

**From:** The Roosevelt Group <Jpatton@rooseveltdc.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 18, 2023 7:59 AM  
**To:** Ingram, Diane  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Executive Insight Brief



# Executive Insight Brief

August 18, 2023

Headlines - Aerospace & Defense - Budget & Approps - Advanced Tech - Military Installations & Communities -  
Homeland Security - Transportation & Infrastructure - Biotech & Healthcare - Climate & Development

Received this as a forwarded email? [Sign up](#) to be on the official distribution list!

## Notable Headlines

- [At Camp David Summit, Japan, South Korea and U.S. Present a United Front](#)
- [Mortgage rates soar to their highest level in 21 years](#)
- [Biden pledges U.S. support for Maui through wildfire recovery](#)
- [Tim Scott announces second major ad buy of his presidential campaign](#)
- [Cargo Ship Defies Renewed Russian Blockade to Sail Out of Ukraine's Odesa](#)

**Worth reading:** [You Go to War With the Industrial Base You Have, Not the Industrial Base You Want](#)

## View From The Hill



While Politico accurately [described](#) activity around Capitol Hill as “\*Crickets\*” this week, there were still Congress-related news items percolating. The Commission on Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution (PPBE) Reform, mandated by Congress to outline possible changes to the Pentagon’s budget process, released its [interim report](#) this week. In it, the commission recommended improvements to information sharing with Capitol Hill; consolidating budget line items; improving the budget management workforce; modernizing systems; and streamlining data sets. While additional recommendations are likely forthcoming, the commission has already conducted hundreds of interviews with Pentagon officials and congressional staffers, while also comparing the Department of Defense’s budget processes and systems to those of Russia and China.

Just one month after Chinese President Xi Jinping and Solomon Islands’ Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare stirred anxiety by [signing](#) a law enforcement and security pact, a U.S. congressional delegation comprised of Representative Neal Dunn (R-FL) and Delegate Aumua Amata (R-American Samoa) [traveled](#) to the Pacific island nation on behalf of the House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party. The visit underscores ongoing concern on the part of the United States and its allies about growing Chinese influence throughout the Indo-Pacific.

This week marked the one year [anniversary](#) of the Inflation Reduction Act, one of President Biden’s signature legislative accomplishments. The President and senior-level cabinet officials spent the week fanning out across the country touting the positive economic benefits of the law. While the U.S. inflation rate has cooled in the year following the law’s enactment, Americans’ attitudes on the economy remain somewhat dour, leaving an opening for Congressional Republicans to go on [offense](#) heading into 2024.

## Aerospace & Defense

### [BAE to buy Ball Aerospace for \\$5.6bn \(Financial Times\)](#)

BAE Systems is moving into the US space domain with the \$5.6bn acquisition of Ball Aerospace, a supplier of mission-critical space systems, in one of the biggest takeovers by a UK company this year. The deal is BAE's biggest ever, and marks the culmination of a long-held ambition to expand into the space sector, where it has a limited presence compared with rivals. It also comes after the war in Ukraine turbocharged defence spending, and accelerated the importance of space as a priority. The FTSE 100 company is paying cash for the Colorado-based business, which spans electronic warfare, missiles and munitions, weather forecasting and sensing capabilities. Ball also built the distinctive 6.5 metre diameter mirror for the James Webb space telescope, a unique feat of engineering. The deal comes less than a month after BAE, which builds everything from Eurofighter Typhoon jets to nuclear submarines, lifted its annual profit forecast on the back of increased western defence spending following the war in Ukraine. BAE shares have risen more than 80 per cent since the start of last year, making it the second-best performer on the FTSE 100 over the period. The deal is expected to be completed in the first half of 2024, pending regulatory approval.

### [Army seeks industry input on AI bill of materials](#)

### [JetZero Wins U.S. Air Force Demo Contract for Blended Wing Body \(Aviation Week\)](#)

The U.S. Air Force on Aug. 16 named JetZero as the winner of a \$235 million contract to partially fund the development and production of the first full-scale blended wing body (BWB) demonstrator to achieve a first flight in four years. The award completes a yearlong selection process managed by the Defense Innovation Unit (DIU) and revives hopes for the BWB configuration as a possible new standard for future military and commercial transport aircraft. Northrop Grumman's Scaled Composites, as a subcontractor to JetZero, will build the Boeing 767-sized demonstrator for a first flight scheduled in 2027. The demonstrator offers an opportunity to finally prove whether the theoretical fuel efficiency savings and short runway performance promised by the 30-year-old BWB concept translate to a full-scale, flying aircraft. By optimizing the inboard section of a blended wing to carry payload, JetZero proposes that the BWB configuration can achieve 50% fuel savings compared to a traditional "tube-and-wing" commercial aircraft.

