

# Hicks-Ray Associates

*Implementing Strategies, Achieving Success*



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December 21, 2015

TO: WESTCAS Membership

FROM: Hicks-Ray Associates

SUBJECT: Congress Sends FY 16 Consolidated Appropriations Bill [Omnibus] to the President

On Friday morning, the House and Senate wrapped up work on the FY16 Consolidated Appropriations Bill, more popularly known as the Omnibus. This 2,000 page bill, which was released in the early hours of Wednesday morning, was passed by the Senate by a vote of 65 to 33 and by the House 316-113. The House went into session at 9:00 AM this morning and completed work on the bill at 9:49 AM.

For those of you who read the Congressional Record or follow the Congress through the House and Senate web sites, don't look for mention of "the Omnibus" in the official proceedings. The motion to move to consideration of the Omnibus in the House is titled: "On motion to concur in the Senate Amendment with an amendment specified in Section 3(a) of H. R. 566." The bill now goes to the President and he will almost certainly sign it into law later today.

Opinion on the Omnibus pretty much breaks down into two lines of argument:

- This was a necessary action by the Congress to complete the FY16 appropriations cycle and clear the way for 2017.
- The Omnibus is an unconscionable compromise of principal in which the other side got everything it was seeking.

At the moment, the point is mute since the Omnibus will become law later today. And best of all, Members of Congress are able to get out of DC on Friday afternoon flights since work on the bill was wrapped up before 10:00 AM this morning.

Congress is adjourning exactly two months from the WESTCAS winter retreat scheduled for February 18-19 in Henderson, Nevada. The implications of the 2000 pages in the FY16 Omnibus will be high on the list of topics that will be discussed. Please watch your inboxes for more information on the conference. We hope you are planning to attend and participate.

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