November 10, 2026

Board of Supervisors
Kern County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

ANNUAL OVERVIEW OF FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY
Fiscal Impact: None

This item provides a summary of Kern County's federal legislative activities for 2026, a year marked by targeted federal advocacy, progress in securing infrastructure funding, and efforts to protect the County's fiscal and programmatic priorities.

Guided by the Board's direction and informed by the Legislative Program Committee (LPC), Townsend Public Affairs (TPA) worked to advance the County's federal priorities through legislative analysis, congressional outreach, engagement with the Trump Administration, and formal advocacy on federal funding and regulatory proposals.

Notable legislative outcomes this year

Federal Appropriations and Community Project Funding: TPA helped secure the inclusion of three Kern County projects totaling **$11.1 million** in Fiscal Year 2027 House appropriations bills approved by the House Appropriations Committee. The projects include $4.9 million for the Panama Road Rehabilitation Project, $3 million for the California City Boulevard Extension Project, and $3.2 million for the Kern County Emergency Communications Project.

21st Century ROAD to Housing Act: Enacted July 11, 2026, the law expanded the permitted uses of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding to include construction of new affordable housing, allowing recipients to use up to 20 percent of their allocations for that purpose. It also authorized new competitive grant programs that could provide additional opportunities for Kern County, subject to future congressional appropriations.

Veterans and Military Infrastructure: The Fiscal Year 2027 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, supported by the County, passed the House in May and awaits Senate consideration. The bill includes a requirement to begin construction of the Bakersfield VA Outpatient Clinic.

Energy and National Security: The County advocated for federal action to strengthen domestic energy production and recognize Kern County's role in national resource development and military readiness. The Administration's April 20, 2026, presidential determination authorizing use of the Defense Production Act to expand domestic petroleum production, refining, and logistics capacity aligned with the central objectives of the County's advocacy.

Federal Grant Administration and Safety-Net Programs: TPA advocated against proposed federal grant-administration changes that could increase local compliance costs and legal exposure, and supported continued federal investment in workforce development, housing, and community development. The County also engaged to mitigate the implementation requirements of H.R. 1, which are expected to increase administrative workload and fiscal pressures associated with Medi-Cal and CalFresh eligibility requirements.

Budget and Direct Appropriations

- **FY 2027 Community Project Funding:** The County secured inclusion of three project requests totaling $11.1 million in House appropriations bills.
    - The Panama Road Rehabilitation ($4,900,000) and California City Boulevard Extension ($3,000,000) are included in H.R. 9170, the House Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill.
    - The Kern County Emergency Communications Project ($3,200,000) is included in H.R. 8845, the House Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations bill.
    - Both bills have been reported by the House Appropriations Committee and are awaiting completion of the legislative process.

- **Housing and Community Development:** TPA advocated for continued federal support for CDBG, HOME Investment Partnerships, and Emergency Solutions Grants. The enactment of the 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act creates additional flexibility for CDBG funds and potential competitive grant opportunities for housing production, infrastructure, and planning.

- **Workforce Development:** TPA advocated for sustained Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funding after proposed reductions threatened approximately $13.6 million of the $18.9 million supporting workforce programs across Kern, Inyo, and Mono Counties. The County emphasized the importance of maintaining services for workers, young people, and employers.

- **Veterans and Defense Funding:** The County supported federal appropriations for military construction and veterans services, including legislation containing a requirement to begin construction of the Bakersfield VA Outpatient Clinic. TPA also coordinated congressional meetings in support of the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Live Experimentation and accelerated Prototyping (UAS LEAP) project in eastern Kern County.

- **Secure Rural Schools:** TPA coordinated outreach to Kern County's congressional delegation in support of reauthorization and long-term stabilization of the Secure Rural Schools program, which helps counties maintain essential services despite limited property tax revenue from federally managed lands.

Legislative Influence

The County took positions on 13 federal bills during the 2026 Congressional session, including measures carried forward from 2025, achieving a **69% success rate** on bills we engaged on. The results demonstrate the importance of sustained advocacy and outreach with federal policymakers.

- **11 supported bills:** Of the 11 supported bills, one became law, six were approved by their respective legislative chambers of origin, and four remain in committee. TPA achieved an approximately 63% favorable outcome based on the County's supported legislation that advanced beyond committee or became law. Several measures remain pending and will require continued monitoring and advocacy through the end of the calendar year.