### [Laser weapons 'finally' seeing 'real progress,' Missile Defense Agency official says](#)

### [Orders flooding in on Pentagon's \\$9 billion cloud contract \(Defense News\)](#)

More than a dozen orders worth hundreds of millions of dollars have been awarded using the Pentagon's landmark cloud-computing contract since its launch less than one year

ago. The Pentagon in December 2022 selected Amazon, Google, Microsoft and Oracle to furnish cloud services for the potential \$9 billion JWCC, itself a successor to the Joint Enterprise Defense Infrastructure arrangement. JEDI, valued at \$10 billion, was scuttled after allegations of political interference and litigation. The four companies are competing for jobs spanning unclassified, secret and top-secret designations, and are guaranteed only \$100,000 each. Pentagon Chief Information Officer John Sherman in a memo made public earlier this month instructed defense agencies, military services and other offices to prioritize JWCC, including when dealing with the nation's most sensitive data. The memo also said a number of existing cloud services will transition to JWCC upon expiration.

## **Budget & Appropriations**

### [Panel identifies 5 'key' ways Pentagon can reform budget process now \(Breaking Defense\)](#)

The Pentagon should institute five “key” reforms “now,” ranging from mid-year budget briefings to consolidating some spending line items, to begin to fix its cumbersome budget process, according to a new report from a congressionally-mandated bipartisan commission. The Commission on Planning, Programming, Budgeting and Execution (PPBE) Reform's 200-page interim report recommends a total of 13 immediate reforms, as well as 10 that will need more feedback from stakeholders before it releases its final report in March 2024. Some of those reforms needing greater input include potentially bigger ticket items, like the possibility of altering reprogramming policies or enabling some funds to carry over into a second fiscal year rather than the current “use it or lose it” policy. In addition to the mid-year budget briefings and spending line consolidation, the committee recommends three other key actions: speeding up the consolidation of data systems used by the Pentagon's comptroller and Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation (CAPE) office; establishing classified and unclassified “enclaves” that can more easily facilitate electronic information sharing on the budget between Congress and the Pentagon; and boosting recruiting and retention of PPBE personnel.

### [Congress Adds Energetics, Critical Chemical Provisions to Defense Bill](#)

#### [McCarthy eyes a short-term funding bill to head off a shutdown \(Roll Call\)](#)

House Republicans are planning to take up a short-term stopgap funding measure next month to avoid a partial government shutdown, Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., told members of his conference during a Monday night call. The continuing resolution is expected to extend current funding until early December, giving lawmakers a few extra months past the Sept. 30 deadline to complete fiscal 2024 appropriations. McCarthy said Monday that he did not want to have a continuing resolution run up to the Christmas recess. The speaker's announcement, which came as little surprise, served as an acknowledgment that the clock had run out for completing appropriations on time for the

fiscal year that begins Oct. 1. The House thus far has passed just one of its 12 annual appropriations bills, the Military Construction-VA measure, though McCarthy told members Monday he is still planning on taking up additional spending bills after the House returns from August recess on Sept. 12.

### [As Biden celebrates climate funding, Republicans eye the money](#)

#### [White House challenges GOP on debt reduction tactics \(Politico\)](#)

The White House is leaning into a fight over debt reduction, believing it has the upper hand in a political battle that has long favored Republicans. In a memo to Democratic allies, it recounts cost-cutting measures President Joe Biden proposed in his March budget, such as enacting a 25 percent minimum tax on the wealthiest Americans, hiking the corporate tax rate to 28 percent and allowing Medicare to negotiate additional drug prices. The posturing from the White House comes ahead of the Sept. 30 deadline to pass legislation to continue funding the government. The right-wing of the House Republican conference is demanding sharp cuts in spending, creating an impasse that many believe will lead to a government shutdown. Although little of the president's budget has a chance of becoming law, the administration is eager to contrast Biden's proposals with GOP measures such as cuts to Medicare and Social Security, the elimination of Medicare's new price negotiation authority and the Republican Study Committee tax plan.

