

IAEM GAC

February 6, 2024

Notes

- Travis Cryan mentioned that GAC leadership is working on legislative priorities
- Travis and Thad introduced new members
- Capitol Hill Update from Lauren McClain with the House Homeland Security Committee
  - Worked on mark up for impeachment bill for the DHS Secretary and the resolution is on the table to be taken up by the house, but concern over enough democratic votes to take up this resolution
  - This has been a focus on the committee recently and seen lots of division on this issue
  - Main focus has been on how the border crisis is being handled – disagreement on policy issues
  - Hearing next week on fire safety – focus on lithium battery issues, wildfires, etc.
  - Disaster equity caucus is another focus – launched a year ago – briefings are being scheduled to discuss issues communities are facing and then work with experts to develop recommendations
  - Oversight on grants – NPSGP is included in this – looking to expand this program
  - Urban area security initiative grants and homeland security grant program
  - Tornado oversight – looking at improvements to how we respond and recover from tornadoes
  - HR 3636 – Christian Cunnie asked for an update on this – no update was available
- FEMA Intergovernmental Affairs Director Kristin Duda. She is new to the role after Justo Robles departed a couple of weeks ago
  - FEMA is currently in the year of resilience
  - IA survival rule has closed the insurance gap
  - Building emergency management capacity across the board is the current focus for the FEMA Administrator
  - FEMA has taken on a project to benchmark EM offices across the country
    - Looking at how to better collaborate with small and rural localities
  - Continuing the conversation of how FEMA/CISA work hand in hand and how Emergency Management and Cybersecurity are connected
- NWS update from John Sokich to discuss budget and policy issues
  - Budget issues/conversations are not improving – still looking at a 40-million-dollar budget cut to the NWS
  - \$4 per person in this country a year is what it costs Americans to have the NWS service
  - Weather Act – we need to stay focused on and NOAA is increasing efforts about support wildfire support
- Spencer Hawkins will lead a discussion about rolling out a NWS advocacy plan
  - Developing a three-step advocacy process: 1. What is going on? 2. How does that impact you? 3. Take action.
    - Develop a formal letter that members can use to advocate for the issue around budget cuts to the NWS/NOAA
- Stakeholder Engagement with BuildStrong Coalition. Executive Director Natalie Enclade will discuss recent changes at BuildStrong as well as their policy agenda

- Provided an overview of the [Build Strong America](#)
- Open Discussion
  - Co-sponsored bills – wildfire response bill and helping to eliminate response and recovery bill
  - EMPG survey – reminding IAEM members to participate in this survey
  - Looking to clean up GAC webpage
  - Hearing on Feb 14 with the FEMA Administrator testifying
  - FCC hearing on Feb 15 related to EAS message translations
  - NEMA looking at the wildfire bill and adjusting some issues around the HUD CDBG funding
  - Provided an overview of how legislative initiatives are developed for IAEM
    - Thad drafts legislative priorities – sends to IAEM leadership to review – approved by EC/Board – shared with members

**Attendees** *(Not all participants were able to be noted below. Participants captured if names were clearly marked in the participant list)*

- Thad Huguley
- Travis Cryan
- Allison Farole
- Doug Bryson
- Cathy Clark
- Christa Lopez
- Lauren McClain
- Mick Fleming
- Lisa Figueroa
- Spencer Hawkins
- Terri Richards
- Wike Graham
- Christian Cunnie
- Michele Parsons
- Sarah Moore
- Brad Gilbert
- Maj. Daniel Morgalo
- Timothy Bush
- Ashley Morris
- John Sokich
- Kristin Buda
- Natalie Enclade
- Jason Chenault
- Josh Morton
- Matt May