

RFA Outlook: June 3-13, 2025

Overview

After a relatively quiet week during the Memorial Day recess, Congress returns to a full slate of legislative activity this upcoming work period.

Lawmakers are set to pick up momentum on the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act,” which has already gone through a lengthy amendment process and is now poised for further floor action. Both chambers are also expected to advance key measures, including Small Business Administration reforms, D.C. governance bills, and fiscal year 2026 appropriations—some of which may reach the Senate floor by the end of June.

Meanwhile, digital asset policy remains a top priority heading into the August recess, with the Senate preparing floor time for its stablecoin framework and the House continuing negotiations on both its stablecoin and broader market structure legislation.

Over in the White House, Elon Musk has parted ways with DOGE; President Trump faced a legal setback in his tariff strategy after a federal judge blocked a key component of the plan; and the administration remains entangled in a high-profile dispute with Harvard University over its international student programs and access to federal funding.

Other ongoing developments we’re watching include a potential rescissions package from the White House aimed at codifying discretionary spending cuts, as well as any movement on sanctions legislation as geopolitical tensions with Russia continue to escalate.

Below, we provide our analysis of key legislative, regulatory, and administrative updates for this upcoming work period.

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Big Picture Items

Reconciliation

House Narrowly Passed the ‘One Big Beautiful Bill.’ On May 22, the House passed the “One Big Beautiful Bill” by a razor-thin margin of 215–214. Two Republicans—Thomas Massie (R-KY) and Warren Davidson (R-OH)—joined all Democrats in opposing the bill, while Rep. Andy Harris (R-MD) voted present. Two other Republicans, SALT Caucus member Rep. Andrew Garbarino (R-NY) and Joint Economic Committee Chairman Rep. David Schweikert (R-AZ), missed the vote entirely after reportedly “falling asleep.”

It Included Major Rollbacks to Clean Energy Incentives. The legislation includes sweeping rollbacks of Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) provisions, particularly clean energy tax credits. Among the most significant eliminations are:

- The electric vehicle tax credit (30D)
- The commercial clean vehicle credit (45W)
- The alternative fuel vehicle refueling property credit (30C)
- The hydrogen production credit (45V)

The bill also accelerates the phaseout of tax incentives for rooftop solar, wind, and battery storage. Additionally, it retains strict foreign entity restrictions, barring companies with ownership ties to “countries of concern” from claiming clean energy tax credits, one of the most controversial elements of the package.

The Bill Now Moves to the Senate, where Republicans must remain nearly united—losing no more than three votes if all senators are present—to pass it. While many GOP senators view the House version as a workable starting point, several have already pushed back, particularly on the clean energy rollbacks. Senators Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), John Curtis (R-UT), Jerry Moran (R-KS), and Thom Tillis (R-NC) have raised concerns about these eliminations and are expected to seek changes to the bill provisions.

With a higher \$5.2 trillion cap for tax cuts in the Senate compared to \$3.8 trillion in the House, Senators may consider restoring provisions like the research and development tax credit, which was not made permanent in the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) voiced that he and three other unnamed Senators are wanting to see the debt limit increase removed from the bill before they will support it. Sen. Ron Johnson expressed his opposition to the bill unless it includes more cuts. Medicaid-related concerns could also complicate the vote, with Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Josh Hawley (R-MO) signaling opposition to the bill unless changes are made to protect Medicaid. However, leadership aims to keep revisions minimal to avoid procedural delays or resistance in the House.

Floor Timing and Procedural Steps. Senate Republican Leader John Thune (R-SD) is targeting the week of June 23 to bring the bill to the floor, with an ambitious goal of delivering the final bill to the President’s desk before the July 4 recess. In preparation, Senate Republicans have begun informal meetings with the parliamentarian, and formal Byrd Rule (or “Byrd bath”) reviews are underway. Behind-the-scenes strategy sessions, including a closed-door Senate Finance Committee meeting scheduled for today, are also expected to intensify this week. Senate Committees will individually determine whether to hold markups of their respective reconciliation titles.