## **Advanced Technologies**

#### [Newly created Army cyber/space office to focus on streamlining efforts, building out talent \(Breaking Defense\)](#)

The Army official in charge of the service's just-unveiled cyber and space office sees opportunities to streamline previously complicated, overlapping lines of effort, he told Breaking Defense in an exclusive interview. Later this month, Christopher Green will officially become the first project management officer for cyber and space, which was unveiled in July. The new unit, focused on cyber, information warfare and tactical space missions, will reside within the program executive office for intelligence, electronic warfare and sensors (PEO IEW&S). In his role, Green will report directly to Brig. Gen. Ed Barker, who spearheads PEO IEW&S. Barker told Breaking Defense this week that the Army saw the demand signal for the new office "a couple of years ago" and it's continuing to grow by the quick, changing pace of the threat landscape emanating from foreign adversaries like China. A lot of the programs the office will inherit are existing efforts within the service, like the Rapid Cyber Development Network (RCDN), that will continue to iterate over time.

## [New Army CIO wants to trade bureaucracy for speedier modernization](#)

### [Multinationals turn to generative AI to manage supply chains \(Financial Times\)](#)

Some of the world's biggest companies are turning to artificial intelligence to navigate increasingly complex supply chains as they face the impact of geopolitical tensions and pressure to eliminate links to environmental and human rights abuses. Unilever, Siemens and Maersk are among those using AI to negotiate contracts, find new suppliers, or help identify those connected to issues including the alleged repression of Uyghur Muslims in China's Xinjiang region. Although AI support in supply chain management has been used for years, the development of so-called generative AI technology has been offering more opportunities to further automate the process. More multinationals have faced the need to keep abreast of their suppliers and customers amid disruptions during the Covid-19 pandemic as well as rising geopolitical tensions. New supply chain laws in countries such as Germany, which require companies to monitor environmental and human rights issues in their supply chains, have driven interest and investment in the area.

## [A Rare Look Into the Finances of Musk's Secretive SpaceX](#)

### [Emerging technologies star in White House R&D priorities \(Nextgov\)](#)

Advancing responsible artificial intelligence, leveraging emerging technologies for national security purposes and decarbonizing the U.S. economy were named as three of the Biden administration's research priority areas for FY25, further emphasizing the role critical and developing tech stands to play in key government operations in the years to come. Unveiled Thursday by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, the memorandum named seven research areas as upcoming priorities across several federal agencies. The memo specifically asks federal agencies to tailor their forthcoming FY25 budget requests with the seven research and development priority areas in mind. The complete list includes trustworthy AI; national security technologies; climate crisis solutions; systems that support better universal health outcomes; social inequity reductions; and broadly supporting U.S. competitiveness in innovative technology research. Specific critical and emerging technologies the White House listed in the memo featured quantum information sciences, high performance computing, microelectronics and nuclear energy, among others.

## **Military Installations & Communities**

### [DAF opens public comment period for Support of Military Families basing-decision](#)

### [scorecard updates \(Department of the Air Force\)](#)

The Department of the Air Force opened a public comment period regarding recent updates to the background and methodology for Support of Military Families scorecards for spouse licensure portability and dependent education surrounding department bases Aug 16. Per the SEC 2883 regulation, a public comment period of 60 days is required to allow the public an opportunity to submit comments and feedback regarding the updates. Section 2883(h) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 ensures the Department of Defense considers certain military family readiness issues when making basing decisions for military units and headquarters. Section 2883 has been amended, making basing-decision scorecards a comprehensive product available to military families through internet websites. Updates to the methodology and changes to criteria will be published on the services' websites and will remain coordinated within the DoD to ensure consistency across the military departments.

### [DoD review calls for reforms after sexual assault spike at academies](#)

### [Sinema calls for Biden admin and Tuberville to find 'middle ground' in abortion standoff \(NBC News\)](#)

Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, the Arizona independent who left the Democratic Party last year, is calling on both the Biden administration and Sen. Tommy Tuberville, R-Ala., to soften their positions and find a "middle ground" to end the Republican's monthslong blockade of hundreds of military promotions over a Pentagon policy involving abortion. According to a recording obtained by NBC News, Sinema told a meeting of the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce last week that she has "offered" to help both sides come to a consensus. Her call for the Pentagon and Tuberville to compromise puts Sinema, whose seat comes up for re-election in a crucial swing state next fall, at odds with President Joe Biden and the rest of the Democratic Party, who have blasted the Alabaman for what they call a dangerous gambit and insisted that the standoff will end only when he backs off. Tuberville has faced criticism from the Department of Defense leadership and even some Republicans who worry the blockade could hamper military readiness.

