

# Federal Resolutions

## Water Infrastructure

### Resolution on Supporting Water Resources Development

**Issue:** The new White House will take the reins of the remaining two years of IIJA (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act) funding (\$294 billion). The Trump administration will allocate significant competitive awards including \$50 billion in transportation, \$27 billion in energy, and \$6 billion in water. IIJA funding could provide significant support for water infrastructure projects hindering county efforts to ensure water security.

**[H.R.338](#) - To amend the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to increase surface water and groundwater storage, and for other purposes.**

**Summary:** This bill proposes amendments to IIJA aimed at enhancing water storage capabilities. The objective is to increase both surface water and groundwater storage, thereby improving water resource management, supporting agricultural activities, and bolstering resilience against drought conditions.

**[H.R.337](#) - To provide technical and financial assistance for groundwater recharge, aquifer storage, and water source substitution projects.**

**Summary:** This bill aims to enhance water resource management by providing technical and financial assistance for projects focused on groundwater recharge, aquifer storage, and water source substitution. The objective is to improve water availability and sustainability, particularly in regions facing water scarcity challenges.

**NACo Alignment:** NACo supports federal standards for programs necessary for growth including water infrastructure, the clean water act and water permitting.

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## FEMA/Disaster Resilience

### Interim Resolution on FEMA Loan Interest Payment Relief

**Issue:** Counties face financial strain due to high-interest rates on FEMA disaster loans, limiting their recovery capabilities. FEMA staffing, guidance and funding for disaster relief will also be a major priority for local government.

**[H.R.153](#) - To provide for an online repository for certain reporting requirements for recipients of Federal disaster assistance, and for other purposes.**

**Summary:** This bill proposes the creation of an online repository to streamline and centralize reporting requirements for recipients of federal disaster assistance. The objective is to enhance transparency, improve efficiency, and reduce administrative burdens for entities managing disaster recovery efforts.

#### **H.R.471 - Fix Our Forests Act.**

**Summary:** This bill aims to improve federal and tribal forest management to reduce wildfire risks and enhance resilience. The bill designates high-risk fireshed management areas, establishes an Interagency Fireshed Center for fire behavior assessment, streamlines NEPA environmental reviews for forest projects, and creates intra-agency strike teams to expedite regulatory processes.

#### **H.R.403 - To enhance predisaster mitigation to prevent future natural disasters, and for other purposes.**

**Summary:** This bill aims to strengthen predisaster mitigation efforts to prevent and reduce the impact of future natural disasters. By enhancing funding and support for mitigation projects, the legislation seeks to improve community resilience, safeguard lives and property, and reduce the long-term costs associated with disaster response and recovery.

**NACo Alignment:** NACo supports the strengthening of FEMA regional offices through adequate staffing and resources and provide additional focus on its ability to effectively implement recovery programs for local governments. Funding the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF), and other funding managed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is also a high priority.

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#### **Grant Structure Accessibility**

**Interim Resolution on Reducing Grant Requirements:** High cost-sharing requirements and reporting requirements limit the ability of local government to fully utilize federal grant opportunities.

#### **H.R.314 - To require executive agencies to reduce cost-sharing requirements for certain grants with certain nonprofit organizations by 25 percent, and for other purposes.**

**Summary:** This bill mandates that executive agencies decrease the cost-sharing obligations for specific grants awarded to certain nonprofit organizations by 25%. The aim

is to alleviate the financial burden on these nonprofits, enabling them to allocate more resources directly toward their mission-driven activities.

**[H.R.153](#) - To provide for an online repository for certain reporting requirements for recipients of Federal disaster assistance, and for other purposes.**

**Summary:** This bill proposes the creation of an online repository to streamline and centralize reporting requirements for recipients of federal disaster assistance. The objective is to enhance transparency, improve efficiency, and reduce administrative burdens for entities managing disaster recovery efforts.

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## **Pre-trial Veteran Benefits**

### **Interim Resolution on Equity in Pretrial Health Coverage**

**Issue:** Veterans who are detained pretrial face gaps in health coverage, negatively impacting counties with higher than average veteran populations.

**[S.2194](#) - Equity in Pretrial Health Coverage Act**

**Summary:** This bill allows otherwise eligible individuals who are in custody pending disposition of charges (i.e., pretrial detainees) to receive health care benefits through Medicare, Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

**NACo Alignment:** NACo supports a variety of Veteran support legislation and could be expected to support this form of legislation as well.

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## **Unfunded Mandates Regulation**

### **Interim Resolution on Transparency in Unfunded Mandates**

**Issue:** Counties are increasingly burdened by unfunded mandates that strain local resources and limit their ability to deliver essential services.

**[H.R.7867](#) - REG Budgeting Act of 2024**

**Summary:** This bill proposes amendments to the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995, requiring the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to establish annual limits on the total amount of additional unfunded regulatory costs that federal agencies may impose. The objective is to enhance oversight and control over the economic impact of federal regulations, ensuring that new regulatory costs are carefully managed and do not unduly burden state, local, and tribal governments, or the private sector.

**NACo Alignment:** NACo is a staunch supporter against mandates that will result in undue fiscal hardship for counties.

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## **Housing**

### **Interim Resolution on Incentivizing Landlords for Affordable Housing**

**Issue:** The shortage of affordable housing units exacerbates housing instability for low-income residents—particularly for veterans. Tax credits and investments in housing are a vital concern for counties.

**NACo Alignment:** NACo supports programmatic development of affordable housing, tax credits and investment.

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