House-Senate Coordination Still Uncertain. If the Senate passes the bill following its customary vote-a-rama, the House will need to vote again to approve any Senate-amended text. Whether House Republicans will

support the revised version remains uncertain, but Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) will play a key role in navigating potential tensions and ensuring the bill's path to final passage. Despite Thune's hopeful July 4 deadline, the House is unlikely to take up the final vote until the week of July 7.

FY26 Appropriations Process

In April, House Appropriations Committee Chairman Tom Cole (R-OK), commenced the FY26 appropriations process, inviting members to begin submitting programmatic, language, and Community Project Funding requests.

The House Appropriations Committee will formally begin marking up their bills this week. First in the queue are Military Construction-VA and Agriculture-FDA bills which should be released Wednesday, June 4th ahead of subcommittee markups on June 5th. Additionally, Homeland and Defense Department Subcommittee markups are expected the week of June 9 with subsequent subcommittee hearings occurring the weeks of June 23rd and July 7th. We expect the House of Representatives to begin processing Appropriations bills on the House floor in June, as bills are advanced out of the full Appropriations Committee.

In May, President Trump submitted a "skinny budget" proposal to Congress. The proposal calls for a 22.6% (\$163 billion) reduction in non-defense discretionary spending, which comprises a significant reduction in the size and functions of many agencies and the outright elimination of several others. Correspondingly, the budget proposes a 13% increase in defense spending, allocating \$1.01 trillion to the Department of Defense. Additionally, it recommends a nearly 65% funding boost for the Department of Homeland Security, totaling \$175 billion, to enhance border enforcement and immigration control measures.

Rescissions Package

The White House sent a rescissions proposal to Congress this morning as part of ongoing efforts to codify discretionary spending cuts. White House Office of Management and Budget Director Russell Vought stated the request would mostly apply to funds for the US Agency for International Development and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Under the Impoundment Control Act of 1974, the President can propose rescinding funds through a special message to Congress, which triggers a 45-day window during which the funds can be withheld. If Congress acts within that window, a rescission bill may be fast-tracked.

In the House, members can force floor consideration after 25 days, bypassing the usual discharge petition process; in the Senate, a simple majority can discharge the bill from committee and bring it to the floor, where it is debated for up to 10 hours and passed with a 50-vote threshold. If no action is taken, the President must release the funds at the end of the 45-day period. The outlook hinges on how quickly the package is transmitted and whether Congress chooses to take up the measure within the allowed timeline.

Russia Sanctions

Support continues to grow for Senator Lindsey Graham's (R-SC) Sanctioning Russia Act of 2025, which now has 81 bipartisan cosponsors, with Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) the leading Democrat on the legislation. The bill proposes sweeping primary sanctions on Russia and aggressive secondary sanctions, including a 500% tariff, on countries that continue purchasing Russian oil, gas, uranium, and other key exports. These sanctions would be triggered if Russia refuses to engage in good-faith negotiations toward a lasting peace in Ukraine or violates any resulting agreement. While President Trump has expressed caution in order to preserve diplomatic flexibility, the administration is reportedly considering using the Graham-Blumenthal bill as a tool to increase pressure on Moscow while still retaining negotiating flexibility. However, several key congressional committees are expected to push for substantial revisions if the bill moves beyond a messaging vehicle and toward formal

legislation. The Treasury is also likely to request changes, particularly around the bill's lack of waiver authority and the need for separate legislation to lift the sanctions once imposed.

Tariffs Update

Court Strikes Down Administration's Use of IEEPA. A federal court has struck down several of former President Donald Trump's tariffs on international trade. In a unanimous decision, a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of International Trade ruled that Trump had exceeded his authority under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act of 1977 (IEEPA), which allows the president to impose certain import restrictions in response to national emergencies. The court concluded that the IEEPA does not permit the president to impose "unbounded tariffs."

What Impact Will This Have? The ruling, which came in response to lawsuits filed by Oregon Attorney General Dan Rayfield and 11 other state attorneys general, invalidates several of Trump's key tariff actions. This includes the 25% tariffs on products from Canada and Mexico, a 20% duty on Chinese imports linked to claims of a drug trafficking emergency, a 10% across-the-board tariff on all U.S. trading partners to reduce trade deficits, and the suspended "reciprocal" tariffs (ranging from 20% to 50%) on around 60 nations, which were set to take effect on July 9 if no agreements were reached.

