



National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences  
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# NIEHS Congressional Update

**April L. Bennett**  
**Legislative Liaison**

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

WTP Fall Awardee Meeting

**October 17, 2023**

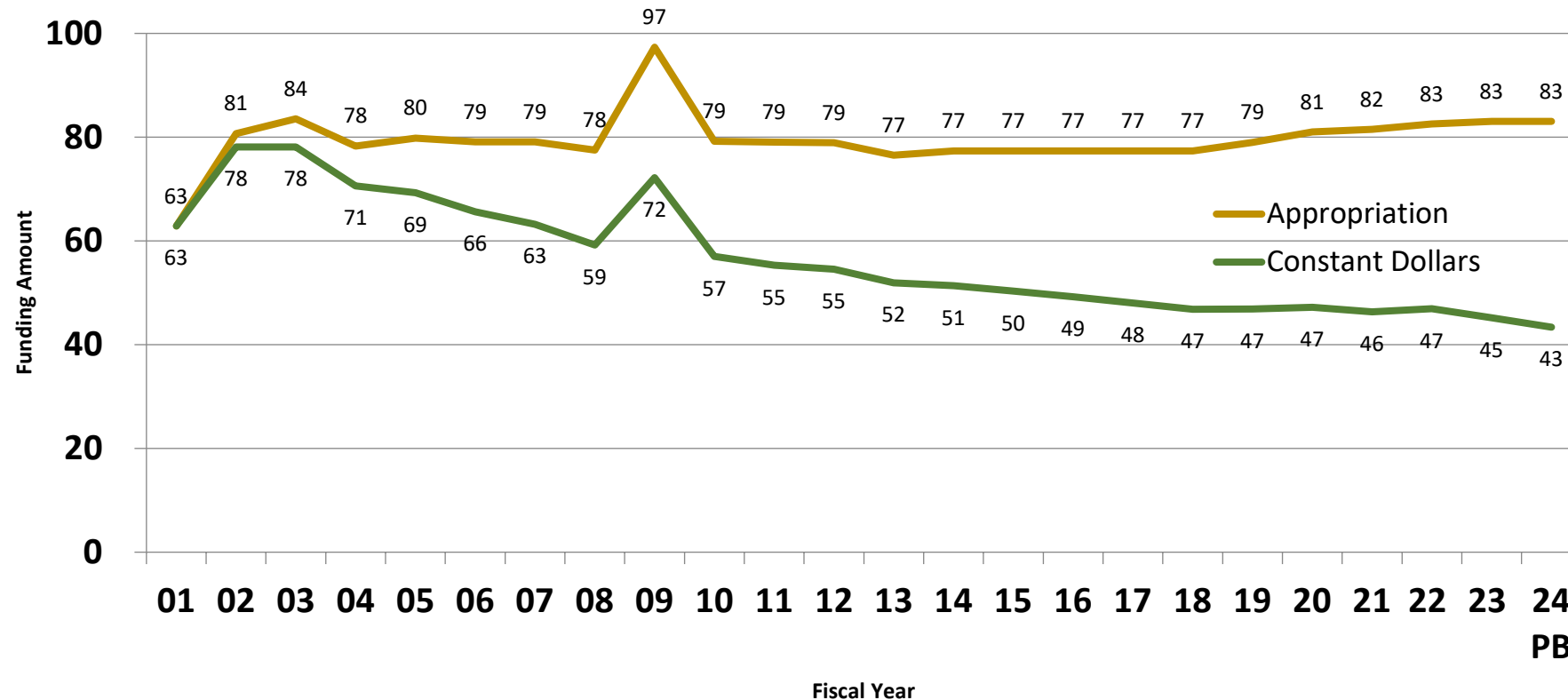
## President Biden nominated **Dr. Monica Bertagnolli** for NIH Director



Monica M. Bertagnolli, M.D.

- Current **Director, National Cancer Institute** and first woman to serve as NCI Director
- Bachelor's degrees in engineering from the **Princeton University** and attended medical school at the **University of Utah**.
- Trained in **surgery** at **Brigham and Women's Hospital** and was a research fellow in **tumor immunology** at the **Dana-Farber Cancer Institute**.
- Previously served as the **Richard E. Wilson Professor of Surgery** in the field of surgical oncology at **Harvard Medical School**, a **surgeon at Brigham and Women's Hospital**, and a member of the **Gastrointestinal Cancer Treatment and Sarcoma Centers at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute**.

