

# Hicks-Ray Associates

*Implementing Strategies, Achieving Success*



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TO: WESTCAS Membership  
FROM: Hicks-Ray Associates  
SUBJECT: Looking A Lot Like Christmas/Omnibus

The political process is very much like a rollercoaster in that it seems to slow down as it slowly ascends to the top of the track. But once this point is reached, both rollercoasters and also omnibus appropriations bills very rapidly gain momentum.

The House of Representatives will not be in session today with first votes postponed until 6:30 PM Tuesday. The Senate will go into session at 3:00 PM but will largely confine itself to debate on pending nominations.

What all of this is leading up to is the grand finale of the political year that is the unveiling and debate on the FY16 Omnibus. The Omnibus will be revealed as early as tomorrow when Members and those of us on the outside will get a chance to study details of the bill. The strategy of House and Senate Leaders is to bring the measure to the floor for debate and passage. The incentive for rank and file Members to act quickly is adjournment for the year as early as Wednesday afternoon. Failure to pass the Omnibus could well lead to a shutdown of the Federal government as early as midnight Wednesday followed by a political chaos.

The lure of a Christmas recess is very powerful and most observers believe that we will see speedy passage of the Omnibus in both Houses of Congress.

We are standing ready to review the Omnibus when it is released, specifically with reference to WESTCAS priorities. This includes whether environmental riders are a part of the bill and how water resource programs that are vital to the Arid West were funded. We'll send you a report ASAP once we see the Omnibus.

If you find life much more entertaining when Congress is in session, don't worry. They will be back in session the first week of January.

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