- **2 opposed bills:** Both opposed bills remained stalled, with no further substantive advancement reported during 2026. This represents a 100% favorable outcome under the report's methodology, although both measures remain subject to future congressional action.

Supported measures included legislation addressing veteran services and military construction, election security, wildfire mitigation, domestic energy production, transportation infrastructure, and trade policy. The County also supported the Golden Mussel Eradication and Control Act and other measures intended to advance local priorities.

Executive Orders and Regulatory Engagement

TPA monitored federal executive actions and regulatory proposals affecting Kern County's energy economy, federal funding, and local government operations. The County advocated for federal recognition of Kern's energy and resource-producing industries, including a request that the Administration use the Defense Production Act to strengthen domestic energy supplies, designate Kern County as a National Resource Development Zone, and establish a federal-state task force on energy security and military readiness.

TPA also assisted the County in responding to proposed revisions to the federal Uniform Guidance governing financial assistance. Formal comments submitted June 29, 2026, raised concerns that expanded federal authority over grant termination, additional pre-award reviews, increased subrecipient oversight, and uncertainty regarding allowable expenditures could create new costs and risks for local governments. Implementation of the proposed changes have been successfully delayed as part of the continuing resolution enacted September 2, 2026.

Additional advocacy addressed proposed duplicative federal grant-reporting requirements, with the County emphasizing that new reporting systems could increase administrative costs and create compliance risks despite existing audit and oversight requirements. TPA also supported the County's efforts to maintain federal attention on the Kern Valley Health District's approximately $32 million FEMA grant application for seismic upgrades to Kern Valley Hospital. Although the application cleared FEMA's regional review, a federal suspension and review of Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grants placed final approval at risk. Congressional outreach has helped maintain attention on the project, with final funding approval still pending.

Fiscal and Programmatic Impacts

Implementation of H.R. 1, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, created significant administrative and potential fiscal challenges for the County. As the local administrator of Medi-Cal and CalFresh eligibility, Kern County faces increased staffing, information technology, training, verification, and compliance demands associated with expanded work requirements and more frequent eligibility reviews. Expanded CalFresh work requirements took effect June 1, 2026, and the federal share of CalFresh administrative expenses decreased from 50 percent to 25 percent beginning October 1, 2026.

Beginning in 2027, additional Medi-Cal work requirements and more frequent eligibility reviews are expected to increase administrative costs. Further potential exposure could arise from federal provisions tying certain state CalFresh benefit costs to payment error rates beginning in October 2027, followed by potential Medi-Cal penalties associated with eligibility errors beginning in October 2029. The extent to which these costs may be passed to counties remains uncertain, however, TPA and the CAO remain committed to continued advocacy to secure adequate implementation funding, simplify compliance requirements, and protect local taxpayers from unfunded mandates.

Strategic Engagement

- **Congressional and Administration Outreach:** TPA coordinated engagement with congressional offices, committee staff, federal agencies, and senior Administration officials to advance County priorities and strengthen Kern County's federal relationships.
- **Kern Valley Hospital Seismic Upgrades:** TPA elevated the pending FEMA grant application with the County's congressional delegation to emphasize the importance of completing required seismic improvements and preserving access to emergency and acute care in the Kern River Valley.
- **Federal Grant Accountability:** TPA advocated for federal grant requirements that maintain accountability without creating duplicative reporting, unnecessary legal exposure, or additional unfunded administrative burdens for the County, which administered approximately $417 million in federal grants in 2024 alone.
- **Energy and Resource Development:** The County advanced federal policy proposals intended to support domestic energy production, national security, military readiness, local employment, and long-term economic stability.
- **Workforce and Community Development:** TPA advocated for sustained federal investment in workforce training, affordable housing, and community development programs serving Kern County residents and employers.

In parallel, the LPC continued to provide a forum for County departments and community stakeholders to inform federal legislative priorities. Through coordination among the Board of Supervisors, County departments, TPA, congressional offices, and federal agencies, the County advanced funding requests, influenced federal policy discussions, and elevated issues with direct implications for local services and economic development.

