

City of Billings, Montana

Federal Advocacy Update



Thorn Run Partners

March 20, 2023

THORN RUN PARTNERS



About TRP

- Founded in 2010 as boutique bipartisan lobby shop
- Grown to 40+ person government affairs and strategic communications firm
 - #7 lobbying firm by *Politico*; “Top Lobbyists” by *The Hill*
 - Top-15 “Standout Firm” out of 2,095 Federal lobbying firms reviewed by *Bloomberg* in 2021
 - Consistently one of the fastest growing firms
- ~245 clients in the corporate, association, non-profit, education, and public sector spaces



Local Government Practice

- More than a century of combined experience
- Represent 40+ local governments in CA, FL, KS, MT, OR, and TX
 - Have represented some clients for more than 20 years
 - Large, urban communities to small, rural areas
 - Handle a wide variety of complex issues and projects
- Delivered significant funding + impactful policy wins on behalf of clients
- Deep Capitol Hill and Administration relationships
 - Shared among partners in a collaborative firm structure, rare for the consulting world
 - We pride ourselves on offering both political heft and substantive policy expertise



TRP Team

- 40+ person bi-partisan firm with significant expertise to enhance our work
 - Former House and Senate Chief's of Staff
 - Former House and Senate Appropriations Committee staff
 - Former House T&I Staff Director, Senate Staff Directors
 - Former Federal agency staff
 - Congressional Black Caucus, Blue Dog, and Republican leaders/fundraisers
 - Collectively, hundreds of years as successful lobbyists

- **Relevant Practice Areas**
 - Local government issues
 - Appropriations
 - Grants

- **Administration Engagement**
 - Nearly all Federal agencies
 - Office of Management and Budget
 - White House staff

- **Key Congressional Relationships**
 - House, Senate Leadership
 - Key Congressional Committees
 - Bi-partisan team



117th Congress in Review

Aside from the Democratic-only Inflation Reduction Act, Congress passed several bipartisan legislative “wins” over the past two years.

**BIPARTISAN
INFRASTRUCTURE
LAW**

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The graphic features the Department of Transportation logo and the text "BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW". Below the text are two photographs: one showing a construction site with a crane and another showing a white bus with a blue charging station.

WRDA
Water Resources Development Act of 2022

The graphic features a blue splash of water in front of the U.S. Capitol building. Below the splash is the text "WRDA" and "Water Resources Development Act of 2022".

**The CHIPS and
Science Act**

The graphic features a dark blue background with the text "The CHIPS and Science Act" in white.

**NATIONAL DEFENSE
AUTHORIZATION ACT**
Fiscal Year 2023

The graphic features a blue background with a silhouette of a military officer in uniform. Below the officer is the text "NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT" and "Fiscal Year 2023".

BREAKING NEWS
CONGRESS PASSES BIPARTISAN GUN SAFETY BILL

The graphic features a photograph of the U.S. House of Representatives floor. A red banner at the bottom reads "BREAKING NEWS" and a white banner below it reads "CONGRESS PASSES BIPARTISAN GUN SAFETY BILL".

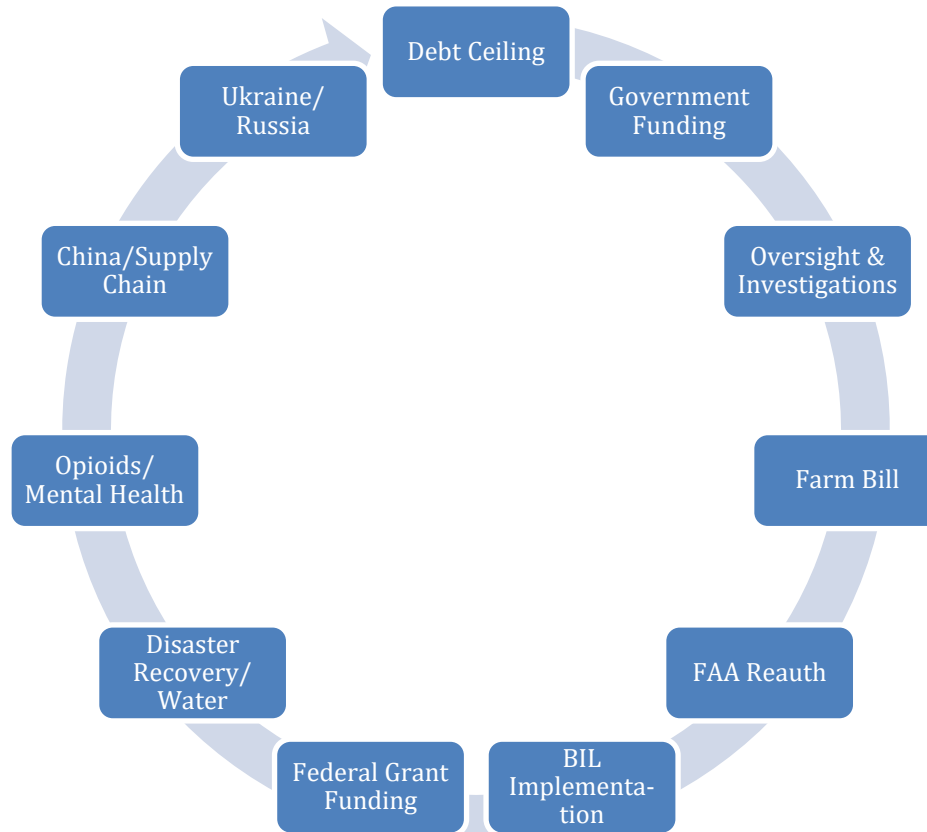
OSRA

The graphic features a stylized blue ship on a white background with a grid pattern. Below the ship is the text "OSRA" in white on a blue background.



WHAT TO WATCH IN 2023

Despite the return to divided government, these policy issues will drive congressional activity for the 118th Congress.



Efforts on Behalf of Billings

- Met extensively with City Leadership and Department Heads to discuss opportunities/challenges
 - Public Works, Police, Fire, Airport, Transit, and Parks
- Engaged with Congressional delegation on key City issues
- Facilitated meetings with important Federal agencies
- Discussed numerous opportunities with City
- Strategized for future efforts



Next Steps

- Visit the City
- Prepare for upcoming opportunities
 - Public Safety
 - Transportation – future RAISE or other applications
 - Transit – funding for buses or bus facilities
 - Airport – Airport Improvement Program and FAA Reauthorization (Passenger Facility Charge Increase)
- Further investigate legislative concerns/opportunities



Questions?

Thank you!

