



## Federal Legislative Update January 13, 2021

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# Elections/Overview of federal legislation

## U.S. Senate control changing

- **Democrats win both GA runoffs**

## \$2.3 trillion, 5,593 page legislation

- **Funds federal agencies through Sept. 2021**
- **Provides additional federal resources and makes policy changes on COVID programs**
- **Water Resources Development Act**
- **Energy Act of 2020**



# Assistance for customers

## Means-tested direct payments

- **\$600 to individuals with incomes under \$75k**
- **\$1,200 to families with incomes under \$150k**

## Additional unemployment benefits

- **Additional \$300/week through March 14, 2021**

## No additional “CARES-like” state and local aid

- **Deadline for spending existing CARES Act funding extended to December 31, 2021**



# Assistance for customers

## \$3.75 billion -- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

- Same as FY '20 funding level

## \$638 million -- new water customer assistance

- Federal dollars distributed to States and Tribes and then to operators of public water systems

## \$25 billion -- rental assistance

- Utility assistance payments is an eligible use



# Summary of other items of interest

## Rail

- **45G Tax Credit permanently extended**
  - 50% tax credit through 2022
  - 40% tax credit beginning in 2023
- Funding for CRISI, BUILD, Sec. 130 grants

## Water

- **Howard Hanson on 'expedited completion' list**
- **\$1.126 billion for Drinking Water SRF**
- **\$65 million for WIFIA**



# Summary of other items of interest

## Power

- **Hydropower Incentive Program funded**
- **Willamette project deauthorization study**
- **Columbia River Treaty report language**
  - *“Not later than 60 days after enactment...the Secretary of State, in coordination with other relevant Federal agencies, shall submit a report...on the benefits the Columbia River Treaty has facilitated for Canada.”*



# Summary of other items of interest

## Energy Act of 2020

- **‘Murkowski/Manchin’ melded with House legislation**
  - Authorizes R&D for renewable energy/hydropower
  - Reauthorization of Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy
  - Research, Design & Development on Energy Storage
  - Reauthorization of Hydropower Incentive Program
  - Reauthorization of Weatherization Program
  - Authorizes broader grid modernization/Smart Grid Regional Demonstration Initiative



# Summary of other items of interest

## Department of Energy Appropriations

- **Non-Defense DOE funding \$12.44 billion (15% less)**
  - Hydro/Marine power R&D funded at \$150 million, record high level
  - Report language on information sharing and secure data anonymization – prioritize partnerships with rural and municipally-owned utilities
  - Report language directs Energy Information Agency for report in 2021 on city-level data on electricity consumption and emissions



# Next steps

## Track customer assistance program developments

- **Water customer assistance, rental assistance**

## Continue engagement on existing and potential funding opportunities

- **2020 Advanced Meter grant**
- **Grid modernization, hydrogen R&D, storage**
- **Rail infrastructure**



# Contacts

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