Looking Ahead

Collectively, these efforts strengthened Kern County's federal advocacy and positioned the County to continue pursuing infrastructure funding, protecting local resources, and addressing emerging federal policy and fiscal challenges. While several funding requests and legislative priorities remain pending, the County's 2026 efforts established a foundation for continued engagement in the second year of the 119th Congress and beyond.

Therefore, IT IS RECOMMENDED that your Board receive and file this report.

Sincerely,

Nancy Anderson
County Administrative Officer

NA/TB: LEGGEN Annual Overview of Federal Legislative Activity (BOS).doc

Attachment

cc: All County Departments

TOWNSEND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
WWW.TOWNSENDPA.COM

MEMO

To: **Kern County Board of Supervisors**

From **Townsend Public Affairs**
Ben Goldeen, Federal Advocacy Director
Spencer Street, Deputy Director
Christopher Townsend, President

Date: **November 10, 2026**

Subject: **Annual Federal Advocacy Report, 2026**

Townsend Public Affairs is pleased to present this annual report summarizing federal advocacy activities undertaken on behalf of Kern County during 2026.

Summary of 2026 Federal Legislative Advocacy

During 2026, Townsend Public Affairs worked closely with the Kern County Board of Supervisors and the Legislative Program Committee (LPC) to identify federal priorities, evaluate legislation and regulatory proposals, and develop advocacy strategies reflecting the County's goals. TPA regularly engaged the LPC on pending federal actions, prepared policy analyses and recommended positions, and coordinated outreach to the County's congressional delegation and the Trump Administration.

A principal focus of TPA's advocacy was securing Community Project Funding for high-priority County projects. Working with the County and its congressional delegation, TPA secured the inclusion of three requests totaling $11.1 million in fiscal year 2027 House appropriations bills: $4.9 million for the Panama Road Rehabilitation Project, $3 million for the California City Boulevard Extension Project, and $3.2 million for the Kern County Emergency Communications Project.

TPA also represented the County's interests on eleven federal bills, achieving favorable outcomes on five of nine supported measures that advanced beyond committee or became law, while both opposed bills remained stalled. In addition, TPA advocated for workforce and community development funding, opposed federal proposals that could impose new administrative costs, and expanded relationships with congressional leaders, federal agencies, and senior Administration officials. Collectively, these efforts positioned Kern County to compete for federal funding, protect local resources, and maintain a strong voice in federal policymaking.

Fiscal and Budgetary Impact of Federal Legislation

Positive Fiscal Outcome

- Federal Appropriations and Earmarks

  During 2026, TPA worked with Kern County and members of the County's congressional delegation to secure the inclusion of $11.1 million in community project funding for transportation infrastructure and emergency communications projects in Fiscal Year 2027 House appropriations bills. In all, three County requests were included in appropriations bills approved by the House Appropriations Committee:

  - $4,900,000 – Panama Road Rehabilitation Project sponsored by Rep. Valadao
  - $3,000,000 – California City Blvd. Extension Project sponsored by Rep. Obernolte and Sen. Schiff
  - $3,200,000 – Kern County Emergency Communications Project sponsored by Rep. Valadao

  The House Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill, H.R. 9170, includes both the $4.9 million for the Panama Road Rehabilitation Project, sponsored by Representative David Valadao, and $3 million for the California City Boulevard Extension Project, sponsored by Representative Jay Obernolte with support from Representative Vince Fong and Senator Adam Schiff. The House Appropriations Committee reported H.R. 9170 on June 3, 2026, by a vote of 34-27. The bill awaits consideration by the full House.

  The House Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations bill, H.R. 8845, includes the $3.2 million for the Kern County Emergency Communications Project, sponsored by Representative Valadao. The House Appropriations Committee reported the bill on May 13, 2026, by a vote of 32-28. No additional action has been taken on the legislation.

- 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act

  The 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act became law on July 11, 2026 and creates new opportunities for Kern County to obtain federal funding for affordable housing development, housing-related infrastructure, regulatory modernization, and the conversion of vacant commercial buildings into housing. Several of the newly authorized grant programs are subject to future congressional appropriations.

