



End of Week Summary

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Calendar

April 24th. 3:00pm. State House Committee in-person at Filson/Gordon Offices (312 S. Fourth Street, Suite 200, Springfield) and by conference call (712-775-7031 passcode 623-949-741)

End of Week Summary: May 12

Federal Update

President Trump told The Economist that he would consider tying tax reform to increased infrastructure spending as a way to bring Democrat support to tax reform. Top Democrats have said in the past that they would have to oppose infrastructure spending funded by tax reform they do not support, but there is not a concrete plan out yet for them to react to. [More](#)

Also this week, a coalition of conservative groups (including Americans for Prosperity, Heritage Action, and Club for Growth) issued a letter calling on the President and Congress to reform the environmental review process, repeal labor regulations, focus on “core” infrastructure projects, empower the states, fully pay for projects and reform spending instead of creating new

funding streams.

Christine Harbin indicated that the goal of the letter was to prevent tax reform and infrastructure from repeating the failed early votes of the House's healthcare reform efforts, which may mean that the most conservative House members are unwilling to work on a new revenue package for transportation, including repatriation funding which is often considered one of the easiest tax reform methods to pay for infrastructure. [More](#)

House Hearing on Motor Fuel Tax

The Illinois House Transportation Committee held a subject matter hearing this week on motor fuel tax. Representatives from IDOT, Local Roads, the trucking industry, TFIC, IIFFC, and Petroleum Marketers presented testimony. TFIC's testimony focused on the need to invest in Illinois' infrastructure and the fact that motor fuel is a tax on consumption so does not grow with growing prices. Craig Fink testified about the loss of purchasing power counties have seen since the tax was last raised. Matt Hart testified that motor fuel tax is the trucking industry's preferred method for funding infrastructure, but that the trucking industry wants the Commercial Distribution Fee repealed. IIFFC testified on the need to invest and how MFT would have grown were it indexed. IDOT explained how motor fuel tax is collected and distributed. Finally, the Petroleum Marketers testified to the negative impact gasoline taxes have on their business. [A news story from the hearing is available here.](#)

Private Investment from Saudi Arabia

There were reports this week that Saudi Arabia plans to announce a \$40 billion investment in US infrastructure to

coincide with President Trump's visit to the country. [More](#)

News

[Why the US Never Raises the Federal Gas Tax, and Maybe Never Will](#)

Wired

[Trump's Public-Private Infrastructure Vision Rejected in Texas](#)

Bloomberg