



# ENERGY COMMUNITIES ALLIANCE BOARD MEETING

JUNE 18, 2020



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



# NDAA / APPROPRIATIONS

- **National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY 2021**
  - Senate committee approved on June 11
    - Authorizes \$25.9 billion for DOE; \$19.8 billion for NNSA
  - House expected to mark up the week of June 22
- **Appropriations for FY 2021**
  - Senate will work on appropriations June 22; House on July 6
  - Continuing resolution (CR) highly likely until early 2021
- **Committee staff changes**
  - Nora Khalil, Senate Appropriations Committee (replacing Adam DeMella)
  - Jen Becker-Pollet, Senate Appropriations Energy & Water Dev. Subcommittee (replacing Chris Hanson)



# RECENT NUCLEAR ENERGY LEGISLATION

- **Nuclear Energy Research and Development Act (H.R. 6097):** Program for nuclear energy research, development, demonstration, and commercialization. *(Advanced to full committee 3/12/20)*
- **Nuclear Energy for the Future Act (H.R. 6796):** To support advanced nuclear research and development programs and infrastructure. *(Introduced 5/8/20)*
- **Upcoming legislation to watch:**
  - Nuclear energy role in House Democrats' zero-emissions legislation
    - House Environment and Climate Change Subcommittee Chairman: "Clean energy of any kind, including our nuclear energy, is an important factor as we go forward."



# PHASE 4 COVID RELIEF BILL

- **March 27:** Congress passes *CARES Act* (Phase 3)
  - \$150 billion for state and large local governments
- **May 15:** House passes *HEROES Act* (Phase 4 proposal)
  - \$375 billion total for local governments; \$56 billion for smaller local governments; \$187.5 billion for counties
- **End of July?:** Senate could negotiate Phase 4 bill
  - Senate leaders suggested negotiations possible after July 4 recess
  - Treasury Secretary supports another relief bill
  - Senate on recess July 3 – 17 and August 10 – September 7



# 2020 CONGRESSIONAL CALENDAR

- Both chambers in session
- Senate only in session
- House only in session
- House is convened remotely for committee work

**January**

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**November**

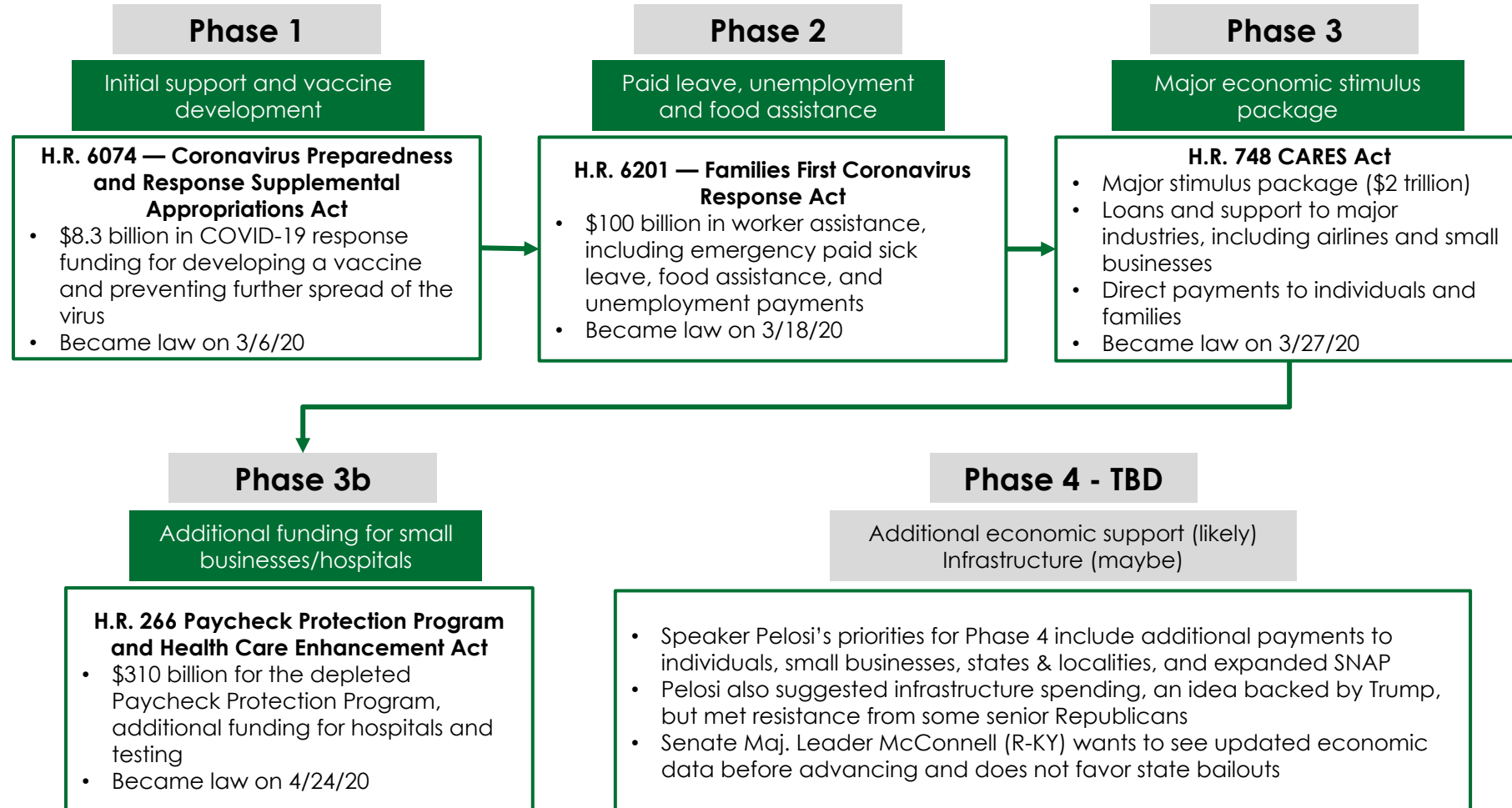
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**December**