  The law expanded the permitted uses of Community Development Block Grant funding by allowing recipients to use up to 20 percent of their allocations for the construction of new affordable housing. This change will provide Kern County with greater flexibility to direct existing federal resources toward local housing production.

  The law authorized a competitive innovation fund providing $200 million annually for local governments that demonstrate measurable increases in housing supply. If Congress appropriates funding, Kern County could compete for grants supporting housing-related infrastructure, transportation improvements, community development activities, and other initiatives that expand attainable housing. Kern County may also become eligible for competitive planning and implementation grants to update housing plans and regulatory

processes, improve inspection capacity, coordinate housing development with transportation planning, and reduce barriers to affordable housing production.

Negative Fiscal Impact

- Fiscal Impacts of H.R. 1 Implementation

  Although the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, or H.R. 1, advances important federal priorities related to work, personal responsibility, and program integrity, its implementation creates substantial fiscal and administrative challenges for Kern County. The County administers both Medi-Cal and CalFresh eligibility on behalf of the state, meaning that expanded work requirements, more frequent eligibility reviews, and additional verification responsibilities will increase staff workload, information technology needs, training costs, and compliance obligations. These pressures began during 2026 as expanded CalFresh work requirements took effect on June 1 and the federal share of CalFresh administrative expenses fell from 50 percent to 25 percent beginning October 1. The reduction in federal support leaves state and county governments responsible for 75 percent of administrative costs at the same time that counties must perform more complex eligibility and case-management functions.

  Beginning January 1, 2027, certain working-age adults will be required to document at least 80 hours per month of employment, education, training, or community service to maintain Medi-Cal coverage, with more frequent eligibility reviews beginning in March 2027. These requirements will increase Kern County's staffing, verification, technology, and appeals-related costs.

  Additional fiscal risks will begin October 1, 2027, when states with CalFresh payment error rates above 6 percent may be required to contribute between 5 and 15 percent of benefit costs. Kern County could bear a portion of these costs if California passes them through to counties or reduces local administrative funding. Potential Medi-Cal penalties associated with eligibility errors could begin in October 2029. Continued federal advocacy should therefore focus on securing adequate implementation funding, simplifying compliance requirements, and protecting local taxpayers from unfunded federal and state mandates.

Summary and Analysis of Legislative and Regulatory Outcomes

Throughout the year, Kern County took formal positions on several key bills, many of which advanced through Congress. This summary includes information on all bills for which Kern County took a formal position during both years of the 119th Congress (2025-2026).

Legislation Supported by the County

- H.R. 8469 – Fiscal Year 2027 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act
  - This bill provides FY2027 appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and related agencies, including a requirement to begin construction of the Bakersfield VA Outpatient Clinic.
  - Status: Passed the House by a vote of 400-15 on May 20, 2026 and was received in the Senate where it awaits further action.

- S. 4603 – Golden Mussel Eradication and Control Act of 2026
  - Supported by the county, this bill would amend the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 to establish a demonstration program with respect to the golden mussel.
  - Status: Referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.

- S. 1272 – Trade Review Act
  - Supported by the county, this bill would provide for notification to, and review by, Congress with respect to the imposition of duties.
  - Status: Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance, awaiting further action.

- H.R. 7437 – Bridges and Safety Infrastructure for Community Success (BASICS) Act
  - This bill would improve federal transportation programs by ensuring funding reaches communities efficiently and is used where it delivers the greatest public benefit.
  - Status: Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

- H.R. 7296 – SAVE America Act
  - This bill would require proof of U.S. citizenship to register to vote, among other provisions aimed at election security.
  - Status: Passed the House as S. 1383 by a vote of 218-213 on February 11, 2026.

- H.R. 1949 – Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act
  - The bill streamlines federal approval of natural gas imports and exports by removing certain restrictions and giving the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission sole authority to approve related trade and facility applications as being in the public interest.
  - Status: Passed by House of Representatives. Awaiting further action in the Senate.

- H.R. 3109 – REFINER Act
  - This bill would require the Department of Energy to publish a report on petrochemical refineries located in the United States and provide recommendations to increase capacity.
  - Status: Passed by House of Representatives. Awaiting further action in the Senate.

- H.R. 471/S. 1462 – Fix Our Forests Act:
  - Supported by the County, this bill aims to reduce wildfire threats and expedite forest management.
  - Status: Passed by House of Representatives. Advanced through Senate Agriculture Committee, awaiting further action.

