

THE WICKER REPORT

By: United States Senator Roger Wicker



Wicker backs COVID-19 relief package Congress approves new aid and several Wicker-led bills

The week of December 27, President Trump signed a new COVID-19 relief bill paired with legislation to fund the government through the end of fiscal year 2021. The measure passed Congress with huge majorities after congressional leaders worked closely with President Trump's senior leadership team to craft the final agreement. Days later, President Trump signed the bill into law. Although it does not contain every priority the President or I wanted, this measure will provide a much-needed boost to families, workers, and businesses weathering the effects of this pandemic.

Landmark Bills Will Benefit Mississippi

The government funding package included additional measures that will benefit Mississippi. I helped guarantee support for new broadband data maps, which will lead to more broadband development in unserved areas. Congress also approved millions to help deploy broadband in rural communities, which I have

long supported. In addition, I worked to secure funding to help American companies remove and replace Chinese equipment from their telecommunications networks, which could be used to spy on Americans.

Lawmakers passed another major priority in the Water Resources Development Act. This bill could lead to more investment in Mississippi seaports, like the Port of Gulfport and the Port of Pascagoula, and harbors in Biloxi, Port Bienville, and Bay St. Louis. It will boost funding availability for environmental projects in DeSoto and Jackson Counties, and create feasibility studies for projects in Jackson, Hancock, and Jones Counties. I wrote a provision requiring a study on the impacts of flooding that overwhelmed

the Bonnet Carré Spillway in 2019. I hope this study will lead to new projects that will reduce flooding along the Lower Mississippi River.

Congress also approved several bills I have been working to pass since 2019. One of those is the PIPES Act, which will improve the safety of pipelines that deliver energy to our communities. Congress also passed my legislation overhauling the certification process for commercial aircraft after my committee's investigation revealed troubling oversight failures. This legislation will correct those regulatory lapses and improve the safety of our aviation system. Taken as a whole, this year-end legislation will advance America's economic and security interests as we enter 2021.

Mississippi county: Beaver dams could cause roadway flooding

Associated Press
Officials in part of the Mississippi Delta say beaver dams in creeks and other bodies of water could lead to flooding on roadways during the rainy winter season.

Leflore County road manager Jerry Smith said it's important to break up dams "because if you leave some there and we get a lot of rain, we are going to get a lot of flooding."

The Greenwood Commonwealth reported that Leflore supervisors voted in August to take part in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Beaver Control Program.

But, Chancery Clerk Johnny Gary Jr., who is also county administrator, said last week that communication had fallen apart between the county and the USDA.

The price for the Leflore County to participate is \$7,500 a year.

"At this point, we really need to take some kind of action because this is going to be a hindrance to Mr. Smith and the entire unit if they are going out and breaking up dams," Supervisor Reginald Moore said. "So let's see if we can wave a red flag to the USDA and say, 'Hey, this is an emergency situation.'"

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1) "No ___, no foul"
- 5) Big game venue
- 10) Not present or future
- 14) Involved in a yacht race
- 15) Buoyed wreckage
- 16) Reed instrument
- 17) Move emotionally
- 18) Like a noble gas
- 19) Give the cold shoulder
- 20) Cutters in craft stores
- 23) Trapshooting
- 24) Nightingale or Barton
- 25) Butted
- 28) David Bowie's rock type
- 30) The eye has it
- 31) Mocking imitation
- 33) Snake that killed a queen
- 36) Of royal lineage
- 40) Ma that says baa
- 41) TV studio sign
- 42) Wife of Osiris
- 43) Oktoberfest quaff
- 44) Measure of reflected light
- 46) Gestation stations
- 49) Meal with bitter herbs
- 51) Wallflower's cousin
- 57) Spontaneous motivation
- 58) "Too many cooks spoil the broth," e.g.
- 59) Brass subordinate
- 60) Triangle, in a child's drawing
- 61) Bus fare
- 62) Bit of bird food
- 63) Cat and dog
- 64) Far from drowsy
- 65) Casks

DOWN

- 1) Padlock partner
- 2) ___ spumante (sparkling wine)
- 3) Horse control
- 4) Sharpshooter
- 5) Straight, as wheels
- 6) Cowboy's milieu
- 7) Cast out
- 8) "Traffic" cop
- 9) Matter or freeze start
- 10) Certain marsupial
- 11) Despise with a passion
- 12) Becomes disenchanted
- 13) In need of a massage
- 21) Eisenhower, casually
- 22) Messy situation
- 25) Hardly a sophisticate
- 26) State solemnly
- 27) Type of formality
- 28) Ending with "church" or "movie"
- 29) Prune, as a tree branch
- 31) Dipper part
- 32) 21st Greek letter
- 33) Church feature
- 34) Tried to avoid a tag
- 35) Banco de Mexico concern
- 37) Dip one's ___ the water (test)
- 38) It's heard before a liftoff
- 39) Hearty dinner dish
- 43) They may compete with boxers
- 44) Pre-Christmas period
- 45) Oahu souvenir
- 46) Take forcibly
- 47) Severe spasm
- 48) Rye fungus
- 49) Charmer's critter
- 50) Ham-and-___ (oaf)
- 52) Martial arts workout
- 53) Pagan figurine
- 54) "In ___ of flowers ..."
- 55) Tree of Life site
- 56) Spreads leaves for drying

MADE IN THE SHADE

By Carla Azure

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