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# CONGRESS'S MULTI-PHASE RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS





# CONGRESS IS CONTEMPLATING NEW VOTING PROCEDURES DURING THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK

## Current procedures



- Unanimous consent** – both chambers
- All members agree to a motion without voting
  - One member can block the motion



- Roll call voting** – both chambers (Senate uses only this)
- Each member must enter the chamber and verbally or physically announce their vote



- Vote by electronic device** – House only
- Members insert a card into devices located throughout the chamber and then press a button to vote



- Vote by proxy** – House only
- On May 15th, the House approved temporary new rules that will allow lawmakers to authorize a member that is present in the chamber to cast a vote on behalf of up to 10 lawmakers
  - House Republicans filed a lawsuit to challenge the rule change



- Committee hearings**
- The temporary House rules also allow for official proceedings to take place virtually
  - In the Senate, some committees have begun holding meetings with remote participants and existing Senate rules allow committee voting by proxy

## Proposed changes

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### Remote voting

- Voting online or by phone from any location
- Reps. Eric Swalwell (D-CA-15) and Rick Crawford (R-AR-1) introduced legislation that would mandate the development of a secure remote voting system for non-controversial bills
- Sens. Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Rob Portman (R-OH) authored an op-ed in late April to support their proposal for the development of a secure, encrypted remote voting system

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### Raising unanimous consent (UC) threshold

- Requiring more than one member to object for a UC motion to be blocked
- A proposal from the House Rules Committee included this as a suggestion, but did not include a specific number

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### Extended voting periods

- Elongating the time allowed for voting in order to reduce crowding in the chambers
- For a Senate vote in March, Sen. Mitch McConnell lengthened the time available for voting; however, no official rule changes have been made for either chamber





# ECA SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

- Economic Development
- High-Level Waste
- Proposed subcommittee on new nuclear development in ECA communities



# ECA STAFF ACTIVITIES



# JANUARY – MARCH

- Annual Meeting
- ECA Member Meeting
- ECA Subcommittee Meetings
- Submitted comments on the Draft EA for the commercial disposal of Defense Waste Processing Facility Recycle Wastewater from the SRS
- Prepared presentations outlining local government perspectives on DOE initiatives including high level waste interpretation for waste management symposium 2020 in Arizona
- Coordinated with DOE to plan for a May Peer Exchange on workforce



## APRIL – JUNE

- Letter to DNFSB asking for informational materials for public education on recommendation 2020-01
- Created response to EM: Strategic Vision document on behalf of ECA members
- Hosted economic development subcommittee virtual roundtable regarding local COVID-19 response
- Developed a stimulus letter requesting funding for EM in Congressional stimulus legislation
- Response letter to DNFSB Chairman Hamilton's comments to our initial proposal
- Developing budget for 2020-2021



# LETTERS IN 2020

## 2020

- Letter to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board on Recommendation 2020-01; Responding to Chairman's Comments, June 2, 2020
- Coalition Letter to Congressional Leadership for Jobs and Cleanup Funding, May 15, 2020
- ECA Press Release for Coalition Letter for Jobs and Cleanup Funding, May 15, 2020
- Energy Communities Alliance Input and Survey on EM's Strategic Vision, May 4, 2020
- Letter to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board on Recommendation 2020-01, April 23, 2020
- Comments to DOE on Draft Environmental Assessment for the Commercial Disposal of Defense Waste Processing Facility Recycle Wastewater from the Savannah River Site, February 12, 2020

All letters found on **[energyca.org](https://energyca.org)**



# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING WEBINAR

- Proposed July webinar
- Original Peer Exchange was scheduled for May 2020 in Santa Fe, NM
- ECA, DOE, and EFCOG still interested
- 3 hour webinar
- Draft agenda

