



Washington, DC - Federal Affairs



The Council of State Governments
Sharing capitol ideas.

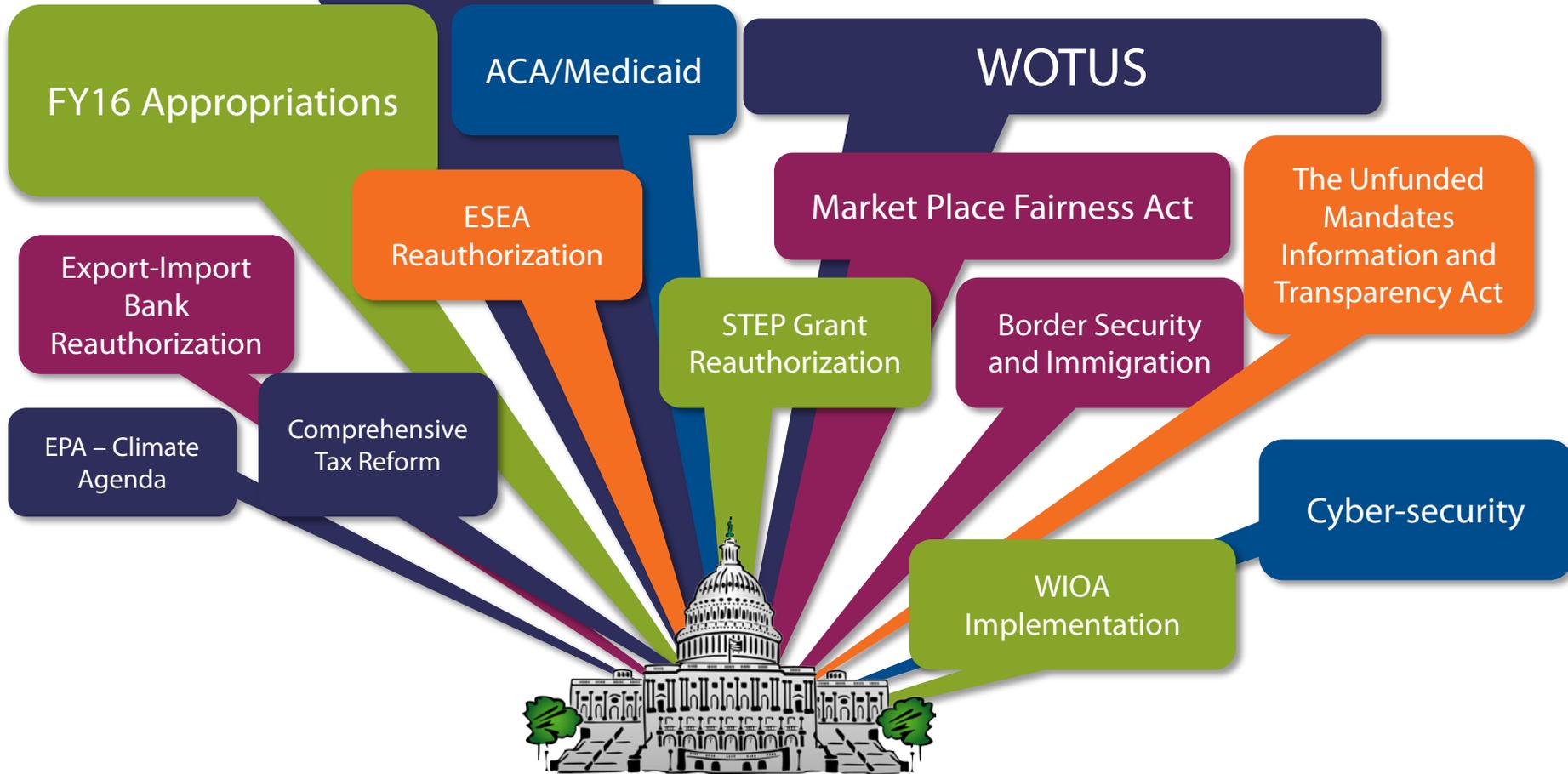
About the CSG-DC Office

- Serves as a resource to provide state leaders a voice in Congress and the federal government. We monitor federal actions and communicate regularly with Congressional, federal agency, and White House officials to ensure the interests of states are known and understood.
- Work closely with regional offices and HQ to help state officials understand how pending or recently passed federal laws, regulations, and U.S. Supreme Court decisions will impact their state.
- A resource for practical, nonpartisan, and member driven strategies
- Coordinate the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee and Legal Task Force



Outstanding Legislative Items

The Highway Trust Fund



2014 West Resolution

Resolution on Water-Related Federal Rules, Regulations, Directives, Orders and Policies

- The Council of State Governments-WEST urges that nothing in any federal rule, regulations, directive, order or policy should affect, erode, or interfere with the lawful government and role of the respective States.
- The Council of State Governments-WEST also requests the federal agencies with water related responsibilities fully recognize and follow the requirements of Executive Order 13132 by establishing and implementing appropriate procedures and processes for substantively consulting with States, their Legislatures, as elected by the people, and their appointed representatives, on the implication of their proposals and fully recognize and defer to States prerogatives.

