Office of External Affairs



February 25, 2013

OEA Mission Statement

- OEA develops and manages external communications strategies to a variety of audiences:
 - Congress,
 - Employees Thrift Advisory Council (ETAC),
 - Media, and
 - other Federal agencies.

OEA Staffing

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Congressional Oversight

 Congress has unfettered power to review every aspect of a Federal agency.

- Congress has access to 3 Congressional organizations to help them:
 - Government Accountability Office
 - Congressional Research Service
 - Congressional Budget Office

Congressional Oversight

- For most agencies, Congress holds one vitally important key – their budget.
 - Not just the total amount but down to the project level.

 The FRTIB is one of the few agencies for which that is not true – it provides a very beneficial degree of predictability.

FRTIB Oversight Committees

- House Oversight and Government Reform Committee (23R/17D)
 - Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, U.S.
 Postal Service and the Census

- Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs (9D/8R)
 - Subcommittees haven't been finalized for this Congress.

FRTIB Oversight

 Most agencies have multiple Committees to deal with; at least oversight and appropriations.

 As an extreme example, Department of Homeland Security has 108 full and subcommittees in Congress overseeing its activity.

SERVICES COMMITTEE

U.S. House of Representatives	J.S. Senate					
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY	HOUSE AGRICULTURE					
Emergency Communications,	COMMITTEE	HOUSE ADMINISTRATION	HOUSE NATURAL RESOU COMMITTEE	SENATE FOREIGN	SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE	
Preparedness & Response		COMMITTEE	Insular Affairs	RELATIONS COMMITTE	manaportation, mousing and	
Emerging Threats, Cybersecurity and Science and Technology	HOUSE PERMANENT SELECT	Capitol Security	National Parks, Forests	and and	Urban Development and Related Agend	
Intelligence, Information Sharing and Terroris	COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE		Public Lands	Co	mmerce, Justice, Science and Related A	
Risk Assessment	Terrorism, Human Intelligence, Analysis and Counterintelligence	HOUSE TRANSPORTATION A	and occars	SENATE BUDGET COMMITTEE	Financial Services & General Governme	
Border, Maritime and Global Counterterrorisi	m	INFRASTRUCTURE COMMIT Aviation			Interior, Environment & Related Agenci	es
Management, Investigations and Oversight		\		IERCE, SCIENCE AND	Homeland Security	
Transportation Security and Infrastructure Protection	HOUSE STEEL CAUCUS	Railroads, Pipelines & Hazardous Materials	Oceans	ATION COMMITTEE , Atmosphere,	Labor, Health & Human Services, Education & Related Agencie	es
illiastructure Protection		Economic Development, P		and Coast Guard	Potence	
	HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE	Buildings and Emergen Management		ansportation and arine Infrastructure.	Defense	
HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE	Commercial and		Safety	·	E ARMED SERVICES SENATE F	
Europe	Administrative Law	Coast Guard and Maritin Transportation		te Commerce,	COMMITTEE COMMI	TTEE
	Crime, Terrorism			and Tourism	SENATE SPECIAL	
Western Hemisphere	and Homeland Security		ENATE SELECT	SENATE SMALL	COMMITTEE ON AGING REPUB	
Africa and Global Health	Immigration Chinasahia Dafrassa	COMMIT	TEE ON INTELLIGENCE	BUSINESS COMMITTEE		ITTEE
International Organizations, Human Rights	Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, lorder Security and International Law		DEMOCRATIC POL			Th.
& Oversight	On the state of the State of	7	COMMITTEE		SENATE HOMELAND SECURIT AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS CON	
Terrorism, Nonproliferation & Trade	Constitution, Civil Rights & Civil Liberties	DH	S	NATE HEALTH, EDUCATION,	Discotor Description	
renonsin, Nonpromeration & trade			ŞEI	AND PENSIONS COMMITT	EE	
Middle East & South Asia HOUSE BU	HOUSE ENERGY & COMMER	CE			Federal Financial Management Government Information,	it,
COMMI	TTEE			Retirement & Aging	Federal Services and International	Security
HOUSE OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT	Health		SENATE ENERGY AND NATI		Oversight of Government Manage	ment.
REFORM COMMITTEE	Oversight and Investigation	ons	RESOURCES COMMITTI		Federal Workforce and District of C	
Domestic Policy	Commerce, Trade and Consumer	Protection HOUSE APPROPE	RIATIONS COMMITTEE		State, Local and Private Sect Preparedness and Integratio	
Federal Workforce, Postal Service & the District of Columbia	Environment and Hazardous M	Materials D	efense	HOUSE EDUCATION AND		
Government Management, Organization	Telecommunications and the I	Internet Select Intelliger	nce Oversight Panel	LABOR COMMITTEE	Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations	
and Procurement			ce, Science & Related	Workforce Protections	SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE	
National Security & Foreign Affairs	DUSE WAYS AND MEANS		gencies		Crime and Drugs	
Information Policy, Census & National Archives	Oversight		& Human Services, Related Agencies	DANISHIS HOUSING AND I	Immigration, Border Security and Citizenship Subcommittee	
	Trade Subcommittee HOUSE S	SCIENCE AND Homela	and Security	BANKING, HOUSING AND L AFFAIRS COMMITTEE	RBAN and Citizenship Subcommittee	
HOUSE FINANCIAL SERVICES		GY COMMITTEE		11111110	Constitution, Civil Rights & Property F	lights
COMMITTEE HOUSE SMAL	100111101033	and Innovations	Senate Environn		Terrorism, Technology and Homeland S	ecurity
		h & Science Public Works Committee Transportation Safety.		Administrative Oversight and the Co	urts	
Investigations & Oversight Oversight		SENATE AGRICULTURE, N	Infrastructure Se	ecurity	Human Rights and the Law	
	SERVICES COMMITTEE	AND EXPECTEL COM	OTHERON	U.S. HELSINKI CO	MMISSION	

AND FORESTRY COMMITTEE

FRTIB Oversight

 FRTIB is uniquely positioned by its fiduciary responsibility to the participants and the independence created by the fiduciary obligation.

 Imprudent actions by FRTIB employees or contractors can always put that at risk.

Focus of Congressional Oversight

 Committees with oversight of FRTIB/TSP have oversight over Office of Management & Budget, Office of Personnel Management, General Services Administration and Inspectors General.

 Focus tends to be on agency performance.

Changes to Federal Retirement Benefits

- There has been focus over the past few years on Federal employees retirement benefits.
- Directed at the defined benefit portion (eliminating or reducing) or
- Employee contribution (increasing).
- Have not focused on the TSP benefit to date.

Changes to TSP

 Over time, bills have been introduced to create specific TSP funds – gold, REITs, terror free; socially responsible investing.

No proposals pending to date.

 FRTIB does not have a legislative proposal at this time.

Pension Changes

 In addition to watching changes to FERS, we need to keep abreast of legislative changes to pension laws.

 Possibility of overhaul of the tax code could implicate tax treatment of retirement; completely unclear path forward at this point.

General Federal Employee Changes

 Federal employee pay will continue to be a issue in the budget discussions.

 Unclear how the pay issue will be treated as the sequestration takes place/is addressed/is postponed.