# NIEHS Superfund-Related Activities Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations FY2001-current



\* FY 2019 appropriation level used in this table reflects actual appropriation approved on February 15, 2019 (\$79M) rather than funding level (\$77.349) reflected in FY 2020 President's Budget

# H.R. 3746: Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023

## Bill sponsor



Rep. Patrick McHenry  
R-NC-10

## Background

- The US hit its debt ceiling in Jan. 2023 and the Treasury Department has taken “extraordinary measures” to avoid default, but the US is expected to run out of funds by June 5
- After weeks of negotiation, President Biden and House Speaker McCarthy (R-CA-20) reached a deal to address the debt ceiling on May 28; the deal was introduced via H.R. 3746

## Outlook

- On May 31, the House passed the bill in a 314-117 vote; 165 Democrats and 149 Republicans voted yes
- On June 1, the Senate passed the bill in a 63-36 vote; 44 Democrats, 2 Independents, and 17 Republicans voted yes
- On June 3, President Biden signed the bill into law

SOURCE: NY Times, House of Representatives, The Hill, Congress.gov, House.gov, CNBC, National Journal.

PRESENTATION CENTER 6/5/23

## Key provisions



Suspend the debt ceiling through January 1, 2025

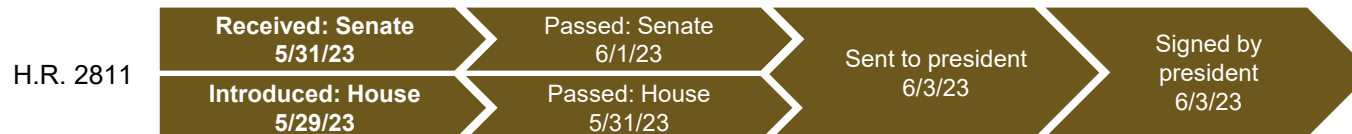


Cap discretionary spending for FY2024 and FY2025



Cut spending by 1% if all 12 appropriations bills for FY2024 are not passed by the end of 2023

