**ACI Monitoring Legislative Session Closely**

**The Statehouse.** The second week of the General Assembly is at an end. The deadlines for submitted bills to both the House and Senate have passed, January 10 and January 12, respectively. No agriculture committees met this week, however, stand by for up-to-date reports as those committees are scheduled.

Late last week, Governor Holcomb outlined his 2017 legislative agenda for “Next Level” Indiana. The five main objectives of the [agenda](http://www.nextlevelindiana.com/nextlevel2017agenda/) are:

* Cultivate a strong & diverse economy by growing Indiana as a magnet for jobs
* Create a 20-year plan to fund roads & bridges
* Develop a 21st century skilled and ready workforce
* Attack the drug epidemic
* Deliver great government service

The Indiana House Speaker, Brian Bosma, has outlined the majority caucus’s 2017 plan. The House’s major goals are passing a balanced budget and a road repair funding plan. The Speaker also intends to focus on education, job creation, workforce development, addition outreach, and public safety. The House news release can be found [here](http://www.indianahouserepublicans.com/news/press-releases/bosma-outlines-legislative-priorities-during-organization-day/).

This week, the Senate Republican Caucus announced its 2017 legislative agenda. Senate President Pro Tem David Long emphasized road funding, education, and the drug epidemic in his [speech](http://www.indianasenaterepublicans.com/news/2017/01/10/2017/senate-republicans-discuss-2017-session-priorities/) Tuesday.

An important bill to note, HB 1002, is part of a comprehensive plan to fund Indiana’s road repairs, and proposes a $0.10 fuel tax increase. Follow other bills of interest through this [link](http://www.hannah-in.com/Report_Custom.aspx?sid=GGmIhbVvwck%3d&rid=Us5F5CdyJSY%3d).

**Governor’s Office.** Eric Holcomb was inaugurated last Monday as Indiana’s 51st governor. His inaugural speech noted the pioneer spirit of Indiana and how he hopes to foster this into leading Indiana to the “next-level.” Along with Governor Holcomb, Lieutenant Governor Suzanne Crouch, Indiana Attorney General Curtis Hill, Superintendent of Public Instruction Jennifer McCormick, and Indiana State Auditor Tera Klutz were sworn in during the ceremony.

**Around the State.** The Indiana Board of Animal Health will meet in two weeks, on January 24. This will be the first Board meeting in 2017. To recap the Board’s October 2016 meeting, the Board approved new rules for dairy sanitation, meat and poultry sanitation, and captive cervidae hunting preserves. The agenda for the January Board Meeting can be found at this [link](http://www.in.gov/activecalendar/EventList.aspx?fromdate=1/24/2017&todate=1/24/2017&display=Day&type=public&eventidn=255790&view=EventDetails&information_id=254025).

The testing for Bovine Tuberculosis in Southeast Indiana is almost complete. The testing commenced after an infected whitetail deer was discovered in the area. 358 cattle heads have been tested, and only two have tested positive for the disease. States surrounding Indiana have mandated bovine TB tests for Indiana cattle prior to them entering the state.