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This Week at the Statehouse

Legislative Update - Week 4

The House and Senate continued work this week in various subcommittee and full committee meetings working through the various bills that have been introduced so far this session. While there have not been any hearings on bills important to SC Farm Bureau interests, GR staff continue to educate members of the Senate of the importance in passing [S. 107 - The Dams & Reservoir Safety Program](#) bill. It is important to contact your senator to tell them to support S. 107 because it is a common sense bill that improves safety within the dam safety program, concentrates DHEC's limited resources on our significant and high hazard dams, and provides much needed relief of the financial burden placed on dam owners facing repairs from reclassification due to encroaching urban sprawl into rural areas. Please contact your senator today to share this important message!

(SN - GP) Dams and Reservoir. South Carolina Farm Bureau supports reasonable standards concerning the construction, inspection, maintenance, and repair of all high risk pond dams.

New Bills of Interest

Introductions of Interest

[S. 435](#) ([Word](#) version) -- Senator Setzler: A SENATE RESOLUTION TO HONOR AND RECOGNIZE KEVIN YON OF YON FAMILY FARMS AND TO CONGRATULATE HIM ON BEING NAMED THE 2018 SOUTHEASTERN FARMER OF THE YEAR.

The Senate Resolution was adopted.

SCFB Congratulates the Yon family!

[S. 169](#) ([Word](#) version) -- Senators Hembree, Senn and Campsen: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO URGE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO WORK EXPEDITIOUSLY TO REMOVE BARRIERS TO CONDUCTING RESEARCH ON THE USE OF CANNABIS TO TREAT MEDICAL CONDITIONS AND ILLNESSES.

Referred to Committee on Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs

*(SN-GP) 40. **Marijuana** - We are strongly opposed to the legalization of recreational marijuana. We are not opposed to marijuana for medicinal purposes.*

[H. 3780](#) ([Word](#) version) -- Rep. White: A BILL TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING ARTICLE 3 TO CHAPTER 7, TITLE 59 SO AS TO CREATE THE "GROWING RURAL ECONOMIES WITH ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY (GREAT) PROGRAM", TO FACILITATE THE DEPLOYMENT OF BROADBAND TO UNSERVED AREAS OF THE STATE, TO PROVIDE DEFINITIONS, TO ESTABLISH THE GROWING RURAL ECONOMIES WITH ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY FUND, TO PROVIDE THAT ANY PROPERTY OWNED BY A MUNICIPALITY MAY BE LEASED OR RENTED IN CERTAIN SITUATIONS, TO PROVIDE THAT A MUNICIPALITY-OWNED UTILITY MAY BE LEASED, TO PROVIDE THAT A MUNICIPALITY IS AUTHORIZED TO SELL OR LEASE ANY PUBLIC ENTERPRISE THAT IT OWNS, TO PROVIDE THAT THE STATE SHALL ALLOW COLLOCATION, INSTALLATION, AND OPERATION OF CERTAIN EQUIPMENT BY A BROADBAND PROVIDER ON ANY EXISTING STRUCTURES, AND TO PROVIDE FOR A MONTHLY 911 SERVICE CHARGE; AND TO DESIGNATE THE EXISTING PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 7, TITLE 59 AS "ARTICLE 1, GENERAL PROVISIONS".

Referred to Committee on Labor, Commerce and Industry

(NS-GP) 11. We support broadband access in all parts of South Carolina.

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Congressional Report

On the National News

Capitol Hill negotiators kicked off talks Wednesday on a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) spending bill aimed at reaching an agreement on border security funding before funding lapses on Feb. 15. The federal government is now back at work after a 35-day shutdown over \$5.7 billion for a southern border wall or barrier. Republican and Democratic conferees hope to hash out a compromise while averting yet another government shutdown.

House Agriculture Committee Ranking member K. Michael Conaway announced the subcommittee Ranking Members for the 116th Congress.

- Rep. Austin Scott (GA-8) will serve as Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy and Credit.
- Rep. David Rouzer (NC-7) will serve as Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture.
- Rep. Dusty Johnson (SD-AL) will serve as Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Nutrition, Oversight and Department Operations.
- Rep. Glenn 'GT' Thompson (PA-15) will serve as Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management.
- Rep. Neal Dunn (FL-2) will serve as Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture and Research.
- Rep. Doug LaMalfa (CA-1) will serve as Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry.

With farm bill implementation underway, these subcommittees will play an instrumental role in promoting and protecting policies that are important to rural America.