



Ceres Federal Update

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Infrastructure and Reconciliation Update

- **Reconciliation Negotiations Continue:** The White House and Democrats on the Hill continue to work to hammer out a compromise on Build Back Better. Negotiators are identifying ways to close the gap between the \$1.5 trillion marker put out by Senator Joe Manchin and the \$3.5 trillion favored by Senate Budget Committee Chair Bernie Sanders and House progressives.

- The White House is said to be looking to bring the sides together around a compromise number in the range of \$1.9 and \$2.3 trillion.
- Democrats are looking at options to sunset new spending programs, slashing the cost of the programs (currently budgeted at ten years) without narrowing the list of programs. Some swing-district House Democrats told Biden however that they would prefer a more focused agenda that includes a smaller list of priorities, including climate change.

“Climate provisions can't be funded for 5 years. We need it through the ten year window to meet our climate goals.” - Jamal Raad, executive director for Evergreen Action

- In the wake of the California coastal oil spill, some Democrats are [calling](#) for the reconciliation bill to include a ban on offshore drilling off the West Coast.
- **Carbon Tax Gets a White House Boost:** The White House created room for a carbon tax in reconciliation, the latest development as the long-shot bid becomes increasingly popular in Democrat circles. White House Spokesperson Jen Psaki said that a corporate carbon tax would not violate Biden’s pledge to not raise taxes on people making under \$400,000. “Polluter fees on corporations do not conflict with the \$400,000 pledge,” she said in response to a carbon tax question.
- The proposal already has the backing of two powerful Senators: Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR), who chairs the Senate Finance Committee and is at the center of the reconciliation negotiations, and Chris Coons (D-DE), a close confidant of President Biden.

“Whoever has been putting out that a carbon polluter fee might cross the Biden tax pledge can now shut up. Jen Psaki has put that obviously false notion finally and officially to rest. So cut it out.” – [Tweet](#) from Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), a top backer of the carbon tax proposal.

Biden-Harris Administration Update

- The Biden administration has [released](#) more than 20 “Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plans” from across the federal government. They are taking public comment until November 6.
- The White House Council on Environmental Quality is proposing to [reverse](#) the Trump Administration’s NEPA rollbacks. Among other items, the move would allow greater consideration of climate impacts.
- Biden is [restoring](#) protections for three national monuments that were pared back by Donald Trump, including Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante in Utah and the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts monument in the Atlantic Ocean.
- Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm says the Biden administration is fretting over high gasoline prices and she is looking at options, including opening up the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and re-instituting a ban on crude oil exports that was lifted by Obama.