However, the court's decision does not impact tariffs imposed under a different law, section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, which allows tariffs on national security grounds. Trump recently invoked this authority to increase existing steel and aluminum tariffs and to impose a 25% duty on foreign-made automobiles. Additional Section 232 investigations are underway, potentially leading to new tariffs on semiconductors, pharmaceuticals, and other products.

Incoming Tariffs on Steel Imports. Last Friday, Trump announced plans to double the tariff on steel imports from 25% to 50%. Speaking at a U.S. Steel plant in West Mifflin, Pennsylvania, he said the move is intended to block foreign steel from undercutting the domestic market: "At 50 percent, they can no longer get over the fence." He also revealed a new "partnership" that will permit the Japanese firm, Nippon Steel, to acquire U.S. Steel, a major American steelmaker.

Congressional Activity

Nominations

- Yesterday, President Donald Trump nominated **Laura Swett**, an energy lawyer at Vinson & Elkins, to serve as the next chair of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) through June 2030. Current Chairman Mark Christie said he will remain in office for a few weeks after his term expires on June 30, 2025.
- **Katherine MacGregor** was confirmed as the Deputy Secretary of the Interior. MacGregor served as deputy secretary during the first Trump administration.
- **James Danly** was confirmed as Deputy Secretary of Energy. Danly formerly served as the chair of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).
- **Sean Donahue** was confirmed as EPA's general counsel. Donahue formerly worked as an associate counsel at a solar energy company and served as a Special Advisor in the Administrator's Office and Office of Land & Emergency Management from 2018 to 2021.

- **Dr. Andrea Travnicek**, nominated for Assistant Secretary of the Interior, Water & Science was approved by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Her nomination heads to the full Senate for consideration.
- **Leslie Beyer**, nominated for Assistant Secretary of the Interior, Lands & Mineral Management was approved by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Her nomination now moves to the full Senate for approval.
- **Theodore Garrish**, nominated for Assistant Secretary of Energy, Nuclear Energy, was approved by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. His nomination now moves to the full Senate for approval.
- **Tristan Abbey**, nominated for Administrator of Energy Information Administration, was approved by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. His nomination now moves to the full Senate for approval.
- **Jonathan Brightbill**, nominated for DOE’s General Counsel, was approved by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. His nomination now moves to the full Senate for approval.
- **Tina Pierce**, nominated for DOE’s chief financial officer, was approved by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Her nomination now moves to the full Senate for approval.
- **Conner Prochaska**, nominated to direct Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy (APRA-E), was approved by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. His nomination now moves to the full Senate for approval.
- **Ned Mamula**, nominated to lead the U.S. Geological Survey, was approved by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. His nomination now moves to the full Senate for approval.
- **Aaron Szabo**, nominated to be Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency for Air and Radiation. His nomination is awaiting confirmation by the full Senate.
- **David Fotouhi**, nominated to be Deputy Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. His nomination is awaiting confirmation by the full Senate.
- **Kenneth Kies**, nominated to be Assistant Secretary for Treasury for Tax Policy. His nomination is awaiting confirmation by the full Senate.

Upcoming Hearings

House of Representatives

House Agriculture Committee

- **Thursday, June 5 at 10:00 AM ET** – Conservation, Research, and Biotechnology Subcommittee Hearing on “Supporting Farmers, Strengthening Conservation, Sustaining Working Lands”

House Appropriations Committee

- **Wednesday, June 4 at 10:00 AM ET** – Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee Hearing on “Budget Hearing – Federal Aviation Administration”

House Energy and Commerce Committee

- **Wednesday, June 4 at 10:30 AM ET** – Communications and Technology Subcommittee Hearing “AI in the Everyday: Current Applications and Future Frontiers in Communications and Technology”
- **Thursday, June 5 at 10:00 AM ET** – Energy Subcommittee Markup of 13 Bills
- **Tuesday, June 10 at 10:00 AM ET** – Energy Subcommittee Hearing on Department of Energy Budget with Secretary Wright.