- H.R. 22 / S. 128 – SAVE Act:
  - Requires proof of citizenship for voter registration.
  - Status: Passed House; received in Senate.

- H.R. 2499 – Codify Executive Order 14248:
  - Preserves election integrity measures by codifying EO 14248.
  - Status: Introduced and referred to relevant committees.

- H.R. 3944 – Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act:

- Supports Kern County's veteran services and military infrastructure.
- Status: Became law (P.L. 119-37) as part of H.R. 5371 on November 12, 2025.

Legislation Opposed by the County

- S. 1240 – Defending America's Future Elections Act:
  - Repeals EO 14248 and restricts voter eligibility verification.
  - Status: Referred to Senate Committee, no additional activity.

- H.R. 3132 – CHOICE for Veterans Act:
  - Alters fee agreements for veterans' claims.
  - Status: Advanced in House Committee, no additional activity.

Legislative Success Rate

Kern County actively engaged on thirteen bills in 2026. Eight of the eleven bills were also engaged on in 2025, the first year of the two-year 119th Congress:

- 11 supported bills: 1 bill became law, 6 bills were approved by their respective legislative chamber of origin, and 4 remain in committee. This equates to an approximately 54% favorable outcome.
- 2 opposed bills: S. 1240 is stalled in committee while H.R. 3132 has not advanced since being reported by the House Committee on Veterans Affairs in May 2025. This equates to a 100% favorable outcome.

Stakeholder Engagement and Strategic Relationships

Support for Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funding

Townsend Public Affairs supported the Kern County Board of Supervisors in advocating for continued federal funding for the Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnerships, and Emergency Solutions Grants programs in fiscal year 2027 and beyond. The advocacy was especially timely as the Administration and Congress evaluated federal spending priorities amid stagnant program funding, rising project costs, and growing community needs.

Kern Valley Health District Support

Townsend Public Affairs worked with the Kern County Board of Supervisors to elevate the Kern Valley Health District's pending FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grant application with the County's congressional delegation. The approximately $32 million grant would support a shovel-ready seismic upgrade of the Kern Valley Hospital facility, enabling it to comply with California's 2030 seismic safety requirements and continue serving as the Kern River Valley's only local emergency and acute care facility. After the application cleared FEMA's regional review and approached final approval, a federal suspension and review of BRIC grants created an unexpected obstacle that placed the project's funding and timeline at risk.

In response, TPA helped the County communicate the project's urgency and broader public safety implications to Senators Alex Padilla and Adam Schiff and Representative Vince Fong. Following the County's September 2 letter, Representative Fong's office confirmed that it contacted FEMA to request a status update on the application. Although final approval remained pending, this outreach helped maintain federal attention on the project and established a foundation for continued engagement with FEMA and other federal and state partners. TPA's ongoing advocacy is focused on securing reconsideration and approval of the grant before delays jeopardize the

District's ability to complete the mandated improvements and preserve essential health care access for residents of the Kern River Valley.

Opposition to Proposed Changes to Federal Grant Administration

Townsend Public Affairs supported the Kern County Board of Supervisors in responding to the Office of Management and Budget's proposed revisions to 2 CFR Part 200, the Uniform Guidance governing federal financial assistance. The proposal represented a substantial change to federal grant administration and could have exposed the County to greater fiscal uncertainty, legal liability, and compliance costs across programs supporting public safety, transportation, health, housing, emergency response, and human services. These risks are particularly significant because Kern County administered approximately $417 million in federal grants in 2024 and relies on predictable federal commitments to establish budgets, maintain staffing, and plan multiyear services.

TPA helped advance the County's concerns through formal comments submitted on June 29, 2026 focusing on provisions that would expand federal authority to terminate grants based on changing policy priorities, impose additional pre-award reviews, increase county oversight responsibilities for subrecipients, and create uncertainty regarding allowable expenditures. This advocacy positioned Kern County as a responsible steward of federal resources while seeking to prevent federal accountability measures from creating unfunded mandates, disrupting congressionally authorized services, or shifting unreasonable financial and legal risks to local taxpayers.

Implementation of the rule was delayed as part of the continuing resolution enacted on September 2, 2026.

