

## **Legislation and Regulation Committee**

**Committee Members:** R.T. Bowyer, V. Brack, Jr., R. W. Kays, T. J. McIntyre, D. Odell, , E. A. Rickart, R. Rodriguez, S. R. Sheffield, D. W. Sparks (Chair), E. W. Valdez.

### **Mission:**

The Legislation and Regulations Committee was formed in 1976 to monitor and provide input into the state and federal regulation and legislation process on such issues as endangered species, trapping and harvesting regulations, and the use of animals for experimental purposes.

### **Information Items:**

(1) For the past several years, the Committee has noted how the US House of Representatives repeatedly advanced bills aimed at removing much of the authority from several major pieces of environmental legislation including the Endangered Species Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Clean Water Act, and the Clean Air Act. We noted that these actions were of little concern so long as a presidential veto was assured. A similar agenda now has the support of the Senate and the President. The Congress is, at present, distracted by healthcare and tax cuts. Meanwhile, the Executive Branch vacillates between sharing the Congressional Agenda and issuing a multitude of executive orders many of which will impact issues of concern to the ASM.

Moving forward, expect natural resources agencies to receive substantial funding cuts when the promised tax cuts are approved and when the current Continuing Resolution expires in September. Also expect a heavy hand from the Administration in the name of green-lighting infrastructure projects prior to the 2018 midterm elections.

**Action Items:** None.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
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