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From: Elizabeth D. Horton
Sent: Wednesday, March 08, 2017 11:37 AM
To: Agency Wide; News Clippings
Subject: Legislative Update for Wednesday, March 8, 2017

The Senate reconvened at 9:30 a.m.

According to *CQ*, the Senate reconvened at 9:30 a.m. and is expected to resume consideration of a joint resolution (H J Res 58) that would disapprove of and nullify an Education Department rule related to evaluation of teacher preparation programs.

The House reconvenes at 12:00 p.m.

According to *CQ*, the House reconvenes at noon for legislative business and is expected to consider measures under suspension of the rules. The chamber will also consider a bill (HR 1301) providing full-year appropriations for the Defense Department for Fiscal 2017.

Legislative Branch Ethics and Related News

The Hill reports that Sen. James Lankford will introduce a package of regulatory reform bills saying in a statement that “the federal rulemaking process needs to be improved with greater transparency and accountability.” [Top Republican pushing reg reform bills](#)

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

Roll Call reports on the slow pace of lower-level executive branch nominations being sent to the Capitol. [Senators Ask White House: Where are the Nominees?](#) In another article, *Roll Call* reports on the delayed confirmation of various nominees and mentions some of the nominees’ statuses in the financial disclosure process of the Office of Government Ethics. [Cabinet-Level Nominees Play the Waiting Game](#)

The Daily Beast reports that the White House would not say whether it would continue the practice of releasing the names of White House visitors that ethics groups say are crucial to government transparency and which some say could fuel criticism of President Trump’s alleged financial conflicts of interest. The article also notes that the White House has yet to update pages on its website where it says visitors will be able to find staff salaries and waivers issued to administration officials exempting them from the ethics pledge imposed by a January executive order. [White House Won’t Say If It Will Release Names of Visitors](#)

Bradenton Herald discusses the ethical concerns related to President Trump’s business arrangements including the Trump International Hotel in Washington, D.C. [Trump hotel is the place to be in the nation's capital](#)

The Bond Buyer reports that Puerto Rico Oversight Board Interim Executive Director Ramón Ruiz owns at least \$265,000 in Puerto Rico bonds and debt, in what some observers said may be a violation of federal laws on conflict of interest. [Oversight Board Director Owns at Least \\$265,000 in Puerto Rico Bonds](#)

International Business Times reports that President Donald Trump may have created a conflict of interest with the signing of his executive order calling for the review of the Clean Water Rule since it could directly benefit his many golf courses. [Trump Conflicts Of Interest: Clean Water Rule Executive Order Could Help President’s Golf Courses](#)

AOL reports that experts say that President Trump’s five congratulatory tweets promoting an announcement from the energy giant Exxon Mobil, the company from which his secretary of state came to the administration, entered a “gray

area” in terms of ethically acceptable language and promotion from the White House of an individual business. [‘They ought to be careful’: Trump raises eyebrows with heavy promotion of Exxon announcement](#)

Richmond Confidential reports that Richmond is on the record as the first city in the United States to call for an investigation into whether President Donald Trump’s business dealings are creating a conflict of interest for him in his role of president. [Richmond City Council calls for Trump impeachment probe](#)

Politico and *Reuters* report that a consumer advocacy group is filing a complaint to Congress accusing President Donald Trump’s friend Carl Icahn of violating lobbying rules by pushing the White House to change the federal ethanol regulations. The *Politico* article notes that when President Trump named Icahn as the White House’s special adviser for regulatory reform in December, he said Icahn would “not be serving as a federal employee or a special government employee and will not have any specific duties.” [Trump adviser Icahn accused of breaching lobbying rules \(Politico\)](#); [Watchdog to ask U.S. lawmakers to probe Icahn's role with Trump \(Reuters\)](#)

Federal Agency and Related News

Government Executive reports that non-defense agencies would collectively see their discretionary spending cut by about 10 percent in fiscal 2018 on top of a restoration of spending limits set by the 2011 Budget Control Act. [What We Know About Trump’s Proposed Budget Cuts So Far](#)

Next Scheduled Recess:

House: March 13

Senate: March 16-17