### [MQ-9 Pilots Learn To Take Off and Land Via Satellite in ACE Push](#)

### [A Long Shot for Alabama to Win Back Space Command? 'I Don't Think it Is,' Congressman Says \(Military Times\)](#)

The speech included talking points about national defense and immigration enforcement. But the one line that generated spontaneous applause Wednesday concerned Space Command as Congressman Dale Strong addressed about 1,000 community and business leaders at a Huntsville-Madison County Chamber of Commerce luncheon. "Stay tuned because this process is not over by a long shot," Strong said. And the applause

immediately rippled across the Von Braun Center meeting hall. To conclude that the process is over, though, is perhaps reasonable. President Biden in July announced that Space Command headquarters would remain at its start-up location near Colorado Springs, Colo., instead of coming to Huntsville's Redstone Arsenal – contrary to a bevy of reports and analyses that ranked Redstone as the best site. In his speech and in a media gaggle afterward, Strong repeatedly put his hope in House committee hearings to unearth issues to undermine the White House decision.

## Homeland Security

### [Former FBI Agent Charles McGonigal Pleads Guilty to Helping Russian Oligarch \(WSJ\)](#)

A former high-level U.S. counterintelligence agent pleaded guilty to accepting secret payments from Russian oligarch Oleg Deripaska after accepting a deal with prosecutors that reduces the amount of prison time he faces for the offense. The guilty plea entered by Charles McGonigal in Manhattan federal court represents a spectacular admission for a former senior official at the Federal Bureau of Investigation who retired from the agency in 2018 after a career that saw him rise to become the head of the agency's counterintelligence operations in New York, a position where he held insight into some of the agency's most sensitive investigations. On Tuesday, McGonigal said he had agreed to do open-source research for Deripaska on one of the oligarch's rivals, Vladimir Potanin, in hopes of getting the latter Russian added to U.S. blacklists. McGonigal accepted \$17,500 from the oligarch in 2021, knowing that the work and the payment, which he admitted trying to conceal, violated sanctions that were placed on Deripaska in 2018.

### [How Mexican narcos use remittances to wire U.S. drug profits home](#)

### [New CISA guidance looks to guard against supply chain hacks \(Nextgov\)](#)

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency released its first remote monitoring and management software guidance document on Wednesday, part of the agency's larger Joint Cyber Defense Collaborative initiative. The Remote Monitoring & Management Cyber Defense Plan specifically focuses on the potential vulnerabilities within RMM software installed on network endpoints. RMM software is commonly used to monitor the safety landscape of a given network, and can grant remote access to some system configurations. Noting that malicious actors frequently exploit RMM security patches, CISA's plan relies on two pillars as key to safeguard digital networks: operational collaboration, focused on increased information sharing; and cyber defense guidance, which primarily suggests educating RMM end users on the cybersecurity dangers associated with the software. Four lines of action included in the report further compliment the two central pillars. They include advanced cyber threat information sharing between stakeholders, institutionalizing communication mechanisms, end user education on cyber

threats and amplifying communication through all available avenues.

### [Trump officials hatched the idea for the Rio Grande buoys that Texas now uses to block migrants](#)

#### [US says airstrike kills 5 al-Shabaab terrorists in Somalia \(CNN\)](#)

The US military conducted an airstrike killing five al-Shabaab terrorists on Tuesday, US Africa Command said in a statement. The airstrike was carried out in support of Somali National Army forces “in a remote area near Cali Heele, approximately 244 kilometers North East of Mogadishu, Somalia.” The initial assessment showed that no civilians were killed in the airstrike, AFRICOM said. The US has provided ongoing support to the Somali government since President Joe Biden last year approved a Pentagon request to redeploy US troops to the area in an attempt to counter the terrorist group. The approval to send fewer than 500 troops was a reversal of then-President Donald Trump’s 2020 decision to withdraw nearly all US troops from the country.

