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**Advocacy Digest | July 20, 2023**

**Brad Boycks, Executive Director**

**A NAHB Update from Evan Loukadakis, Federal Legislative Manager**

1. 🛠NAHB Fighting Back on Jobs Corps Cuts

**House Appropriators are proposing** to cut the Department of Labor’s Job Corps program by as much as 30%.

* Why this is important: The Home Building Institute (HBI), in partnership with NAHB, utilizes Job Corps funding to train and place young people in the construction industry.
* The gap: Nearly **2.2 million new construction workers** will be needed to keep up with housing demand over the next three years. Job Corps funding is critical to HBI’s mission of workforce education.

We have been actively lobbying appropriations leaders and have had productive conversations on restoring funding.

Read more on [NAHB’s Blog.](https://www.nahb.org/blog/2023/07/job-corps)

1. 🏛Chairwoman Alicia Huey Testifies Before the Housing & Insurance Subcommittee

**Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG)** is a lens regulators and elected officials use when crafting policy. What are policy examples of this? Phasing out gas stoves in homes and pushing stringent energy codes.

* The Housing & Insurance Subcommittee invited NAHB to testify to learn more on how these ESG-inspired policies raise housing costs.
* NAHB is pushing back on a number of these initiatives which unnecessarily increase the cost of housing— raising electrical transformer standards, gas stove electrification, broad WOTUS rules, and more.

I want to thank you for your part in advocating for these issues back home.

[See more of the committee hearing details here.](https://www.nahb.org/news-and-economics/press-releases/2023/07/nahb-tells-congress-how-excessive-regulations-and-codes-harm-housing-affordability)

1. 💧WOTUS: EPA and the Army Corps Work on a New Rule

**After the Supreme Court struck down** a key pillar of the Biden WOTUS rule, the agencies are now in the process of developing a new rule.

* We’re closely monitoring what the new, amended rule will be for two reasons: Will the agencies closely adhere to SCOTUS’s ruling? And how quickly will they begin reissuing permits to the regulated community?
* NAHB will be meeting with the White House’s Office of Budget and Management in the coming weeks to discuss finalizing a clear and legally appropriate rule.

[See recent activity here.](https://www.nahb.org/blog/2023/06/wotus-comment-letter)

**From WI DNR: Sackett Decision and DNR Nonfederal Wetland Exemptions**

In May 2023, the U.S. Supreme Court decided the case of Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This decision addressed the limits of what may be considered “waters of the United States.”  EPA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) are amending the “Revised Definition of Waters of the United States” rule to be consistent with the U.S. Supreme Court decision. The EPA and USACE intend to issue a final rule by September 1, 2023. This process has limited the ability for USACE to issue jurisdictional determinations nationwide.

Customers pursuing a non-federal wetland exemption are advised that their project timelines may be affected, as Wisconsin’s non-federal wetland exemption review process requires a jurisdictional determination from USACE.  If you have questions about potential mechanisms for moving your project forward other than the non-federal wetland exemption process, please contact a DNR Water Management Specialist. In the [DNR Staff Directory](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDAsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vYXBwcy5kbnIud2kuZ292L3N0YWZmZGlyL2NvbnRhY3RzZWFyY2hleHQuYXNweCIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzA3MTguNzk4MjMwNDEifQ.vJ2IOhxQ6yLqunullzbm0LMLXC3KMGCgS0YNr5_9tp4/s/193673379/br/222836069117-l) select the appropriate county, and type in “Water Management Specialist – Wetland & Waterway” in the subject line.