



THE VOICE



OVERVIEW

The 2022 midterm elections dominated the fourth quarter; The result, a Republican House and Democratic Senate in the 118th Congress, makes the bipartisan ties [Commonwealth Strategic Partners](#) (CSP) maintains even more meaningful.

After the election dust settled, Congress turned its attention to the “must-pass” [2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act](#), commonly called the “omnibus,” and [2023 National Defense Authorization Act](#) (NDAA). CSP seized the opportunity and worked to maintain key legislative priorities in both packages.

For their advocacy in 2022, CSP co-founders and managing partners George McElwee and Keith Pemrick were named among [The Hill’s Top Lobbyists](#) for the second year in a row.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

Aberdeen, Maryland

In December, CSP succeeded in securing funding for client [City of Aberdeen](#). Thanks to CSP’s advocacy, Aberdeen’s [Station Square Improvement project](#) will receive \$4 million as a congressional community funding project. The funding will soon be awarded to Aberdeen and will be used for site acquisition and demolition, preliminary engineering and design, geotechnical services, and updated cost estimates for improvements to the Aberdeen Train Station. The funding was included in the [2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act](#) and signed into law by President

Biden on December 29. Senators Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) and Ben Cardin (D-MD) and Representative Dutch Ruppersberger (D-MD) secured the funding for the project.



Churchill Mortgage/Heroes First

In December, CSP hosted client Heroes First National Director Sam Royer in D.C. for in-person meetings with congressional staff from both personal and committee offices to discuss the path for the [HELPER Act](#) in the 118th Congress.

In the 117th Congress, the HELPER Act garnered support from over 100 bipartisan legislators and 300 national, state, and local organizations and elected officials. It would provide first responders with a federally insured home loan option like the

successful Department of Veterans Affairs home loan program. Lead sponsors Rep. John Rutherford (R-FL) and Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) intend to reintroduce the bill in the 118th Congress.

Additionally, in December, CSP worked with Senator Hagerty (R-TN) to approve Churchill’s application to become a seller/servicer through the Government National Mortgage Association (Ginnie Mae), one of the federal government’s affordable housing guarantors. Sen. Hagerty made an inquiry on behalf of Churchill, after which Ginnie Mae reexamined and approved the application.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY (CONT.)



FUNDRAISING

- In October, Keith Pemrick attended a fundraiser for Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT).
- In November, Katie Hazlett attended a fundraiser for Rep. Mike Simpson (R-ID).
- In December, Katie Hazlett attended a PAC coffee with Rep. Greg Stanton alongside Rob Cush, Executive Director of Government Affairs for CSP client [Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association](#). ●

Greystar

In 2022, CSP worked to secure Pennsylvania Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) grants for client [Greystar](#). RACPs are disbursed for the acquisition and construction of regional economic improvement projects.

In December, Neil Weaver, Acting Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, toured Greystar's flagship [Modern Living Solutions](#) facility in Knox, Pennsylvania. The facility, which has been the recipient of multiple RACP grants, produces modular homes... Acting Secretary Weaver toured the facility to see all the construction progress and receive an update on the plant. Thanks in large part to the RACP grant, within two years, the Knox facility will add 200 jobs to the region.



Greystar's Modern Living Solutions Facility in Knox, PA.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

In October, CSP's George McElwee toured the headquarters of client [People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals](#) (PETA) in Norfolk, Virginia. He met with PETA founder Ingrid Newkirk and met Mabel, one of the beagles [rescued from an Envigo breeding facility](#) which PETA helped to shut down in June 2022.

In December, CSP and PETA worked to secure passage of the [FDA Modernization Act 2.0](#), which would lift the outdated Federal Drug Administration requirement that drugs must first be tested on animals.

To pass the bill, CSP and PETA conducted an aggressive grassroots

advocacy strategy to urge House Energy and Commerce Chairman Frank Pallone (D-NJ) to approve the bill, which had already cleared the Senate. Thanks in large part to PETA's outreach, the FDA Modernization Act 2.0 was included in the 2023 Consolidated Appropriation Act and signed into law by President Biden on December 29.



George McElwee and Mabel at PETA's headquarters in Norfolk, VA.



The FDA Modernization Act 2.0, lifts the outdated Federal Drug Administration requirement that drugs must first be tested on animals.



Invest in the USA

CSP and client [Invest in the USA](#) (IIUSA) worked to prevent passage of the [EAGLE Act](#), which would effectively discriminate against immigrants applying for visas from less-populous countries. Thanks in no small part to CSP's and IIUSA's advocacy, the bill was delayed several times, effectively blocking its passage before this Congress ends on January 3.



Additionally, IIUSA Executive Director Aaron Grau was named to [The Hill's Top Lobbyists](#) alongside CSP's McElwee and Pemrick.

Lendmark Financial Services

CSP client [Lendmark Financial Services](#) received a [Best Corporate Steward award](#) from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation. The award recognizes Lendmark for its work on [Climb to Cure](#) and its [Veterans Integration Program](#).



National Technology Security Coalition

In December, CSP hosted Patrick Gaul, Executive Director of client [National Technology Security Coalition](#) (NTSC), in D.C. CSP facilitated in-person meetings with the staff of members of Congress who are likely to lead on cybersecurity policy next Congress.



American Council of Engineering Companies

We congratulate CSP client the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) for having two people named to The Hill's Top Lobbyists in the Associations category: Linda Bauer Darr, President and CEO, and Steve Hall, Senior Vice President, Advocacy. ●



UPCOMING EVENTS

In February, CSP will host IIUSA in D.C. for the first of several "Lobby Days" planned for 2023. CSP will facilitate in-person meetings between IIUSA leadership and members of Congress and their staff.

In March, NTSC will host its Northeast Regional CISO Policy Roundtable in Washington, D.C. ●



NEW CLIENTS

In January, CSP will begin representing [Granite Construction](#). CSP will represent Granite on matters related to industrial decarbonization and infrastructure priorities. ●