## **Transportation & Infrastructure**

#### [Boeing’s New China Chief Is a Government-Relations Pro \(WSJ\)](#)

Boeing appointed Alvin Liu to head its China business, turning to the Chinese-born former Ford executive to steer the plane maker through a turbulent period for relations between Beijing and Washington and a testing business environment. Born in northeastern China, Liu is a veteran legal and government-engagement specialist with decades of experience in the country at Ford and other multinationals before joining Boeing. He will report to Brendan Nelson, the president of Boeing Global, the company’s international business division, according to the company. Liu, who heads Boeing’s team handling relations with the Chinese government and was named acting China president in July, succeeds Sherry Carbary, who is retiring after a career of more than three decades at the company. The past four years after she was made China president coincided with the collapse in air travel during the pandemic and the downward spiral in China’s ties with Washington. Among Liu’s most pressing tasks will likely be to slow the slide in Boeing’s market share and to work with the Chinese regulator and airlines for the resumption of deliveries of the 737 MAX series.

### [Looming auto workers strike could cost \\$5 billion in just 10 days](#)

### [White House finalizes guidance to boost use of U.S.-made goods in infrastructure \(Reuters\)](#)

The White House on Monday issued guidance to boost the use of U.S.-made goods including steel, iron and other construction materials, in government-funded infrastructure projects. The "Buy America" binding guidance, first proposed in February, was finalized by the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) after receiving nearly 2,000 public comments. OMB said the final guidance directed by Congress under the \$1 trillion 2021 infrastructure law "will bolster American businesses, workers, and economic growth." The infrastructure law significantly expanded standards to require government-funded infrastructure projects to use more U.S.-made iron, steel, construction materials and manufactured products. The OMB guidance sets manufacturing standards for plastic and polymer-based products, glass including optic glass, lumber, engineered wood, drywall, fiber optic cable and optical fiber. The infrastructure law includes \$110 billion for roads, bridges and major projects; \$66 billion for rail; \$55 billion for water infrastructure and \$42 billion in broadband infrastructure grants.

### [Why are there so few roundabouts in the U.S.?](#)

### [Rotor Sail Demand on the Rise as Vessel Efficiency Needs Hit New Heights \(Maritime Executive\)](#)

Amidst a renewed commitment to reduce the maritime sector's carbon emissions is an aim to review and strengthen the energy efficiency design requirements for ships, including the regulations by which a vessel's energy efficiency is measured, mainly the Carbon Intensity Indicator (CII) and the Energy Efficiency Existing Ship Index (EEXI). Ship owners and managers are now scrambling to source low and zero-carbon technologies that can provide alternative propulsion methods and reduce a vessel's carbon footprint in a bid to meet renewed energy and carbon regulations. Rotor sails, which were highlighted as one such technology ahead of MEPC 80, have launched to the forefront as a viable alternative propulsion method for modern vessels. Relying on an aerodynamic phenomenon known as the 'Magnus Effect', these tall cylinders create a forward thrust for the vessel that enables it to reduce power from its main engines, minimizing its fuel consumption and cutting its emissions output drastically.

## **Biotechnology & Healthcare**

### [Appeals court upholds parts of ruling that limit abortion pill access \(Axios\)](#)

A federal appeals court on Wednesday upheld portions of a ruling that limit access to the widely used abortion pill mifepristone. The ruling by the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in the high-stakes legal battle over the pill won't have immediate impacts on the availability

of the medication. The three-judge panel held that the Food and Drug Administration failed to take into account safety concerns when it made mifepristone more easily accessible in 2016. The Department of Justice will seek a Supreme Court review of the decision and is "committed to defending the FDA's scientific judgment and protecting Americans' access to safe and effective reproductive care," a spokesperson told Axios in an emailed statement. In April, the Supreme Court ruled to maintain access to mifepristone while a challenge to the FDA's approval played out. The ruling stayed a lower court decision striking the drug's approval. The Supreme Court returned the case, which originated in a U.S. district court in Amarillo, Texas, to the New Orleans-based 5th Circuit Court of Appeals.

### [Map: Where medication abortion is and isn't legal](#)

#### [New Treatment for Bladder Cancer Offers This Biotech a Second Chance \(WSJ\)](#)

UroGen Pharma, a tiny biotech company with Israeli roots, is hoping for another shot with investors after its first approved drug struggled commercially. There is reason to believe this time could be different. The company in July reported positive data from two late-stage trials showing that its reformulation of an old chemotherapy drug performed better than the standard of care in a subset of patients with bladder cancer. The stock jumped on bets the treatment could help patients avoid repeated surgeries. The company said last month that it expects more data on the drug's durability of response next year, at which point it hopes to submit it for Food and Drug Administration approval. The FDA could still create some hurdles. But the bigger question for investors is whether this is really a game-changing commercial opportunity, or if it might mirror the trajectory of UroGen's previously approved drug, Jelmyto.

