

Public Policy Track



Justin Lumadue

Vice President, Government Affairs, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Justin Lumadue is Vice President of Government Affairs at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. He serves as the Chamber's chief lobbyist on [tax](#), [financial services](#), and [trade](#). Lumadue's many accomplishments include leading successful campaigns to reauthorize the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program, the Export-Import Bank, and the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, as well as securing Senate approval of the U.S-Chile Tax Treaty. Additionally, Lumadue frequently speaks with business leaders, local chambers of commerce, and international audiences to help them understand the policy and political pressures directing the agenda in Washington. Lumadue started his career as senior manager for policy and congressional communications at the Chamber. In this capacity, he coordinated overall communications with

Capitol Hill on the broad scope of issues impacting the business community. A native of Pennsylvania, Lumadue received his B.A. in political science from Pennsylvania State University in 2005.



Chris Rager

Director of State Government Relations, American Petroleum Institute

Christopher Rager has 20 years of successful advocacy and policy experience. His background includes a unique combination of state and federal government affairs work, influencing legislation, regulations, and elections from the White House to localities across the country. Chris is currently the Director of State Government Relations for the American Petroleum Institute. In this role, he helps lead the institute's nationwide regionally based integrated advocacy program, which is constantly engaged in local, state, and federal issue campaigns in support of the oil and gas industry. Prior to joining API in 2013, he represented the National Rifle Association as a regional lobbyist, handling the association's legislative, regulatory, grassroots, and PAC agendas. He also held positions

on Capitol Hill and the Executive Branch.



Kevin Kosar

Senior Fellow, American Enterprise Institute

Kevin R. Kosar is a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI), where he studies the US Congress, the administrative state, American politics, election reform, and the US Postal Service.

He edits UnderstandingCongress.org and hosts the Understanding Congress podcast. Before joining AEI, Dr. Kosar was at the R Street Institute, where he served as vice president of policy, vice president of research partnerships, and senior fellow and director of the Governance Project. He also cofounded the Legislative Branch Capacity Working Group, a transpartisan project to strengthen the legislative branch.

Earlier, Dr. Kosar spent more than a decade working for the Congressional Research Service, where he focused on a wide range of public administration issues. He has taught public policy at New York University

and lectured on public administration at Metropolitan College of New York.



Geoff Bowman

Vice President, Van Scoyoc Associates

Geoff Bowman is one of the nation's leading policy professionals on water resources and infrastructure policy. Having spent 15 years as a Professional Staff Member on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Geoff offers clients an insider's perspective on the policy, players, and politics involved in those issues.

Geoff was most recently the Staff Director of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee, where he shepherded passage of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act of 2016. Prior to that, he was instrumental in the passage of WRDA 2007 and WRRDA 2014. Geoff has also worked closely with the many federal agencies under the Committee's jurisdiction, including the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, the

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the International Boundary Water Commission, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).



Jack Howard

Senior Vice President for Strategic Advocacy U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Howard is Senior Vice President for Strategic Advocacy at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, responsible for maximizing the Chamber's advocacy tools—including lobbying, regional operations, and voter education efforts—to grow the number of pro-business champions on Capitol Hill. With more than 25 years of government service, Howard served in the White House as deputy assistant to President George W. Bush. He worked in the Office of Legislative Affairs where he coordinated the efforts of senior-level White House officials, Cabinet departments, and agencies to secure congressional passage of President Bush's legislative priorities.

Defense Track



Christie Funk

Technology Transfer Expansion Manager, NASA

Christie Funk is the Technology Transfer Expansion (T2X) manager, responsible for Agency-level management of T2X in support of NASA's Technology Transfer Program. In her position, with an emphasis on entrepreneurial innovation and commercialization of NASA's patent portfolio, Christie promotes the public availability of federally-owned inventions to benefit the national economy.

Christie studied business management at Saint Leo University (BA), aeronautical science at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (MAS), and aerospace engineering at Old Dominion University (MS). Christie's earlier-stage NASA career was focused on aeroelasticity, performing wind tunnel testing and analysis of fixed wing subsonic and supersonic aircraft. Prior to

her work at NASA, Christie spent 13 years working in the restaurant business, paving the way for networking opportunities that ultimately led to her position at NASA. She grew up in Virginia Beach and resides in Yorktown, VA.