Recent Federal Action

- On May 27, 2015 the Obama administration released the final “Waters of the United States” rule to identify the waters and wetlands the Federal government can regulate under the Clean Water Act, or CWA.
- The rule is scheduled to become effective on August 28, 2015.



Waters of the U.S.

- On May 27, 2015, the Obama Administration released the final “Waters of the United States” rule to identify the waters and wetlands the federal government can regulate under the Clean Water Act, or CWA.
- The rule states that most seasonal and rain-dependent streams, as well as wetlands near rivers and streams, are subject to CWA jurisdiction and automatically are protected under the act. The rule also recognizes that other waters may have a nexus to navigable waters; jurisdiction over these waters would be determined on a case-by-case basis.
- The rule is slated to go into effect on August 28, 2015.
- Opponents are attempting to use the appropriations process to block the rule’s implementation as well as legislation sponsored in the House and Senate.



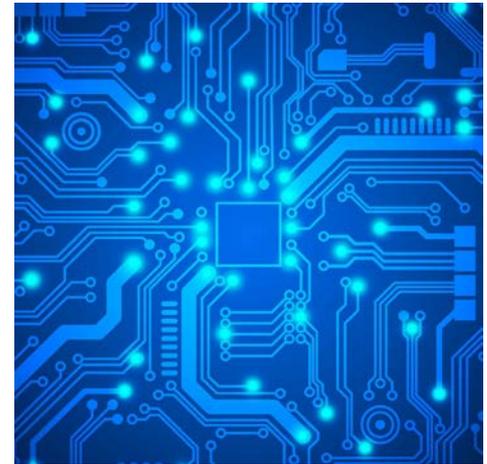
Highway Trust Fund

- Surface transportation programs are currently operating under a two month spending authority patch that expires on October 31, 2015.
- Ongoing debate over how to fund it – gas taxes, repatriation, etc.
- Policy hangers – the Export-Import Bank or comprehensive tax reform



Marketplace Fairness

- Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) recently introduced online sales tax legislation, called the Remote Transaction Parity Act, that would expand the power of states to collect taxes from purchases made from out-of-state Internet vendors.
- The legislation builds on the long-stalled Senate Marketplace Fairness Act that has failed to gain traction in the House.
- Supporters of the legislation say it would close an unfair loophole that favors online vendors over brick-and-mortar retailers, and supply states with additional tax revenue.
- State and local sales tax collections on online purchases could total as much as \$4 billion nationwide, if they could be collected.



Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

- The White House is in the midst of implementing the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).
- WIOA is designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market and to match employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy.
- Input from the state and local workforce leaders is critical to the success of WIOA implementation.
- Final rules will be published in early 2016.



State Trade and Export Promotion (STEP) Grant

- The State Trade and Export Promotion Grant Program (STEP) is the only program aimed at providing grants for states to help small businesses start or increase their exports.
- Currently only **one percent** of small businesses export. Exporting firms pay an average of 18 percent higher wages and grow faster.
- CSG/SIDO are working to reauthorize the program through 2020 and fund the program at the full \$30 million.



Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act

- Both Chambers of Congress have introduced versions of the Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act (UMIRA).
- The legislation updates the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 to ensure that federal agencies conduct a qualitative cost assessment and full analysis of the possible impact of major federal regulations.
- UMIRA also closes a loop hole to ensure that federal independent agencies comply with the same reporting requirements.
- H.R. 50, sponsored by Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC) passed the House on Feb 4, 2014.
- Senators James Lankford (R-OK) and Deb Fisher (R-NE) introduced the companion bill – S. 189. Currently in the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee.



Federal Regulatory Reform

- Avoid pre-emption of state laws
- Early analysis and consultation with state leaders during the rulemaking process
- Proposed rules and regulations should be communicated clearly and consistently with state and local governments
- Federal programs should not impose unreimbursed costs on states – no unfunded mandates
- States should be given sufficient time to implement new guidelines or regulations
- The federal government should provide maximum flexibility in the administration and maintenance of federal programs, to ensure that programs do not impose new burdens on state budgets
- Federally mandated administrative requirements should be uniform across federal agencies



Questions and Assistance

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