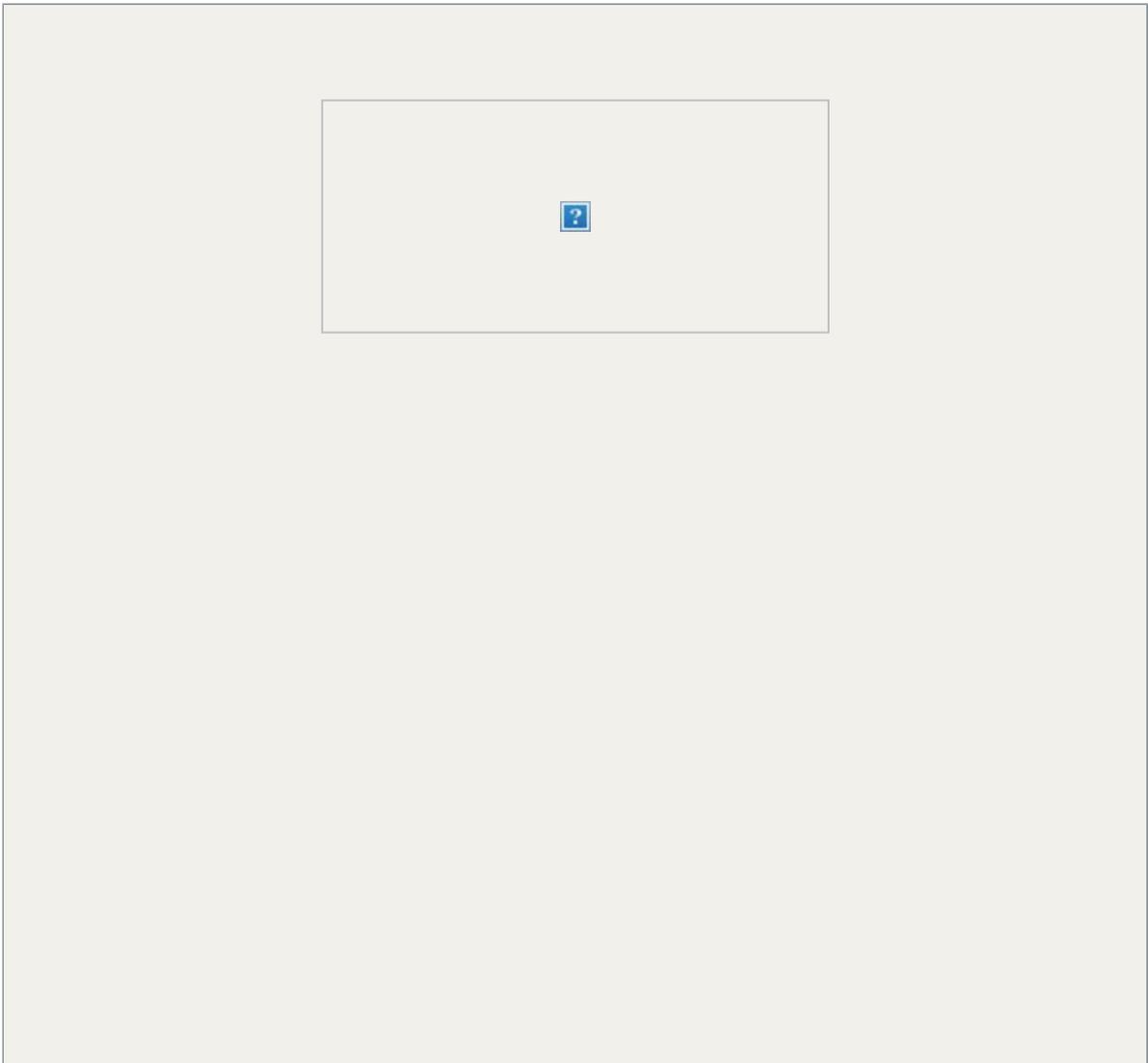


From: [Rick Dwyer](#)
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Subject: Executive Insight Brief
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Ladies & Gentlemen,
Below please find this week's edition of *Executive Insight Brief* from The Roosevelt Group.

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July 11, 2025

Executive Insight Brief

Stay informed with The Roosevelt Group's Executive Insight Brief—your weekly roundup of key developments shaping federal policy, defense, and homeland security. Curated by our expert team, each issue delivers timely analysis and strategic context to help you stay ahead.

