

NDA Secures Key Victories in FY 2023 Government Funding Bill

Late last month, Congress passed a \$1.7 trillion bipartisan appropriations bill which fully funds the federal government through the remainder of fiscal year (FY) 2023. NDA was able to secure several important victories for the demolition industry in the legislation. These include increased investments in workforce development initiatives, EPA Brownfields and Superfund programs, infrastructure, disaster relief, small business programs and more. NDA has [lobbying Congress](#) on these priorities over the past several months.

Below is an outline of key provisions for the demolition industry in the bill. A full summary from the House Appropriations Committee can be found [here](#).

- **Infrastructure:** Fully funds and implements the infrastructure investments in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law passed in 2021).
- **EPA Brownfields & Superfund:** \$100 million for Brownfields cleanups, an \$8 million increase above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level, and \$1.3 billion for Superfund, an increase of \$50 million above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level.
- **Workforce Development:**
 - \$2.2 billion for Career, Technical and Adult Education, an increase of \$100 million above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level.
 - \$65 million to continue and expand Strengthening Community College Training Grants to help meet local and regional labor market demand for a skilled workforce by providing training to workers in in-demand industries at community colleges and four-year partners. This is an increase of \$15 million over the fiscal year 2022 enacted level.
 - \$285 million for Registered Apprenticeships, an increase of \$50 million above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level.
 - \$7,395 for the maximum Pell Grant, an increase of \$500 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level.
 - \$2.9 billion for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act State Grants, an increase of \$50 million above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level.
- **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG):** \$3.3 billion for Community Development Block Grants.
- **Disaster Relief:** \$38 billion in funding to respond to recent natural disasters and extreme weather events.
- **Small Business Administration (SBA):** \$1.2 billion for the SBA, an increase of \$188 million above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level, to support investments in programs to help underserved entrepreneurs access capital and contracting opportunities. In addition, the bill provides \$858 million in emergency supplemental funding for SBA's Disaster Loans Program to support requirements for Hurricanes Fiona, Ian, and other disaster loan programs administered by SBA.

House Deadlocked on Speaker Vote for 118th Congress

The House of Representatives has yet to elect a Speaker of the House for the new 118th Congress which convened for the first time this past Tuesday. Following the November midterm election, Republicans currently hold a 222-213 majority in the House but have yet to agree on a candidate for Speaker of the House. To be elected Speaker, a nominee must receive a majority of votes from members in the chamber (currently 218).

Former minority leader Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) is vying for the Speaker's gavel but has come up 15 votes short in his bid on the House floor. Republicans in the House continue to negotiate a path forward that would give Rep. McCarthy the 218 votes he needs to be elected Speaker but there is no concrete timeline for a resolution. The House of Representatives cannot move forward with votes or forming committees until a Speaker is elected.

IRS Issues Standard Mileage Rates for 2023

At the end of December, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) issued the [2023 optional standard mileage rates](#) used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes.

Beginning on January 1, 2023, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups or panel trucks) are as follows:

- 65.5 cents per mile driven for business use, up 3 cents from the midyear increase setting the rate for the second half of 2022.
- 22 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes for qualified active-duty members of the Armed Forces, consistent with the increased midyear rate set for the second half of 2022.
- 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations; the rate is set by statute and remains unchanged from 2022.

These rates apply to electric and hybrid-electric automobiles, as well as gasoline and diesel-powered vehicles. Guidance from the IRS can be [found here](#).

Fatal Work Injuries Up Nearly 9% from 2020

According to a recent report from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, there were 5,190 fatal work injuries recorded in the United States in 2021, an 8.9% increase from 4,764 in 2020. The fatal work injury rate. There was 3.6 fatalities per 100,000 full-time equivalent (FTE) workers, up from 3.4 per 100,000 FTE in 2020 and up from the 2019 pre-pandemic rate of 3.5.

Transportation incidents remained the most frequent type of fatal event in 2021 with 1,982 fatal injuries, an increase of 11.5 percent from 2020. This major category accounted for 38.2 percent of all work- related fatalities for 2021. To read the full report, [click here](#).