

APPROPRIATIONS UPDATE

**December
22nd, 2025**

Majority Appropriators Reach Topline Agreement on FY26 Spending Totals

Congress's top Republican appropriators announced an agreement over the weekend on overall totals for each of the nine funding bills lawmakers need to pass by the January 30th shutdown deadline. The deal between Senate Appropriations Chair Susan Collins (R-ME) and House Appropriations Chair Tom Cole (R-OK) allows lawmakers in both chambers to start negotiations on the specifics of those spending measures once they return for the second session of the 119th Congress.

While the totals are not public, Cole noted that they are below the levels of the stopgap funding patch that expires at the end of January and align with President Trump's direction to cut federal spending.

The announcement comes after the Senate abandoned efforts to pass a five-bill minibus package last week and sent members home for the holiday recess. Senate leaders are still hoping to pass a package of five funding bills in early January, but that measure would not reflect the equities of the House.

Controversies Around Interior Appropriations Bill Signal Possible Complications

In the last month, Western members have used the Interior-Environment appropriations bill as leverage to advance or stymie political priorities. Last week, Senator Mike Lee (R-UT) submitted – and later withdrew – an amendment to include language that would allow the selloff of national park units within the bill. Both Colorado senators have announced a “hold” on the bill until they receive assurances that the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in Boulder, CO, will remain in operation after the administration proposed its closure. There was also language removed that would prohibit the use of funds to transfer the Forest Service to the Department of Interior. Regardless, appropriators remain confident that they'll be able to pass the Interior funding bill early next month.