



**National
Barley
Growers
Association**

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National Barley Growers Association



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**Visit with NBGA Growers and Staff
at the 2021 Craft Brewers Conference!**

NATIONAL BARLEY GROWERS ASSOCIATION

CBC MEET & GREET

JOIN US FOR AN INFORMAL HAPPY HOUR TO DISCUSS MALT BARLEY, OUR EFFORTS
ON CAPITOL HILL, AND MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 @ 7-9PM

HENRY'S TAVERN

500 16TH ST. DENVER, CO

5 MIN WALK FROM CONVENTION CENTER

NO BARLEY, NO BEER!™

NO RSVP REQUIRED,
EMAIL BELIAS@GORDLEY.COM FOR INFO



Senate Advances Ag Appropriations Bill

On August 4th the Senate Agriculture Appropriations Committee approved a \$25.84 billion fiscal year 2022 bill for the Agriculture Department and related agencies. The measure has several positives for barley including a \$1 million increase for the Barely Pest Initiative. The measure also includes \$7 billion in disaster aid, \$6.28 billion of which is for disaster assistance to aid producers who suffered losses due to droughts, hurricanes, wildfires, floods, and other qualifying disasters in calendar years 2020 and 2021.

Congress Moves Forward on Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill and "Social Infrastructure" Reconciliation Package

The Senate passed its \$550 billion bipartisan infrastructure bill by a vote of 69-30. NBGA joined 37 other agriculture groups on a letter to congressional leadership in support of the bipartisan infrastructure bill. The bill would invest \$110 billion in U.S. roads and bridges, \$65 billion for broadband, and \$17.3 billion for ports and inland waterways. In addition, this bipartisan agreement includes a number of provisions designed to boost the resiliency of the agricultural supply chain including investments in cybersecurity and programs to address the truck driver shortage.

The Senate followed that with passage of a budget resolution that is needed to trigger the reconciliation process, which Democrats can use to enact the \$3.5 trillion "social infrastructure" package without needing any Republican votes.

The budget resolution includes instructions for the respective committees to draft their separate pieces of the final reconciliation bill. The Agriculture Committee would get \$135 billion to spend over the next decade (which would likely add to the baseline for the next Farm Bill). The Ag Committee is directed to focus on issues related to climate change, including conservation and forestry. The instructions also call for boosting agricultural climate research, rural development, clean energy, child nutrition and debt relief for small farmers.

The Senate budget resolution also instructs the Finance Committee to come up with tax law changes to raise revenue to offset the cost of the reconciliation package.

After the Senate concluded their business and adjourned for the August recess, the House returned to Washington on August 23rd and 24th to pass the budget resolution. House Speaker Pelosi had stated that the \$3.5 trillion package of funding for the "social infrastructure" and clean energy must be also passed by the Senate before the House will take up the bipartisan infrastructure bill.

However, moderate Democrats in the House would not support the budget resolution until Speaker Pelosi agreed to a House vote on passage of the Senate bipartisan infrastructure package by September 27th. It remains to be seen whether Democrats can get the votes to pass the \$3.5 trillion social infrastructure package and, if not, will the bipartisan infrastructure bill that passed the Senate be passed by the House?

KCS Rejects CP's Increased Merger Offer

Canadian Pacific jumped back into the bidding war for Kansas City Southern (KCS) railway on August 10th with an increased \$31 billion offer, which was still lower than the \$33.6 billion offer from Canadian National that KCS had accepted back in May. Subsequently, KCS's board of directors turned down Canadian Pacific's latest proposal as inferior to the offer from Canadian National. The KCS board is recommending their shareholders vote in favor of the "pro-competitive, end-to-end merger" with Canadian National.

NBGA Submits Comments on Competition in the Beer Industry

NBGA submitted comments ([here](#)) in response to a Request for Information from the U.S. Treasury Department as they consider whether action is needed to address competition in the beer, wine, and spirits industry. The NBGA comments are intended to make the Treasury Department aware of NBGA's role and interest in the beer market. It remains to be seen if the Treasury will propose regulatory actions or what those might be.

The Request for Information was issued to solicit input regarding the current market structure and conditions of competition in the markets for beer, wine, and spirits.



