

Voice of Land Professionals Draws Attention in Washington

AAPL governmental affairs is pleased to report that the Build Back Better Act budget bill — for which AAPL delivered a letter to key U.S. senators opposing many of its provisions — has stalled in the U.S. Senate and will not be passed this year.

As noted in his letter, AAPL President James T. Devlin, CPL, expressed our association's strong opposition to the methane fee and more than 10 other provisions, which would negatively impact our profession and traditional energy operators and producers. The failure of this massive social spending package to advance before year's end is a huge victory since congressional analysts believe that pushing the package into 2022 will be its death knell.

In a last-ditch effort to push the legislation through in 2021, President Joe Biden held negotiations with the bill's main holdout, Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WY), but those talks failed to advance the bill. In fact, the readout from those discussions was much gloomier than reported by some news outlets and the administration itself with insiders reporting that no consensus could be met before the self-imposed Christmas deadline. While earlier in the week, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) was touting a vote this month, his office now concedes that this will not happen. This development is also positive news since the Biden administration needed the bill enacted in 2021 to impose a slew of new taxes in the coming year, many of which would have adversely affected both individuals and businesses alike starting in 2022.

And as a testament to the strength of the AAPL president's letter to senators, earlier this week AAPL governmental affairs was contacted by legislative staff for Sen. Steve Daines (R-MT) who indicated that the senator read our letter, agreed with our positions and is now reaching out to our Montana local association to put the senator in touch with his constituents. We believe other senators, including Sen. Manchin and additional undecided lawmakers, were influenced by our letter, and we are confident that led to this successful outcome.

As we move into a new year, AAPL governmental affairs will continue to advocate for our members and protect your right to work. And as always, should this legislation advance in 2022, we will keep you informed.