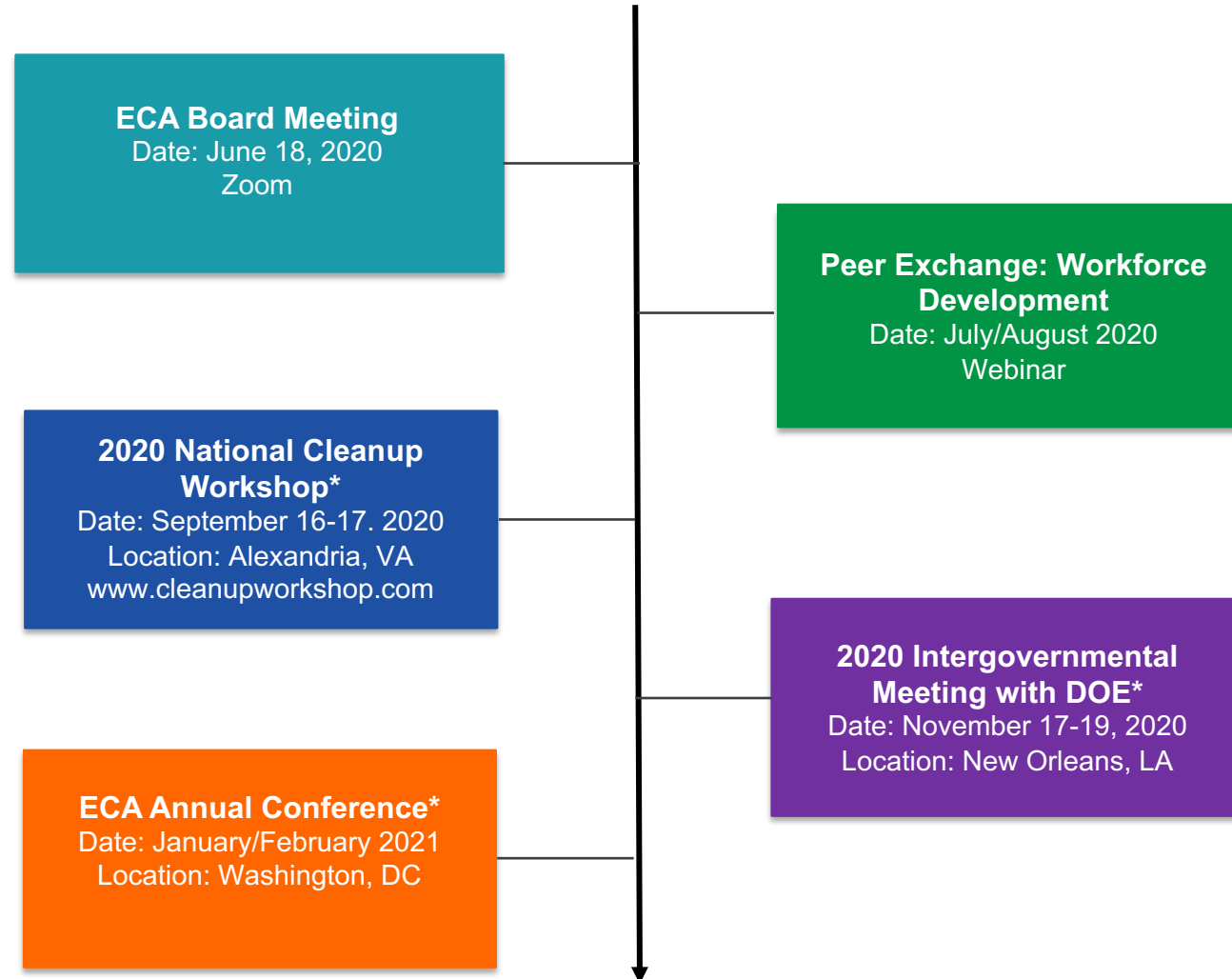


# PROPOSED SCOPE OF WORK ON NEW NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT

- Outlook for new nuclear development, demonstration and deployment
- Opportunities and challenges for local governments supporting new nuclear energy development.
- Bridging workforce needs, economic development and support for new nuclear missions.
- Identifying partnership opportunities with the federal government, national laboratories, industry and trades to leverage efforts and results.



# 2020 MEETING TIMELINE



\* Event will also feature an ECA Board of Directors meeting (open to all ECA members).





# 2020 NATIONAL CLEANUP WORKSHOP





# CURRENT PLANS

- National Cleanup Workshop will take place absent any travel restrictions or hotel closures
- Social distancing measures in place – ballroom, food, exhibits
- **Registration:**
  - ~250 total registrations available; 50 spots for ECA (\$200 discount for ECA members)
  - Online participation available (\$75)
  - Registration will re-open in the coming weeks
- **Schedule:**
  - 1pm – 5pm on September 16 & 17
  - ECA Board Meeting on morning of September 16



Energy  
Communities  
Alliance

