

## 2018 Spring Board Meeting Legislative Report

Our current Continuing Resolution expires on March 23rd. Once again we will be waiting to see if Congress can come to an agreement and avoid a shutdown. Hopefully a budget will get passed to fund us for the balance of this fiscal year and possibly the next. Indications are that the budget will probably include a pay freeze for FY19.

The current Farm Bill is set to expire on September 30th and work on the next Farm Bill is happening. Senator Thune has rolled out seven incremental farm bill proposals that cover most titles of the overall bill. Please visit his website for more information on his proposals:

<https://www.thune.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/farm-bill> [1]

Sec of Ag, Sonny Perdue has developed a set of legislative principles pertaining to the new farm bill. They can be viewed at:

<https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2018/01/24/perdue-announces-usdas-farm-bill-and-legislative-principles-2018>[2]

FPAC is becoming a familiar term for all of us. The goals have been laid out for us to be more customer focused and efficient. As all of this plays out, NASCOE will continue to be our voice. NASCOE has always tried to be proactive rather than reactive. We need to continually build relationships with our members of congress. If anyone has a relationship with any of our congressional members, please let us know. Sometimes an extra bit of knowledge can help us get a dialogue started.

An answer from the FPAC Town Hall meeting stated that the COC's will remain intact. That is good news. Please take the time to encourage your COC to be members of NAFEC. Information on NAFEC can be found at:

<http://fsacountycommittees.org/> [3]

A FedWeek article indicated that buyouts might be offered and the amount increased to \$40,000. The article also stated that the Department of Ag is slated to lose 7,200 employees. While the thought of buyouts might be popular to some, the threat of losing that many employees is alarming. That is why membership in NASCOE and NAFEC and contributions to the NASCOE PAC are so important.

What is the NASCOE PAC? Our Association's Political Action Committee (PAC)- Contributors to the PAC assist our legislative efforts by helping elect US House and Senate members who support NASCOE priorities. There are many more questions and answers about the NASCOE PAC at: <https://nascoe.org/the-nascoe-pac/> [4] Please take some time to educate yourself on this valuable tool. We need to have congressional support of NASCOE's priorities and the PAC is the way that happens. If you have any additional question about the PAC, please reach out to us at our home e-mails:

EJ goetz1982@yahoo.com [5] or Bill kabimichase@gmail.com [6]

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Chase and EJ Goetz, Legislative/PAC/NAFEC Co-chair