### [Weight loss drugs are priced substantially higher in the U.S. than in other countries, analysis says](#)

#### [COVID vaccine program for uninsured could be late to pharmacies \(Roll Call\)](#)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's new program to get the next generation of COVID-19 vaccines to uninsured and underinsured Americans will likely not be ready in pharmacies by the time the new vaccines hit the market as early as this September, leaving millions of high-risk Americans in the lurch. The change comes during a post-pandemic transition. The government has paid for Americans' COVID-19 vaccines with every previous generation of COVID-19 vaccines, but with this next iteration of shots, the cost will switch to the commercial market. The CDC said the uninsured and underinsured won't be completely out of luck. While shots are not accessible in pharmacies, uninsured and underinsured individuals can get their COVID-19 shots at community health centers and state health departments. But throughout the pandemic pharmacies have been a

primary point of contact for vaccines. Nine out of 10 Americans live within five miles of a pharmacy, according to an analysis from the Journal of the American Pharmacists Association, while other health care points of contact can be much farther away.

## Climate & Development

### [Big costs, sweeping changes: What to know about the IRA \(Politico\)](#)

The Inflation Reduction Act that President Joe Biden signed into law one year ago Wednesday counts as his crowning legislative achievement: an economic stimulus package designed to put the U.S. at the forefront of the fight against climate change. Polls show that Biden is struggling to get voters' attention for his signature law, and the anniversary is competing with headlines about record-high temperatures, deadly wildfires and other dire climate news from around the globe. But Biden and other Democrats have mostly leaned into an economic message as they fan out across the country to sell the public on the IRA, which has drawn at least \$270 billion in private sector investments for technology such as wind turbines, solar panels and electric vehicle batteries. The implications of the law are huge — with major questions remaining about its ultimate price tag, the swift transformation it's pushing for the nation's energy markets, and its ability to lessen the pollution that's warming the planet.

### [Inside the \\$220bn American cleantech project boom](#)

### [US drops effort to include anti-whaling language in Indo-Pacific pact \(Financial Times\)](#)

The Biden administration has dropped efforts to pressure Japan to include anti-whaling language in its signature Indo-Pacific trade pact after fierce opposition from Tokyo and concern from some US officials. The US trade representative had been pushing Japan to accept anti-whaling language in the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, a trade deal the administration is negotiating with 13 Indo-Pacific nations. But USTR, an agency led by Katherine Tai, has reversed course because of the opposition, according to three people familiar with the move. The Financial Times reported last week that Tokyo had strenuously objected to including anti-whaling language in IPEF. One senior Japanese official said Tokyo was prepared to abandon IPEF unless the US backed down, which would have dealt a blow to Washington and a deal it hopes will provide an economic counterweight to China. The move to abandon efforts to pressure Japan comes as President Joe Biden prepares to host Japanese prime minister Fumio Kishida and South Korean president Yoon Suk Yeol for a historic trilateral summit at Camp David on Friday.

## [How the infrastructure law creates state oil winners and losers](#)

### [Extreme disasters are overwhelming safety systems not designed for climate-fueled events \(NBC News\)](#)

Wildfires have torched parts of Maui before, but never any as devastating as the ones that tore through Lahaina last week. Authorities are still working to understand what could have been done to better protect vulnerable communities across the island. But beyond questions about how the local emergency network performed, there are broader stakes for the entire world: Can emergency systems and infrastructure adequately handle the types of disasters that are becoming more frequent in a warming world? What the situation on Maui laid bare was how different risks all amplified by climate change could converge with disastrous outcomes. In many ways, that confluence of extremes had until now been underestimated, even by climate scientists, said Laura Brewington, a research professor at Arizona State University's Global Institute for Sustainability and Innovation and a co-director of the Pacific Research on Island Solutions for Adaptation program. In a reality where climate change is intensifying wildfires, supercharging storms and fueling droughts, heat waves and floods, the very idea of how to stay safe from those kinds of extreme events is being turned on its head.

---

## Next Week's Hearings

### **Armed Services Committees**

House: None Listed

Senate: None Listed

### **Appropriations Committees**

House: None listed

Senate: None listed

### **Homeland Security Committees**

House: None listed

Senate: None listed

The Senate and House are still in August recess. The Senate will reconvene on September 6th, and the House will reconvene on September 12th.

---

**WARNING:** This email originated outside York County's email servers. Please verify the sender's identity, and use caution when clicking any links or opening any attachments.