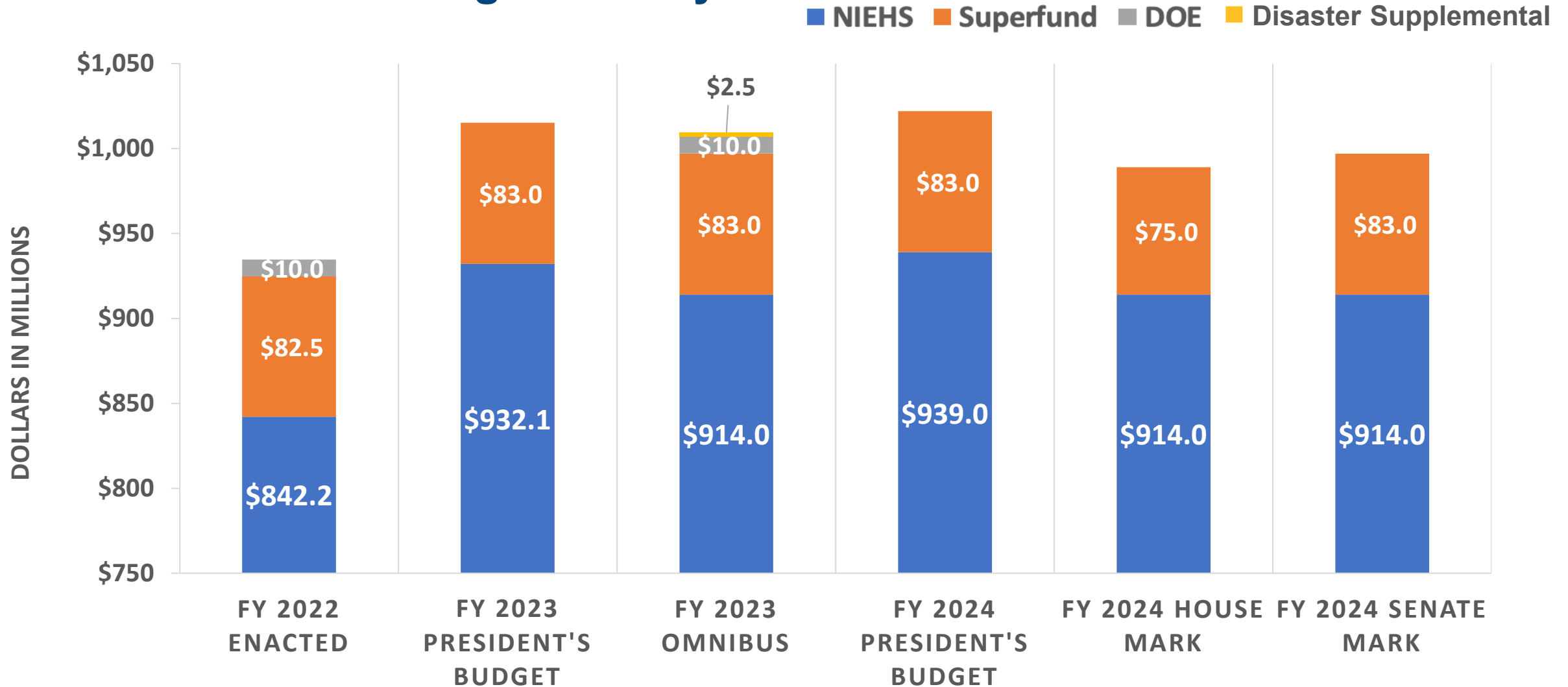
## Status



The agreement also **rescinded unobligated COVID funding including WTP COVID funds.**



# FY 2022-2024 Funding Summary



## House Language for NIEHS on FY24 Appropriations to Date

### House FY24 Labor-HHS

- **TBD-Still awaiting language, which will be released before the full House Appropriations markup of this bill.**

### House FY24 Interior, Environment and related Agencies

- **NIEHS is encouraged to continue its work supporting communities' capacity to respond to pandemics and disasters.**

**No mention of NIEHS/DOE Worker Training program transfer in House report language**

## Senate Language for NIEHS on FY24 Appropriations to date

### Senate FY24 Labor-HHS

- Climate Change and Health research
- Environmental Exposures and Cancer in Fire Fighters
- East Palestine Train Derailment Research and Community Engagement activities
- Indoor Air research

### Senate FY24 Interior, Environment and related Agencies

- \$2 million in base funds for research for PFAS and other contaminants of emerging concern
- Not less than \$1,750,000 to support risk reduction for Native Americans to hazardous metals mixtures from abandoned uranium mine waste
- Commends the work of NIEHS Worker Training Program and asks the Institute to continue to prioritize resources and support for the program

**No mention of NIEHS/DOE Worker Training program transfer in Senate report language**

## Past Language and potential Alternatives

- Past language has been:
  - “Within available funds, \$10,000,000 is provided to fund the hazardous worker training program.

### Potential Alternative Language:

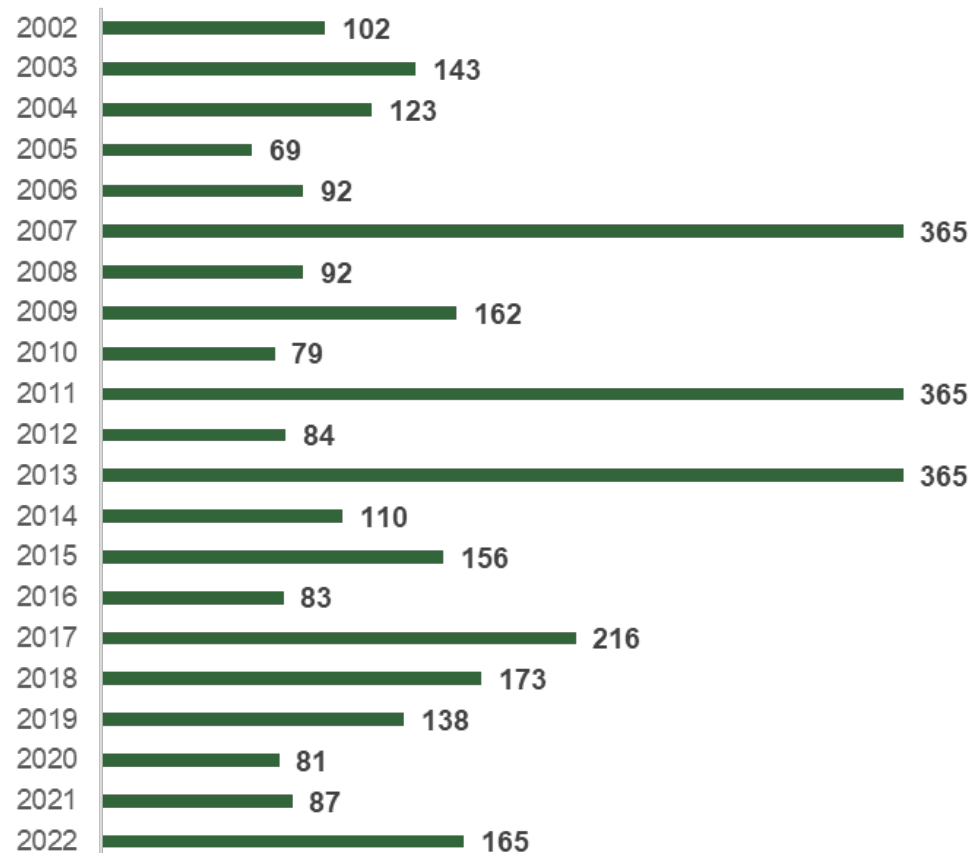
- “Within available funds, \$10,000,000 is provided to fund the **NIEHS/DOE Nuclear hazardous waste Worker Training Program**.
- Within available funds, ~~\$10,000,000~~ **the Department** is ~~provided~~ **directed** to fund the **NIEHS/DOE Nuclear hazardous waste Worker Training Program at \$10,000,000.**”



