

APPROPRIATIONS UPDATE

**August
18th, 2025**

House Conservatives Call for Earmarks in FY26 Spending Bill

Fiscal conservatives, who have historically criticized the concept of earmarks, are now openly promoting them. But after earmarks were pulled from last year's spending bill at the last minute, a significant portion of the House Republican Conference is demanding the inclusion of community project funding in the FY26 bill. GOP representatives are saying that earmarks would have a number of short-term benefits, including a sweetener for Democrats to avoid a government shutdown next month. Freedom Caucus members are also suggesting that allowing earmarks to ride alongside a flat, short-term continuing resolution — would help avoid an omnibus, which would likely include higher funding levels imposed by the Senate. Following a spat of unfriendly town halls while home in their districts, some Republicans are also likely looking for near term wins to garner support from constituents.

House Appropriations Leader Calls for More Rescissions

Andy Harris (R-MD), Chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, and FDA, wants the White House to send over a major package of pocket rescissions that would unilaterally cancel tens of billions of dollars. Unlike a typical rescissions bill, where Congress has 45 days to pass it before the administration is forced to spend the money as lawmakers originally intended, a pocket rescissions measure is transmitted to Capitol Hill with 45 or fewer days left until the end of the current fiscal year — and if Congress doesn't take any action by that deadline, the money is considered revoked. There's no certainty Congress could even pass a second rescissions request after the heartburn the previous bill to rescind over \$9 billion in State Department and public broadcasting funding caused for some Republicans. Legal experts have also questioned the legality of the pocket rescissions process.