



Sharing capitol ideas.



# The Federal **Agenda** **and** *CSG-WEST*



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## **Lots of talk little action...**

- Since the passage of the Budget Control Act in 2011, only must pass legislation has made it out of Congress. Even the recent Surface Transportation Bill, MAP-21, largely extends funding at existing levels and was driven by a looming deadline.
- Whether it is the House's effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act or the Senate's effort to extend tax cuts for those making \$250,000 or less, floor time has been dominated more by campaign messaging than by legislative action.
- Even the Farm Bill is stalled due both to disagreements within the House GOP caucus over crop insurance and between the House and Senate over food stamp cuts.
- However, a perfect storm of fiscal challenges is approaching with the expiration of both the Bush tax cuts and the payroll tax cut as well as the threat of \$109 billion in FY13 sequestration cuts which will force action by the lame duck Congress.



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## ***A CSG- WEST Success...***

- CSG's Washington Office acts as a voice for the west in DC, actively advocating resolutions adopted by CSG- *WEST*.
- The transportation bill passed in June (MAP-21), included a one-year extension for a top CSG-WEST federal priority – The Secure Rural Schools Act. The extension funds rural schools impacted by federal lands at 95% of the FY11 level.

Alaska	<b>\$14.8 million</b>	Nevada	<b>\$4.3 million</b>
Arizona	<b>\$12.6 million</b>	New Mexico	<b>\$11.2 million</b>
California	<b>\$37.4 million</b>	Oregon	<b>\$61 million</b>
Colorado	<b>\$13.3 million</b>	Utah	<b>\$10.6 million</b>
Idaho	<b>\$26 million</b>	Washington	<b>\$20.2 million</b>
Montana	<b>\$19.5 million</b>	Wyoming	<b>\$4.2 million</b>



## **CSG's Federal Agenda...**

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CSG concentrates on areas where there is both bipartisan consensus among states and potential for outsized impact:

- 1. Marketplace Fairness Act** – CSG is working with the Big Seven coalition to support this bill to enable states to begin collecting 20 billion+ in sales taxes on online transactions.
- 2. STEP Grants** – CSG is working to reauthorize a successful grant program, first created by CSG advocacy in 2010, which helps economic development agencies expand state exports. Exports currently account for over half of U.S. economic growth. All CSG-*WEST* states have received STEP funding.
- 3. Medicaid Fraud Initiative** – Congress is considering legislation to curb over \$22 billion in annual Medicaid fraud. CSG is working with Congress to support state-based fraud prevention initiatives and to identify best practices.



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# For further assistance contact **CSG Washington**

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