybersecurity space, including the Office of the National Cyber Director (ONCD), the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), and staff from the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Additionally, NTSC met with Sean Plankey, President Trump's nominee to serve as Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.

Chris and George also [attended](#) the 3rd Annual Cyber Policy Awards Gala, hosted by the Institute for Security and Technology in Washington, DC. The event recognizes and celebrates those whose work defined the cybersecurity landscape in 2025.

In March, TRC hosted NTSC's Mid-Atlantic CISO Policy Roundtable. The morning of the conference, TRC organized a roundtable with congressional committee staff and agency personnel to discuss the future of the Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures (CVE) program, which identifies and catalogs cybersecurity vulnerabilities.

Additionally, in March, NTSC [sent](#) a letter to Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD), Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY), Homeland Security Chairman Rand Paul (R-KY), and Ranking Member Gary Peters (D-MI), urging the swift confirmation of Sean Plankey as Director of CISA.

## Salute Home Loans

In January, TRC hosted a luncheon for the Homes for Every Local Protector, Educator, and Responder (HELPER) Act. The lunch was attended by supporters of the legislation, including state and national organizations, and congressional staff.

In March, TRC hosted a HELPER Act fly-in and met with members of the Oklahoma, Indiana, and North Carolina congressional delegations. Participants included Ted Tozer, former President of Ginnie Mae, Oklahoma County Sheriff Tommie Johnson, and Ryan Caudill, a decorated Army veteran and realtor. Over three days



From left to right: Oklahoma County Sheriff Tommie Johnson, Sen. James Lankford (R-OK), and Sam Royer.



Ryan Caudill & Sen. Todd Young (R-IN)

of advocacy, the group met with more than 25 congressional offices to urge swift passage of the HELPER Act.

Additionally, in March, TRC hosted a HELPER Act fly-in for the EMS Labor Alliance (EMSLA). EMSLA President Tim Sommerfelt and Vice President Jon Atkinson participated in several meetings with members of the Pennsylvania and Ohio delegations. TRC also succeeded in getting an op-ed [article](#) penned by Sheriff James Ott of Blair County, PA, placed in the Altoona Mirror, urging both Republican and Democratic members of Pennsylvania’s congressional delegation to co-sponsor the HELPER Act in support of the state’s teachers and first responders.



From left to right: Alexa Forbes, Maya Harris-Cameron, Sam Royer, Sen. Thom Tillis (R-NC), and Ted Tozer.



EMSLA President Tim Sommerfelt and Maya Harris-Cameron with Rep. Dave Taylor (R-OH-02).

## PhilaPort

In January, TRC obtained letters of support for the construction of PhilaPort’s cruise terminal from Representatives Mary Gay Scanlon (D-PA-05) and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA-01). The letters were sent to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Administrator Bryan Bedford, urging swift approval of several aeronautical studies required to continue construction at the terminal.

Additionally, in January, TRC obtained a letter of support from Sen. John Fetterman (D-PA) and Rep. Mary Gay Scanlon (D-PA-05) in support of PhilaPort’s Build America, Buy America (BABA) waiver for ship-to-shore cranes, which cannot be reasonably sourced in the United States.

In March, TRC organized a tour of the Port of Philadelphia for Maritime Administration (MARAD) Deputy Administrator Sang Yi and Chief of Staff Anthony Fisher. During the visit, PhilaPort discussed its operations and vital role in supporting U.S. commerce, supply chain resilience, and national security. The visit included a tour of port facilities, providing an opportunity to see operations firsthand.



MARAD Administrator Sang Yi with PhilaPort Executives.

## People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

In February, TRC hosted PETA in Washington, DC, for a series of congressional meetings. Alongside PETA, Edie Falco, Emmy Award-winning actress and PETA Honorary Director, met with members of Congress and their staff. Across 18 congressional meetings, PETA advocated for ending the importation of monkeys for laboratory use in the U.S.

On March 18th, the National Institutes of Health [announced](#) it is investing \$150 million to develop and scale non-animal research methods. Across social media, the Department of Health and Human Services [thanked](#) PETA for its support of this Trump Administration priority.

On March 20th, TRC worked closely with Rep. Nicole Malliotakis (R-NY-11), Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV-01), and Edie Falco to [publish](#) an op-ed in The Hill urging a ban on the importation of monkeys for laboratory experiments.



From left to right: Lisa Jones-Engel, PETA's Senior Science Adviser for Primate Experimentation, Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV-01), and Edie Falco.



Edie Falco & Rep. Nicole Malliotakis (R-NY-11)



## Shippensburg University

As Chair of the Shippensburg University Council of Trustees, George supports the University's advocacy efforts in Washington, D.C. In February, George organized and attended several congressional meetings with President Charles Patterson to advocate for their \$5 million expansion of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) facility. During the visit, President Patterson and George met with members of the Pennsylvania congressional delegation, including Sen. John Fetterman (D-PA), Sen. Dave McCormick (R-PA), and Rep. John Joyce (R-PA-13). They also met with distinguished Shippensburg University alumna New Hampshire Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH).



President Charles Patterson with Rep. John Joyce (R-PA-13)



President Charles Patterson and George McElwee with Senator John Fetterman (D-PA)



President Charles Patterson and George McElwee with Senator Dave McCormick (R-PA)



President Charles Patterson and George McElwee with Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)

## FUNDRAISING & EVENTS

In January, Katie attended a fundraiser for Rep. Tom Kean (R-NJ-07). Additionally, in January, on behalf of Granite Construction's PAC, Katie attended a fundraiser for Rep. Juan Ciscomani (R-AZ).

In February, George attended a fundraiser for Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH-04), Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, on behalf of IIUSA PAC. Additionally, Katie sat down with Congressional candidate Jim Oberweis for Florida's 19th District. George also spoke to students at his alma mater, Shippensburg University, to discuss his career path and future opportunities for students. George is the current Chair of the Shippensburg University Council of Trustees. Finally, in February, Sophie attended a Women in Government Relations event and a National Institute for Lobbying and Ethics event focused on the Surface Transportation Reauthorization.

In March, Katie co-hosted, and George attended a fundraiser for Rep. Mike Ezell (R-MS-04), Chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation. Additionally, George and Katie hosted a fundraiser for Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA-01) and, on behalf of IIUSA PAC, attended fundraisers for House Committee on Appropriations Chairman Tom Cole (R-OK-04) and Senator John Cornyn (R-TX).

Additionally, Katie was a guest speaker at her high school, Donovan Catholic, in Toms River, New Jersey, to discuss her career and opportunities for students.

Maya attended the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) 2026 Regulatory Information Conference in March. She also spoke as a panelist at the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Social Justice Forum on Investing in Black Women as part of Delta Days in the Nation's Capital, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.'s 37th Annual Legislative Conference. During the panel, she urged participants to write to their Senators and House Representatives and directly ask them to co-sponsor the Homes for Every Local Protector, Educator, and Responder (HELPER) Act. Maya contributed an original video and a "Take Action!" one-pager on the HELPER Act, which were included in the digital toolkits of over 1100 conference delegates, providing them with a script they could use to write to their congressional representatives to ask them to support the legislation. Additionally, in March, Maya attended the National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology's (NSCEB) Report Anniversary event featuring NSCEB Chair Sen. Todd Young (R-IN) and NSCEB Co-Chair Rep. Chrissy Houlahan (D-PA). ●

