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| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | ***Quick Updates from Your HF Team***    **Final Election Outcomes Inch Closer to the Finish Line**    As predicted, election night didn’t deliver results to show which party would control each chamber of Congress.  As it became clear that Democrats would retain control of the Senate earlier this week by reaching the magic number of 50, the House GOP didn’t gain its razor thin majority of 218 seats until several days after election day. Despite the closely divided legislature, long-time allies of the hardwood industry from both parties will help shape the agenda next year, as well as the lame-duck session that will close the 117th Congress.  The Federation is also looking forward to meeting with new members of Congress that will join key Committees including Senate and Agriculture and Energy and Natural Resources and House Agriculture, Natural Resources and Ways and Means.    **Lame Duck Agenda Takes Shape**    Although final election outcomes will cast light on legislative dynamics in the lame duck session that kicked off Monday, many issues are emerging on top of the list in Congress:   * Federal Spending – Funding for the federal government runs out on December 16.  To prevent a partial government shutdown, lawmakers must kick the can for additional amount of time or agree on a final budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023. * Energy Permitting – Senate Democratic Leadership have struck a bargain with Sen. Manchin to address energy permit streamlines impacting projects in West Virginia. * Tax Package – Every year several tax credits reach their “sunset dates” and have to be dropped or renewed.  This year there’s a push for renewal of 100% depreciation of industrial equipment, which the industry supports.   **Industry Urges Congress to Extend Tax Break for Heavy-Duty Equipment**    On November 14, the Federation sent a letter to the Hill’s key tax writers urging Congress to extend the tax credit for 100% bonus depreciation as they consider an end-of-year tax package.  The industry relies on the credit to bolster investments in new dry kilns, boilers, forklifts, trucks and other equipment essential to producing hardwood products and moving them to end customers.   Although Congress generally pulls together a “tax extenders package,” as the legislation is generally known, at the end of each year, the timing and scope of a tax deal in December is not yet known.    **NOTE TO OUR READERS:**  The "DC Cheat Sheet" will not publish the week of Thanksgiving.  The Federation team wishes you a happy holiday and will send the next update on December 1! |  |  | | --- | | **Thoughts on the Cheat Sheet? Let us know at** [Hardwood.Federation@hardwoodfederation.com](mailto:Hardwood.Federation@hardwoodfederation.com)**!**    1101 K Street, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20005 | | |