- **Wednesday, June 11 at 10:15 AM ET** – Environment Subcommittee Hearing on National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

House Ways and Means Committee

- ***POTENTIAL* Wednesday, June 11 at 10AM ET** – Full Committee Hearing with Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent.

House Small Business Committee

- **Wednesday, June 4 at 10:00 AM ET** – Full Committee Hearing: “Business Growth with SBA Administrator Kelly Loeffler”
- **Thursday, June 5 at 10:00 AM ET** – Small Business and Entrepreneurship, Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access Subcommittee Hearing: “Investing in America: How Private Equity Empowers Main Street.”

Senate

Senate Appropriations Committee

- **Wednesday, June 4 at 10:00 AM ET** – Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee Hearing “Department of Commerce FY2026 Budget Request”
- **Wednesday, June 4 at 2:30 PM ET** – Energy and Water Development Subcommittee Hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2026 for the national Nuclear Security Administration.

Senate Agricultural Committee

- **Tuesday, June 3 at 2:30 PM ET** – Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee Hearing: “SEC FY2026 Budget Request”
- **Wednesday, June 4 at 10:00 AM ET** – Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee Hearing “Department of Commerce FY2026 Budget Request”

Senate Joint Economic Committee

- **Thursday, June 5 at 10:00 AM ET** – Full Committee Hearing to examine barriers to supply chain modernization and factor productivity enhancements.

Regulatory Activity

CFTC

The Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) is facing a period of significant leadership transition, with multiple departures set to reshape its top ranks.

Multiple Exits Including... Commissioner Christy Goldsmith Romero, a Democrat, who will retire from the agency and federal service effective May 31, 2025. Republican Commissioner Summer K. Mersinger stepped down at the end of May to become CEO of the Blockchain Association, a role she started on June 2. Democratic Commissioner Kristin N. Johnson has also informed the White House of her intent to resign later this year, though she has not provided a specific timeline.

With these departures, **the CFTC will be left with just two commissioners:** Acting Chair Caroline D. Pham and Johnson, meeting the minimum quorum required to operate but potentially hindering major decisions if the remaining members are divided.

Who Remains? Pham has indicated she will step down once Brian Quintenz, a former commissioner and current crypto executive, is confirmed as chair. Until the Senate acts on Quintenz’s nomination and additional appointments are made, the CFTC faces operational uncertainty.

How Does This Impact the Agency’s Work? In a speech last week, Commissioner Christy Goldsmith Romero warned that the CFTC’s rulemaking capacity is significantly limited when only one or two commissioners are in place. She stressed that no single individual should have unilateral authority over regulatory decisions, emphasizing the importance of a “push and pull” dynamic to ensure balanced, fair, and well-considered rulemaking.

CFTC Advisory Panel Advances Metals Report

The CFTC’s Energy and Environmental Markets Advisory Committee (EEMAC) met in late May to approve a report on metals markets in the energy transition and discuss a draft report on physical energy infrastructure. Key debates centered around the impacts of LNG exports, with industry and consumer advocates clashing over whether they raise domestic prices and threaten manufacturing competitiveness. The metals subcommittee report emphasized transparency challenges and market concentration risks in mineral markets and was adopted with strong support.

EPA

EPA Restructures and Streamlines to Advance Energy Development and State Authority. In May the EPA, under Administrator Lee Zeldin, clarified that under the Clean Water Act, states can only review water quality impacts when certifying infrastructure projects, streamlining approvals for energy development. It also proposed granting Arizona full authority over its underground injection well program and approved permits in Michigan to support potash mining, aligning with federal goals to boost domestic mineral production.

The EPA began restructuring by replacing its Office of Research and Development with a new Office of Applied Science and Environmental Solutions, aiming to integrate science into policymaking while cutting \$300 million from its budget. It also clarified rules allowing backup generators at data centers to operate up to 50 hours annually for non-emergency use, supporting U.S. AI infrastructure. The agency is also reconstituting its scientific advisory boards to restore independence and better align with statutory missions. These policy and organizational changes are aimed at accelerating energy development, empowering states, and reducing regulatory delays.