In this episode of *The Roosevelt Group Podcast*, Senior Advisor Alycia Farrell and Principal Matthew Herrmann break down the "Big Beautiful Bill," a major spending package that was advancing through Congress. They explore key provisions in defense and cybersecurity, the strategic implications for national security, and what was expected as the bill neared the president's desk. Listen to the full episode [here](#).

Notable Headlines

[Trump to hit Canada with 35 percent tariff](#)

[Rubio says US and Russia have exchanged new ideas for Ukraine peace talks](#)

[Joni Ernst is the next GOP senator on retirement watch](#)

[OpenAI accuses nonprofit of Musk ties, lobbying violations, in California complaint](#)

[Trump plans to tour Texas flood damage as the scope of the disaster tests his pledge to shutter FEMA](#)

View From The Hill

In the wake of enacting President Trump's sweeping legislative agenda in the form of the "One Big, Beautiful Bill," Capitol Hill was a bit sleepier this week, with only the Senate coming back into session while the House remained in recess. Sen. Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD) [announced](#) his intention to pass new, tougher sanctions on Russia, arguing that targeting Russian energy production is needed to temper Vladimir Putin's ability to continue attacking Ukraine. The introduced measure to apply additional sanctions has more than eighty cosponsors in the Senate, but Senate GOP leadership has been waiting on the White House to bless the package before advancing it. Now, with President Trump overruling Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth's previous halt to new

weapons shipments to Ukraine, many in the Senate GOP see an opportunity to push forward on sanctions. This also comes as President Trump's rhetoric towards Putin has become increasingly tough, a shift welcomed by many in the Senate GOP ranks.

With the House-passed funding rescissions package set to expire July 18th, the Senate is under [pressure](#) to move on the appropriations clawbacks. However, several senators, including Appropriations Committee Chair Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME) are seeking changes to the House-passed version, including protection of funding for public broadcasting and AIDS prevention. The \$9.4 billion in funding rescissions are a signature priority for Russ Vought, the director of the White House Office of Management and Budget.

The House Committee on Oversight and Accountability is [continuing](#) to probe former Biden administration officials on the former president's mental acuity, but is being met with resistance from Kevin O'Connor, Biden's former physician. O'Connor is asserting doctor-patient confidentiality in refusing to answer questions from the committee, though he did appear in-person on Capitol Hill this week to comply with a congressional subpoena. Democrats on the panel and throughout Congress continue to argue that the investigation is overtly partisan and backward-looking.

Sen. Josh Hawley (R-MO) spent the week [touting](#) expanded treatment coverage for radiation exposure victims with the passage of budget reconciliation last week. The program, initially created in 1990, is intended to treat Americans downwind of nuclear testing sites in the American Southwest, as well as individuals located near uranium enrichment sites during the Manhattan Project. The new provisions enacted last week expand coverage to impacted populations in Missouri, Alaska, Tennessee, and Kentucky, while renewing coverage for individuals who have been left unable to file claims since the previous authorization expired in 2023.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott **announced** this week that he will call his state legislature back for a special session later this year to consider redrawn congressional district maps in a bid to squeeze even more GOP-held seats out of the Lone Star State. The move comes as Republicans look to defend their slim majority in the 2026 midterms and is causing heartburn among some sitting Texas Republicans worried about seeing their own districts potentially become more vulnerable. California Gov. Gavin Newsom also indicated he may do the same in his state to the benefit of House Democrats should Texas move forward with a new, gerrymandered map. This also comes as Rep. Zach Nunn (R-IA) weighs a bid for governor in Iowa, a move that would open up a vulnerable swing district for Republicans to try and defend.

This week, the Senate **confirmed** Bryan Bedford to lead the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Preston Wells Griffith III as Undersecretary for the Department of Energy. Bedford's confirmation comes at a critical time for the FAA, as the aviation industry has experienced a number of major incidents in the last several months, including a fatal collision between an American Airlines passenger jet and a U.S. Army helicopter in January. The agency has also struggled to maintain adequate Air Traffic Controller staffing at key airports, leading to widespread delays and cancellations at hubs like Newark Liberty International. The budget reconciliation bill passed last week includes billions of dollars in new funding for modernizing the nation's aviation management systems.

