

ACI Already Engaged in Start of Legislative Session

The Statehouse

The first regular session of the 120nd Indiana General Assembly has begun and will continue until no later than April 29th 2017. As 2017 is a long session, Indiana lawmakers will spend much of the session deliberating on the State's budget. The deadline for submitting bills to the House of Representatives is Tuesday, January 10 and the deadline for submitting bills to the Senate is Thursday, January 12.

Governor's Office

Governor-elect Eric Holcomb reappointed Ted McKinney as Director of the Indiana Department of Agriculture. Holcomb's statement on the appointment noted McKinney's vast experience in both farming and agribusiness as deciding factors. McKinney believes that Vice President-elect Mike Pence will help to improve trade sanctions for agriculture and specifically strengthen economic development within this sector.

Letter from the Director

Indiana Department of Agriculture closed out the year with a letter from Director Ted McKinney. Director McKinney is optimistic for Indiana's agricultural industry in the 2017. He cited to the strong support of the Governor-elect Holcomb and President-elect Trump as reasons for his optimism. Director McKinney hopes to see a loosening of federal regulation on the industry, particularly in regards to the Waters of the United States.

National News

President-elect Donald Trump has chosen Robert Lighthizer to fill the Cabinet seat for Trade Minister. Lighthizer previously served as Deputy Trade Representative in the Reagan administration and is expected to assure favorable trade conditions for the agricultural sector.

Approximately \$12 million in federal grant funding has been awarded to rural Indiana communities. Two of the six funded projects are in the City of Brazil and Sullivan County; these grants will be allocated to improve a water treatment plant and update the water system, respectively.

President-elect Donald Trump has yet to choose his Secretary of Agriculture. While the appointment has not been made, the list has been narrowed down to a handful of candidates. Most analysts are expecting Sonny Perdue III to be nominated for Secretary. Perdue was previously Governor of Georgia from 2003 to 2011.