# Congress has enacted one or more CRs in all but three of the last 46 fiscal years

**Total duration of continuing resolutions FY2002-2022, in days**

SOURCE: CRS, CFRB



## OVERVIEW

- Each year, Congress must approve a federal budget to fund the government for the next 12 months
- If a new budget is not passed by October 1 (the beginning of the fiscal year), then the government will face a shutdown
- Continuing appropriations acts, or continuing resolutions (CRs), are used as a stop-gap to provide temporary funding for a specific period of time for certain federal programs and activities in the event that regular appropriations acts are not passed by October 1
- CRs cannot be used to fund new activities; instead of allocating a specific amount of funds towards a program, they operate using a funding rate

# Congress passed a 45-day continuing resolution to keep the government open

## LATEST GOVERNMENT FUNDING DEVELOPMENTS

### Congress passes short-term government funding bill



- Late on **September 30**, Congress and President Biden approved a **45-day continuing resolution to keep the government funded and open through November 17**
- The House passed the CR by a vote of 335-91, and the Senate passed the spending bill 88-9; the spending package funds the government at current levels and includes provisions for the FAA and disaster relief, but notably nixes border security and Ukraine aid

### House passes three of four recently advanced appropriations bills



- Late on **September 28**, the House passed appropriations bills for the **Depts. of Defense, State, and Homeland Security**; the House has now passed appropriations for four of 12 government funding bills
  - The House voted **220-208** to pass the Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill
  - The House voted **218-210** to pass the Department of Defense appropriations bill once provisions to provide funding to Ukraine were removed
  - The House voted **216-212** to pass the Department of State appropriations bill despite opposition to provisions for Ukraine funding



- **The appropriations bill for the Department of Agriculture failed to pass the House in a 191-237 vote** after 27 Republicans and every Democrat voted against the agriculture funding bill
  - Opposition stemmed from the inclusion of a provision to restrict access to mifepristone, an abortion pill

### House approves measure to provide additional aid for Ukraine



- On **September 28**, the House voted **311-117 to provide \$300 million in new aid for Ukraine**; more than half of Republicans voted against the bill
- The aid comes following a decision to remove provisions to provide aid to Ukraine from the Department of Defense appropriations bill

# Fall 2023 Congressional Priorities

## 1 McCarthy voted out as speaker

- On Tuesday, October 3, Kevin McCarthy became the first House Speaker in history to be voted out of the role by his colleagues in a 216-210 vote
- Far-right Republicans led the push for his removal after the passage of a bipartisan continuing resolution
- **Without a House Speaker, movement on critical legislation such as appropriations and the Farm Bill will be difficult**

## 2 FY2024 continuing resolution

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- The House passed the CR 335-91, and the Senate passed the spending bill 88-9; the spending package funds the government at current levels and includes provisions for the FAA and disaster relief, but notably nixes border security and Ukraine aid

## 3 FY2024 appropriations bills

- Late on September 28, the House passed appropriations bills for the Depts. of Defense, State, and Homeland Security; the House has now passed appropriations for four of 12 government funding bills
- The appropriations bill for the Department of Agriculture failed to pass the House in a 191-237 vote after 27 Republicans; every Democrat voted against the agriculture funding bill due to a provision to restrict access to abortion medication

## 4 Farm Bill

- The 2018 Farm Bill expired on September 30; staffers for Congressional agriculture stated it will be months before a new bill is approved
- The FY24 continuing resolution provided funding for some vital programs to operate, but not all
- Some scholars believe that if a new Farm Bill is not passed by February 2024, the presidential election will overshadow its necessity and Congress may not return to it for years; current Congressional infighting has delayed the outlook

## House Appropriations' Subcommittee on Interior and Environment

### Republicans

[Rep. Mike Simpson \(R-Idaho\)](#) Chair

[Rep. Mark Amodei \(R-Nev.\)](#)

