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Reconciliation and Infrastructure Packages Moving Toward the Finish Line

Congressional Democrats and President Biden appear to be nearing agreement on a \$1.75 trillion “Build Back Better” reconciliation package that will be in addition to a \$550 billion bipartisan infrastructure package. Both packages would be fully offset and would include investments beneficial to agriculture, such as roads and bridges, ports and inland waterways, rural broadband, ag conservation programs, ag research, and food & nutrition.

The pared down reconciliation package now includes \$90 billion specifically for these agriculture programs at USDA: \$2 billion for ag research, \$27.15 billion for conservation programs, \$27 billion for forestry, \$18 billion for Rural Development, \$10 billion for Nutrition, and \$6 billion for debt relief.

NBGA Shares Comprehensive Comments on Transportation Priorities

NBGA recently joined in comprehensive *comments* to the U.S. Department of Transportation on the transportation and infrastructure priorities for U.S. agriculture.

NBGA Weighs-In with EPA on Neonicotinoids

NBGA also submitted comments to the U.S. EPA on the Biological Evaluations for Neonicotinoids. NBGA expressed the importance of neonicotinoid systemic seed treatments, including imidacloprid, clothianidin, and thiamethoxam as some of the most effective insecticides used by barley producers to manage early season damage caused by wireworms to germinating seeds or seedlings. The full comments can be viewed *here*.

Notable News on Ag Trade with Mexico and China

Mexico's Agriculture Secretary Villalobos said Mexico would allow imports of U.S.-produced GMO corn, responding to increasing concern from U.S. officials and agriculture groups regarding a Presidential decree calling for the ban of GMO corn by 2024 in Mexico.

On China, Administration officials indicated earlier this month that the U.S. would not pursue a Phase Two deal. In a speech on October 4th, U.S. Trade Ambassador Katherine Tai said U.S. tariffs imposed on imports from China will remain as the Biden administration plans to “build on” existing tariffs and confront Beijing for failing to fulfill its obligations under the Phase One Agreement.

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