Additionally, EPA has [proposed several rules](#) that are currently undergoing interagency review at Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA), including two related to the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). We understand that additional rules will be transmitted soon to amend New Source Performance Standards for the upstream oil and natural gas industry.

Department of Energy

DOE Moves to Boost Grid Reliability, Cut Regulations, and Drive Energy Investment. To address potential summer blackouts, Secretary Wright issued an emergency order ensuring the continued operation of Michigan's J.H. Campbell coal-fired power plant, which was slated for early retirement. This measure aims to maintain energy stability in the Midwest during peak demand periods. Simultaneously, the DOE updated its 45VH2-

REET model, facilitating more flexible calculations of methane emissions in hydrogen production. This change is designed to attract greater private investment in the hydrogen sector by reducing bureaucratic obstacles.

Regulations Under Review

In a deregulatory effort, the DOE proposed eliminating or modifying 47 regulations deemed burdensome, projecting savings of approximately \$11 billion. Similarly, to ensure responsible use of taxpayer funds, Secretary Wright announced a policy to scrutinize financial assistance awards, focusing on identifying and eliminating wasteful spending. The DOE is reviewing 179 awards totaling over \$15 billion to ensure alignment with the administration's national energy objectives. Furthering its commitment to efficiency, the DOE standardized indirect cost rates for grants across various organizations; a move expected to save \$935 million annually.

Organizational Changes at DOE

Included renaming the Office of Technology Transitions to the Office of Technology Commercialization, emphasizing the DOE's focus on bringing scientific advancements to market. Additionally, leadership appointments were made to strengthen the DOE's capacity to meet increasing energy demands and to secure the nation's energy infrastructure, which included the Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response (CESER) to be led by former DOE Chief of Staff Alex Fitzsimmons. To this end, Carl Coe, who led DOGE at DOE, assumed the role of DOE Chief of Staff.

SCOTUS Ruling Narrows NEPA Review Challenges

In a win for project developers, the Supreme Court ruled 8-0 to limit judicial oversight of federal environmental reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The case involved an 88-mile rail project in Utah's Uinta Basin, where the D.C. Circuit had previously revoked the project's environmental impact statement for not properly addressing induced oil development. SCOTUS reversed that decision, emphasizing that courts must give substantial deference to agency determinations under NEPA and are not required to assess downstream or upstream impacts not directly tied to the project. This ruling may streamline environmental review processes and limit legal challenges, potentially accelerating approvals for energy and infrastructure projects.

SEC

SEC Will Return to Regular Rulemaking and Traditional Enforcement Priorities. SEC Chairman Paul Atkins testified in an oversight hearing before the Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee where he stated the SEC will return rulemaking to regular order and that a priority of his time at the SEC will be to develop a framework for crypto asset markets.

At the SEC Speaks 2025 conference, Acting Enforcement Director Sam Waldon and Deputy Directors Nekia Hackworth Jones, Jason Burt, and Antonia Apps outlined a return to traditional enforcement priorities like insider trading, accounting fraud, market manipulation, and fiduciary breaches, while doubling down on individual accountability and protection of retail investors.

The officials emphasized a sharper focus on foreign actors and technology-driven fraud, including through a newly formed "Cyber and Emerging Technologies" unit. They also described recent structural changes to improve oversight and pledged greater transparency during the pre-charge Wells process, with Apps committing to at least one meeting with defense counsel when requested.

Crypto Task Force Continues. The Securities and Exchange Commission’s Crypto Task Force has announced the agenda and panelists for its June 9 roundtable, “DeFi and the American Spirit.”

Upcoming Meetings and Events

SEC

- **Wednesday, June 4 at 1 PM ET** – SEC Open Meeting
- **Thursday, June 5 at 10:00 AM ET** – SEC Investor Advisory Committee
- **Monday, June 10 at 10:00 AM ET** – SEC Crypto Task Force Roundtable on DeFi and the American Spirit