



## International Right of Way Association Weekly Update

Monday, November 11, 2019

### The White House

- The President remains focused on the House's impeachment inquiry as public hearings are scheduled to begin this week.

### Congress

- Both Chambers are in session this week.
- The House announced plans to vote on a short-term government funding extension next week to avert the government shutdown that will occur if an additional funding package is not enacted by the 21<sup>st</sup>. <https://www.politico.com/news/2019/11/08/house-vote-shutdown-067805>

### Analysis

- The House's strategy to consider a short-term extension of government funding days before the funding cliff is risky. This play has been used numerous times in the past, where the House passes legislation and then leaves it to the Republican-controlled Senate and the President to decide whether to accept it and keep the government open or reject it and shut the government down.
- The potential problem with this strategy in the current environment is that it only really works if the House passes the legislation and then adjourns with each Member heading back to their District. But the impeachment inquiry is in full swing and the House is unlikely to adjourn early. If the House is in town, then the Senate could put its own package together and send something back while the House is still in session. Another option is that the House waits until the very last moment and then sends something to the Senate on the eve of the shutdown, but if that were to happen, it's hard to imagine that the American public would view any potential shutdown as solely the fault of the Republican Party.