Pentagon News

Less than a week after pausing missile and ammunition shipments to Ukraine over concerns about the depletion of U.S. military stockpiles, the Pentagon **has decided** to resume weapons deliveries to Kyiv, according to a statement from

Chief Pentagon Spokesman Sean Parnell on Monday night. The announcement **emphasized** the need to provide more defensive weapons to Kyiv to help Ukrainians protect themselves, framing it as a broader effort to “secure a lasting peace” and “ensure the killing stops.” The official update came after President Donald Trump, during his conversation with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on the same day, **said** the U.S. needed to send more weapons that are capable of countering ongoing Russian threats.

These developments were reinforced during a Cabinet meeting on Tuesday, where President Trump **openly criticized** Russian President Vladimir Putin for the casualties of Moscow’s war in Ukraine. He **acknowledged** that persuading Putin to end the conflict has proven to be more difficult than he anticipated and **explained** that the resumption of weapons shipments was a response to Putin “not treating human beings right.” To mount pressure on Russia, President Trump **added** that he was seriously considering supporting a sanctions bill. Together, the decision to restart the delivery of weapons and the possible support of new sanctions signal a noticeable shift in the Trump administration’s approach as the conflict in Ukraine persists.

As the administration reasserts its international stance through military aid and potential sanctions, it is also expanding the scope of national security efforts at home—this time focusing on an unexpected frontier: America’s farmland.

In a less traditional move to secure U.S. military installations, on Tuesday, the USDA **introduced** its new National Farm Security Action Plan. This plan would form a partnership between the USDA and DoD focusing on safeguarding American farmland, agricultural research, and food systems from foreign threats. Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins **outlined** critical measures, including banning farmland purchases by Chinese nationals and reclaiming properties previously acquired. The plan aims to address growing concerns over national security vulnerabilities caused by foreign ownership of farmland near U.S. military installations. Rollins highlighted the broader effort to shield vital resources from foreign and agroterrorism.

Rollins announced additional policies to **reform** USDA contracts and research agreements by removing thousands of foreign nationals and entities deemed concerning. The USDA will work with DARPA to bolster American agricultural innovation, while new penalties will enforce transparency in foreign land ownership filings. Rollins noted the importance of bipartisan support and coordination with both state governments and Congress to implement stricter oversight and enhance agricultural security.

While domestic safeguards remain a key priority, the administration is also reaffirming its global defense partnerships, most notably with Israel, in the wake of recent regional conflict.

In the wake of the June Israel–Iran conflict, dubbed by President Trump the “Twelve–Day War,” Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth **welcomed** Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the Pentagon. It was the first foreign visit hosted by Hegseth in the Trump administration, a symbolic opening act in a new chapter of the familiar alliance. The two leaders emphasized the strength of the U.S.–Israel alliance, which Hegseth has **described** as “unbreakable.” Praising Netanyahu’s leadership during the conflict, Hegseth **described** Israel as the “model ally” and underscored the United States’ support of its right to self–defense. He later emphasized the deep strategic alignment between the nations, particularly in countering Iran and its proxies. Netanyahu, in turn, **expressed** deep appreciation for America’s support during and after the June war, highlighting the critical role of U.S. military aid and intelligence coordination. Overall, the meeting underscored a strong alignment between the two governments on defense strategy and regional security priorities, with a renewed emphasis on partnership and military alliance. Though no new agreements were formally announced, the visit signaled a strong policy alignment between the U.S. and Israel, built on a clear-eyed view of a united approach to tackling the challenges ahead.

Next Week's Hearings

Armed Services Committee

U.S House of Representatives

- NONE

Senate

- NONE

Appropriations Committee

U.S. House of Representatives

- 7/14, 6:00 PM - Subcommittee Markup of Fiscal Year 2026 Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Bill
- 7/17, 10:00 AM - Full Committee Markup of Fiscal Year 2026 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Bill

U.S. Senate

- NONE

Homeland Security Committee

U.S. House of Representatives

- 7/15, 10:00 AM – Surveillance, Sabotage, and Strikes: Industry Perspectives on How Drone Warfare Abroad Is Transforming Threats at Home
- 7/15, 2:00 PM – Case-by-Case: Returning Parole to its Proper Purpose
- 7/16, 10:00 AM – An Inside Job: How NGOs Facilitated the Biden Border Crisis

U.S. Senate

- 7/15, 3:00 PM – Voices of the Vaccine Injured



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