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Subject: Unspent Funds; FAST Act; Interstate Compacts; Sleep Deficiency; Minimum Wage

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States Shine Light on Unspent Funds

For state budgets, every dollar counts. But this is perhaps even more so the case at a time when state economies are still recovering from the Great Recession. That's why New Mexico State Auditor Tim Keller decided to take a closer look at state accounts when he was elected in 2014. In February, the New Mexico Office of the State Auditor released the second annual Fund Balance Report, which focuses on unspent funds in state government accounts that don't automatically revert to the state's general fund.

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FAST Act Allows States to See the Road Ahead

Signed into law by President Obama on Dec. 4, 2015, the Fixing America's Surface Transportation, or FAST, Act authorizes federal highway, highway safety, transit and rail programs through fiscal year 2020 and provides \$305 billion in funding from the Highway Trust Fund and the General Fund. The legislation is the first long-term surface transportation bill passed by Congress since 2005. None were happier to see the bill pass than state transportation officials.

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SIDO Works to Improve Federal-State Relations, Expand Global Trade

International trade directors from more than 35 states participated in meetings and discussions with federal officials, as well as a variety of foreign dignitaries and other partners at the State International Development Organizations', or SIDO's, Washington Forum in Washington, D.C., the first week of April. Recent legislative action and international trade agreements topped the agenda for the week.

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National Challenges, State Solutions: The Interstate Compact

While its use dates back before the founding of the United States, the interstate compact mechanism has evolved from a tool to settle land disputes to an agreement between the states that allows policymakers to solve some of America's most pressing issues. Tune in Tuesday, April 26 for a FREE CSG eCademy on the interstate compact mechanism and how states are putting it to use on issues ranging from health care to the criminal justice system and the education of military children.

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The Minimum Wage on the Ballot in 2016

Ballots that address the minimum wage have been certified for 2016 to appear in three states, with certification pending in another eight states. All of the initiatives seek to raise the minimum wage, except one. In South Dakota, the Decreased Youth Minimum Wage Referendum is a veto referendum that would overturn Senate Bill 177, which

Sleep Matters: Over One-Third of U.S. Adults Are Sleep Deficient

In February, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released the Prevalence of Healthy Sleep Duration among Adults—United States, 2014 report, which found that nearly 35 percent of U.S. adults ages 18-60 are not getting the recommended seven hours of sleep per night. While the focus has long been on children receiving their

decreased the minimum wage for workers under age 18 from \$8.50 to \$7.50 and provide that the youth minimum wage is not pegged to inflation.

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recommended hours of sleep per night, the CDC recommends increased focus on educating the public about the importance of adults maintaining a healthy sleep regimen.

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EPA Highlights Food Recovery on Earth Day

Friday, April 22, marked the 46th consecutive year that Americans have celebrated Earth Day, with a focus this year on the issue of food recovery. About 31 percent of the nation's food supply is lost or wasted, which results in decreased food security, adds unnecessary waste to landfills and adds to methane emissions, which contribute to climate change. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, food loss and waste is estimated to cost retailers and consumers about \$161 billion each year.

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Last Week to Apply for CSG 2016 Toll Fellowship Program

The clock is ticking, but there is still time to submit applications for the 2016 CSG Toll Fellowship Program. The deadline for submitting applications is this Friday, April 29. Individuals who plan to apply for the 2016 Toll Fellowship Program must submit a completed online application form and all supporting materials (i.e., letters of recommendation and support, completed questionnaire, resume) by midnight PDT on April 29.

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National Challenges, State Solutions: The Interstate Compact

Tuesday, April 26, 2 p.m. EDT
FREE CSG eCademy Webcast
REGISTER HERE

Putting Tech to Work for U.S. Military and Overseas Voting

Tuesday, May 10, 2 p.m. EDT
FREE CSG eCademy Webcast
REGISTER HERE

10 Years of the Roberts Court for State and Local Government

Wednesday, May 11, 1 p.m. EDT
Presented by the State and Local Legal Center
REGISTER HERE

Improving Species Conservation in the West: The WGA's Initiative

Thursday, May 26, 2 p.m. EDT/12 MDT
CSG eCademy Presented by CSG West
REGISTER HERE

InfraAmericas U.S. P3 Infrastructure Forum 2016

June 15-16, New York City, N.Y.
To register for the forum, please contact Piarve Wetshi at eventmail@inframationgroup.com. CSG is a supporting organization for the InfraAmericas forum.

REGISTER HERE

See Full Calendar

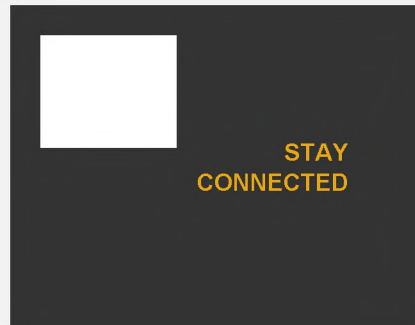
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The Council of State Governments
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