Support for Federal Workforce Development Funding

Townsend Public Affairs supported the Kern County Board of Supervisors in communicating the local consequences of potential reductions to Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act funding during consideration of the fiscal year 2027 Labor-HHS appropriations bill. TPA helped demonstrate that proposed funding reductions could jeopardize approximately $13.6 million of the $18.9 million supporting workforce programs in Kern, Inyo, and Mono Counties, potentially eliminating services for hundreds of adults and young people. By presenting district-specific data to Representative David Valadao ahead of key appropriations proceedings, the advocacy connected federal budget decisions to their practical effects on residents, employers, and America's Job Centers of California. TPA's work strengthened the County's case for sustained federal investment as a fiscally responsible means of helping residents enter or remain in the workforce, meeting employers' labor needs, and effectively implementing federal work requirements.

Federal Action to Protect Kern County's Energy and Resource Economy

Townsend Public Affairs supported the Kern County Board of Supervisors in advancing a coordinated federal strategy to protect the County's energy and resource-producing industries from restrictive policies while elevating their importance to national security and military readiness. In a letter to President Donald Trump the County requested that the Administration use the Defense Production Act to strengthen domestic energy supplies, designate Kern County as a National Resource Development Zone, and establish a federal-state task force on energy security and military readiness. TPA's advocacy established a line of communication for continued engagement with the Administration, Congress, and federal agencies on this effort. It also reinforced Kern County's position as a national leader in responsible resource development and

created additional opportunities to pursue federal policies that support local jobs, energy independence, military preparedness, and long-term economic stability.

The County's advocacy was reinforced by the Trump Administration's April 20, 2026, presidential determination authorizing use of Section 303 of the Defense Production Act to expand domestic petroleum production, refining, and logistics capacity. The action closely aligned with the County's request for federal intervention by recognizing domestic petroleum resources and infrastructure as essential to national defense and authorizing federal purchases, financial support, and other measures to address production, permitting, infrastructure, and supply-chain constraints. While the determination did not specifically designate Kern County for assistance, it validated the central premise of the County's letter and created a potential pathway for continued advocacy to secure federal investment in Kern County's energy production and related infrastructure.

Opposition to Duplicative Federal Grant Reporting Requirements

Townsend Public Affairs supported Kern County's federal interests by raising concerns regarding the U.S. Department of the Treasury's proposal to establish a new system of records for several federal financial assistance programs, including State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds enacted by the American Rescue Plan Act in 2021. The comments made to the County's congressional delegation emphasized that state and local governments have already complied with extensive reporting, documentation-retention, auditing, and subrecipient-monitoring requirements, and that retroactively requiring information through a separate system could duplicate prior work, increase administrative costs, create data inconsistencies, and heighten fraud and compliance risks. This advocacy reinforced Kern County's commitment to accountability while urging Treasury to rely on existing reports and audit procedures or, at minimum, provide adequate implementation time, training, flexibility, and safeguards to prevent additional unfunded burdens on local governments.

Griffiss Institute Advocacy Meetings

In April Townsend Public Affairs partnered with the Griffiss Institute to advocate for federal funding with direct benefit to jobs and growth in Kern County. TPA arranged several meetings with congressional leaders and the County's congressional delegation in support of the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Live Experimentation and accelerated Prototyping (UAS LEAP) project based in eastern Kern County. This partnership strengthened Kern County's relationships with congressional leaders, the County's delegation, and stakeholders in the defense and aerospace sectors. By arranging meetings in support of the UAS LEAP project, TPA elevated the County's role in advancing national defense priorities while building support for federal investment that could create local jobs, stimulate economic growth, and expand the region's innovation economy.

Support for Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization

Townsend Public Affairs supported the Kern County Board of Supervisors in advocating for reauthorization and long-term stabilization of the Secure Rural Schools program, which helps counties with substantial federally managed forestland maintain essential services despite their limited property tax base. TPA coordinated outreach to Representatives Vince Fong, David Valadao, and Jay Obernolte in support of reauthorizing the program. This advocacy helped ensure that Kern County's needs remained part of the broader federal discussion regarding the program's reauthorization and the federal government's responsibility to communities containing tax-exempt federal lands.