[Rep. Guy Reschenthaler \(R-Pa.\)](#)

[Rep. Michael Cloud \(R-Texas\)](#)

[Rep. Ryan Zinke \(R-Mont.\)](#)

[Rep. Jake Ellzey \(R-Texas\)](#)

Vacancy

### Democrats

[Rep. Chellie Pingree \(D-Maine\)](#) Ranking Member

[Rep. Betty McCollum \(D-Minn.\)](#)

[Rep. Derek Kilmer \(D-Wash.\)](#)

[Rep. Josh Harder \(D-Calif.\)](#)

## Senate Appropriations' Subcommittee on Interior and Environment

### Democrats

[Sen. Jeff Merkley \(D-Ore.\)](#) Chair

[Sen. Jack Reed \(D-R.I.\)](#)

[Sen. Jon Tester \(D-Mont.\)](#)

[Sen. Chris Van Hollen \(D-Md.\)](#)

[Sen. Martin Heinrich \(D-N.M.\)](#)

[Sen. Gary Peters \(D-Mich.\)](#)

Vacancy

### Republicans

[Sen. Lisa Murkowski \(R-Alaska\)](#) Ranking Member

[Sen. Mitch McConnell \(R-Ky.\)](#)

[Sen. Shelley Moore Capito \(R-W.Va.\)](#)

[Sen. John Hoeven \(R-N.D.\)](#)

[Sen. Deb Fischer \(R-Neb.\)](#)

[Sen. Katie Britt \(R-Ala.\)](#)

## House Energy and Water Development

### **Republicans**

[Rep. Chuck Fleischmann \(R-Tenn.\)](#) Chair

[Rep. Mike Simpson \(R-Idaho\)](#)

[Rep. Ken Calvert \(R-Calif.\)](#)

[Rep. Dan Newhouse \(R-Wash.\)](#)

[Rep. Guy Reschenthaler \(R-Pa.\)](#)

[Rep. Mike Garcia \(R-Calif.\)](#)

[Rep. Julia Letlow \(R-La.\)](#)

[Rep. Michael Guest \(R-Miss.\)](#)

[Rep. Stephanie Bice \(R-Okla.\)](#)

### **Democrats**

[Rep. Marcy Kaptur \(D-Ohio\)](#) Ranking Member

[Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz \(D-Fla.\)](#)

[Rep. Susie Lee \(D-Nev.\)](#)

[Rep. Mike Quigley \(D-Ill.\)](#)

[Rep. Joseph D. Morelle \(D-N.Y.\)](#)

[Rep. Derek Kilmer \(D-Wash.\)](#)

## Senate Energy and Water Development

### **Democrats**

[Sen. Patty Murray \(D-Wash.\)](#)

[Sen. Jon Tester \(D-Mont.\)](#)

[Sen. Richard J. Durbin \(D-Ill.\)](#)

[Sen. Jeanne Shaheen \(D-N.H.\)](#)

[Sen. Jeff Merkley \(D-Ore.\)](#)

[Sen. Chris Coons \(D-Del.\)](#)

[Sen. Tammy Baldwin \(D-Wis.\)](#)

[Sen. Martin Heinrich \(D-N.M.\)](#)

Vacancy

### **Republicans**

[Sen. John Kennedy \(R-La.\)](#) Ranking Member

[Sen. Mitch McConnell \(R-Ky.\)](#)

[Sen. Lisa Murkowski \(R-Alaska\)](#)

[Sen. Lindsey Graham \(R-S.C.\)](#)

[Sen. John Hoeven \(R-N.D.\)](#)

[Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith \(R-Miss.\)](#)

[Sen. Bill Hagerty \(R-Tenn.\)](#)

[Sen. Katie Britt \(R-Ala.\)](#)

## Friends of NIEHS Meetings and Activities

- Monthly Meetings (Zoom)
- Annual Meeting with the NIEHS Director
- One to two Congressional briefings a year
- Send letters of support for NIEHS Appropriations to the Hill
- Hill Day with NIEHS Researchers and some of FNIIEHS member groups



Friends of NIEHS is a broad coalition of organizations, representing public and environmental health, environment, children's, women's and medical communities, support, follow and call attention to the vital work being done by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS).

### Friends of NIEHS Co-Chairs:

- **Joe Laakso** [jlaakso@endocrine.org](mailto:jlaakso@endocrine.org)
- **Valerie Adelson** [vadelson@thoracic.org](mailto:vadelson@thoracic.org)



# Thank You!

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