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## Winter Storm Causes Legislature to Cancel All Meetings

### Tennessee General Assembly Cancels All Legislative Meetings This Week Due to Snow:

Due to the winter storm that swept across Tennessee earlier this week, House Speaker Cameron Sexton and Lieutenant Governor Randy McNally elected to close the Cordell Hull Building and cancel all scheduled meetings in the General Assembly for the week starting on January 15. Legislators from across the state would have struggled to get to Nashville for what was already scheduled to be only a three-day week because of Monday's Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. The legislature is expected to return to Nashville next Monday, January 22.



### Governor Lee Announces AI Legislative Proposal to Protect Tennessee Music Industry:

Last week, Governor Lee announced his administration's plan to address the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on the state's music industry. This proposal will be the first on AI in Tennessee to date. The proposal, referred to as the Ensuring Likeness Voice and Image Security (ELVIS) Act, aims to expand Tennessee's Protection of Personal Rights law to include protections for songwriters, performers, and music industry professionals' voice from the misuse of AI.

With over 61,617 jobs and a contribution of \$5.8 billion to the state's GDP, the music industry in Tennessee is a significant economic force, with more than 4,500 music venues. "From Beale Street to Broadway, to Bristol and beyond, Tennessee is known for our rich artistic heritage that tells the story of our great state," Gov. Lee said. "As the technology landscape evolves with artificial intelligence, we're proud to lead the nation in proposing legal protection for our best-in-class artists and songwriters."

The ELVIS Act, if enacted, would be groundbreaking as the first legislation in the nation to extend protection against unauthorized likeness use by including "voice" in its scope. The Chamber will be monitoring all proposals regarding AI and will keep members informed on any potential impacts to business.

[Read More Here](#)

### U.S. Congress Works Towards Tax Extender Deal:

Tuesday morning, Senate Finance Committee Chairman Ron Wyden (D-OR) and House

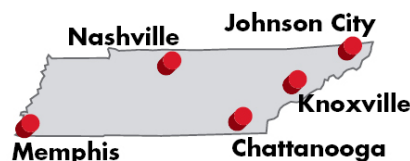
Ways & Means Committee Chairman Jason Smith (R-MO) [announced](#) a deal on a \$78 billion tax benefit deal. The package includes long time Chamber priorities, including reinstating the expired research and development tax credit, raising the cap on interest deductibility, and restoring full, immediate expensing for investments in machines, equipment, and vehicles. It would also raise the small business expensing cap and expand the Child Tax Credit, among other changes to the tax code. The deal extends these policies through 2025. The changes included in this package incentivize innovation, job creation, and business expansion and would make the U.S. more globally competitive. Passage through both the House and Senate is uncertain and Chamber members should contact their U.S. Senators and Representatives to urge its passage.

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**ENVIRONMENT &  
ENERGY UPDATE**



**Environment & Energy Committee to Meet February 6:** The Chamber's Environment and Energy Committee will meet Thursday, February 6 from 1:00 PM-2:00 PM CST in a hybrid format to form policy positions on pertinent legislation. We will likely be joined by TDEC Deputy Director of Field Operations Evan Spann.

Due to the legislature being closed this week, the House Agriculture Subcommittee has rescheduled its consideration of legislation to more narrowly define wetlands in the state of Tennessee based until Tuesday January 23. The Tennessee Chamber and other business groups are supportive of legislative efforts by Representative Kevin Vaughan R-Collierville to align Tennessee's regulation with the recent *Sackett* Supreme Court decision.

Please contact [RJ Gibson](#) for more information.

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**Meet the TN Chamber's Intern:  
Veronica Banas**

Veronica is a graduate from Middle Tennessee State University. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science



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in Political Science Pre Law with a minor in psychology. Veronica has interned for Governor Lee's office, Shelbyville-Bedford Partnership and is now a government affairs intern for the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce.

Veronica is very passionate about governmental work, economic development, workforce development, community development, politics and business growth. During her free time Veronica loves exploring the beautiful nature, attractions and history of the state of Tennessee, spending time with family & friends, reading, going on hikes/walks with her dog, working out, going to concerts and practicing her culinary skills!

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### **News and Notes....**

--Gov. Lee Unveils **Transportation Plan** for Rural and Urban Tennessee. [[MORE](#)]

--TVA Partners with Huntsville Utilities & Calhoun Community College to Train Lineworkers. [[MORE](#)]

--New design details approved for Nissan Stadium: 'Everybody has a better seat'. [[MORE](#)]

--Governor Lee, Commissioner McWhorter Announce Unitech North America, LLC to Establish First US Manufacturing Operations in Warren County. [[MORE](#)]

--Tennessee First in the Nation to Address AI Impact on Music Industry. [[MORE](#)]

--Travel Like A Local With Tennessee Tourism's Newly Unveiled 2024 Vacation Guide. [[MORE](#)]

--Gov. Lee Announces **Appointments** to Key Boards & Commissions. [[MORE](#)]

--TVA asks customers to limit electricity use as frigid temperatures challenge power grid. [[MORE](#)]

--Revenue commissioner cites 'significant legal risk' over Tennessee franchise tax. [[MORE](#)]