William Hiestand

Senior Intelligence Officer, Defense Intelligence Agency

Mr. William Hiestand currently serves as a Senior Intelligence Officer in DIA's Russia and Eurasia Regional Center. Mr. Hiestand has served in the Intelligence Community for almost 40 years, joining the Office of Naval Intelligence in 1985 and DIA in 1987, and has held a variety of positions within defense intelligence. Most recently, Mr. Hiestand served as the Acting National Intelligence Officer for Military Issues at the National Intelligence Council during a rotational assignment. Mr. Hiestand has a B.A. from Colgate University and an M.A. in Early Modern European History from Cornell University. He resides in Springfield, VA

Chris Almont

Senior Defense Intelligence Analyst, Defense Intelligence Agency

Christopher Almont has worked in the Intelligence Community since 1992. He currently serves as Senior Defense Intelligence Analyst for DIA's Defense Combating Terrorism Center (DCTC). In this capacity, he serves as the senior substantive and tradecraft authority for transnational terrorism issues worldwide and represents the DIA to IC and its customers on transnational terrorism issues. In the past, he has served as the DIA's senior expert on Middle East military and security issues, among other responsibilities.

He served with the U.S. Air Force for four years, where he worked in intelligence. He later joined the U.S. Air Force Reserve, where he supervised strategic intelligence production for the United States Indo-Pacific Command Area of Responsibility.

Christian Saunders

Senior Defense Intelligence Analyst, Defense Intelligence Agency

Mr. Christian M. Saunders became the Deputy Chief of Analysis for the CMG in August 2024. In this role, he serves as the principal advisor to DIA's Director for Analysis and Deputy Director for Global Integration on DIA analysis related to China. He assists the CMG chief in driving integrated intelligence outcomes relative to global China-related issues with the Defense Intelligence Enterprise, the Intelligence Community (IC), and foreign partners. From 2021-2023, Mr. Saunders served on a Joint Duty Rotation with the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) as the Deputy Director of the President's Daily Brief (PDB). He conducted senior review of PDB and other senior executive production in support of U.S. foreign policy and national security interests. He also generated ideas for PDB production, understanding the arc of multiple analytic story lines worldwide, and working collaboratively with multiple IC agencies.



Vincent Voci

Vice President, Cyber Policy and Operations, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Vincent Voci is a vice president of cyber policy and operations in the [Cyber, Space, and National Security Division](#) at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Voci is a cyber and national security policy veteran who leads engagements with members between Capitol Hill, Federal Civilian Executive Branch agencies, the Department of Defense, law enforcement, and international partners and allies. Prior to joining the Chamber, Voci supported former Sens. Scott Brown (MA) and George Allen (VA) in operational capacities and worked at the Departments of Transportation and Homeland Security.



Matthew Herrmann

Principal, The Roosevelt Group

Matthew Herrmann is a senior advisor at The Roosevelt Group representing a wide range of clients on Congressional appropriations and authorization matters, federal budget process, strategic planning, strategic communications, Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC), and Indo-Asia-Pacific policy matters. Prior to joining the Roosevelt Group, in June 2017, Mr. Herrmann worked for more than 10 years on Capitol Hill and served as Chief of Staff to Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo (Guam), the Ranking Member of the Readiness Subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee. He held a variety of legislative roles in Congresswoman Bordallo's office; as a military legislative assistant, senior legislative assistant, and finally as legislative director.



Matt Borron

Executive Director, Association of Defense Communities

For over a decade Matt Borron had dedicated his career to advocating for communities, service members, veterans and military families on the local, state and federal level. Mr. Borron currently holds the position of Chief Operating Officer for the Association of Defense Communities, a national non-profit organization representing communities and states with a significant military presence.

As Executive Director, he oversees the organizations day-to-day operations, including managing the development of the association's educational events, membership councils, and legislative and federal agency outreach. As the primary point of contact for ADC members and stakeholders, Mr. Borron works closely with the House and Senate Defense Communities Caucus and key offices in DOD and other federal agencies to coordinate

policy efforts that support military-community partnership efforts and defense infrastructure.



Sabra Horne

Entrepreneur in Residence, BMNT

Sabra Horne is an Entrepreneur in Residence at BMNT, where she supports the development and deployment of public sector innovation efforts. She is the author of the ***Creating Innovation Navigators*** book, which guides government leaders in creating innovative organizations and leads the related 3-day Innovation Navigators course.

Before joining BMNT, she was the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Chief of the Innovation Hub, responsible for envisioning, establishing, and developing innovation efforts in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Prior to this role, she led the change management of CISA and stood up CISA's Election Task Force to support state and local election officials following the 2016 election.

Previously, she served the National Security Agency (NSA) as Deputy Chief for Information Sharing, facilitating sharing of NSA's most highly classified intelligence, and was a core member of the Media Leaks Task Force, which led agency response to the public leaks of classified information by Edward Snowden in 2013.

Day on The Hill



Senator John Hickenlooper

U.S. Senator for Colorado

Senator Hickenlooper was elected to represent Colorado in the U.S. Senate in 2020, and previously served as Mayor of Denver (2003-2011) and Governor of Colorado (2011-2019.) He currently serves on the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, The Commerce Committee, and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.



Senator Michael Bennet

U.S. Senator for Colorado

Senator Bennet has represented Colorado in the United States Senate since 2009. Michael has built a reputation of taking on Washington dysfunction and working with Republicans and Democrats to address our nation's greatest challenges – including education, climate change, immigration, health care, and national security. He currently serves on the Finance Committee, the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence which oversees the intelligence activities and programs of the U.S. government. He also serves as a ranking member on the subcommittee on Energy, Natural Resources and Infrastructure, and Forestry and Natural Resources, and as a member of the subcommittee on Taxation and IRS Oversight Conservation, Jobs, Rural Economic Growth, and Energy Innovation, and Nutrition, Specialty Crops, Food and Agriculture



Rep. Doug Lamborn

U.S. Representative for Colorado

Representative Lamborn has served in the U.S. House of Representatives since 2006. Colorado's Fifth District, based in Colorado Springs, is one of our nation's most military-intensive congressional districts and the home to more than 100,000 veterans who have served our country with distinction and honor. Representative Lamborn serves as a high-ranking member on the House Armed Services Committee and a former member for ten years of the Veterans Affairs Committee. He currently serves as the Ranking Member of the Readiness Subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee and the House Natural Resources Committee and its subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands, and the Energy and Mineral Resources subcommittee.



Rep. Brittney Petersen

U.S. Representative for Colorado

Brittany Pettersen is the Representative for Colorado's Seventh Congressional District in the United States Congress. She was elected in 2022, becoming the first woman to represent the Seventh District, which comprises Jefferson, Broomfield, Lake, Park, Teller, Chaffee, Fremont, and Custer counties. She is a member of the House Financial Services Committee, where she serves on the Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance and the Subcommittee on National Security, Illicit Finance, and International Financial Institutions



Rep. Joe Neguse

U.S. Representative for Colorado

Congressman Joe Neguse represents Colorado's 2nd District in the U.S. House of Representatives. He was elected to his first term in November 2018, becoming the first Black Member of Congress in Colorado history. In December 2022, Rep. Neguse was elected by his colleagues to serve as Chair of the Democratic Policy and Communications Committee (DPCC), becoming the first Coloradan to serve in a senior elected leadership role in the House in over 85 years. He serves on the Natural Resources and Judiciary Committees and was also appointed by House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries to serve as one of four Democrats on the prestigious Rules Committee. Rep. Neguse serves as Ranking Member on the House Subcommittee on Federal Lands.



Rep. Jason Crow

U.S. Representative for Colorado

Congressman Jason Crow represents Colorado's Sixth Congressional District, encompassing Aurora and parts of Arapahoe, Adams, and Douglas Counties. Former Army Ranger and Bronze Star recipient Jason Crow grew up working class — he worked minimum-wage jobs during high school and enlisted in the National Guard and worked construction to help pay his way through college. Now Jason has taken his servant leadership to Congress where he represents Colorado's 6th Congressional District and serves on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and House Foreign Affairs Committee, on which he is the Ranking Democrat of the Oversight and Accountability Subcommittee.



Rep. Yadira Caraveo

U.S. Representative for Colorado

Pediatrician Yadira Caraveo has dedicated her life to serving Colorado families — first as a doctor, and now as the first representative of Colorado's new 8th Congressional District. In 2022, she made history by becoming Colorado's first Latina federal representative. She is working to lower costs for families, improve healthcare access, and ensure every child in Colorado has the opportunities they deserve. Caraveo serves on the House Agriculture Committee, as a ranking member on the subcommittee on commodity markets, digital assets, and rural development, and she serves on the House Committee on science, space, and technology.