



# washington dc update

December 20, 2011

## Easy To Get Confused

These days do you sometimes turn on the TV, see a college football game being played, and wonder: “Is this the Beef O’Brady’s Bowl? Or the Maaco Bowl? Or maybe the Advocare V100 Independence Bowl?” These games are all being played within a day or two of each other so it’s easy to get confused.

The same is true for what is going on in Congress right now. You might have read our “DC Update” yesterday concerning major victories with regard to water resources infrastructure funding and think, “but I just saw on the news that that whole agreement fell apart.”

That would be easy to do. But the fact is that what has fallen apart is an attempt to reach agreement on extending the payroll tax cut on Social Security through 2012 and finding a way to pay for it. Our “good news” DC update referred to the FY12 Appropriations process which was essentially completed late last week, first with agreement between House and Senate Appropriations negotiations followed by passage in both the House and the Senate.

The FY12 Omnibus Appropriations bill includes some major steps forward in terms of water resources infrastructure funding including:

- \$1,468,000,000 instead of \$689,000,000 for EPA Clean Water SRF Funding.
- \$919,363,000 instead of \$829,000,000 for EPA Drinking Water SRF Funding.
- An additional \$90,000,000 over the budget request for the Bureau of Reclamation.
- \$29,600,000 for Corps Environmental Infrastructure funding.

These funding increase are the result of conscious decisions by Members of Congress that our nation needs to not only hold the line with regard to investment in water resources infrastructure but to actually increase this investment.

What if they had taken their actions, which took real vision and hard work, and the water community, appeared not to even notice? Because of groups like WESTCAS, this didn’t happen. WESTCAS advocated and supported this additional funding all the way through the process and made sure those Members and staffs understood how this would impact the Arid West. We are also thanking the key players on the Hill for their leadership on this issue.

None of this would be possible without your support and participation in WESTCAS. As we said in our update yesterday, please pat yourselves on the back.

### Summary & Take-Away .

Christmas season should be simply, right?—just take off the bows, tear off the pretty paper and you have it. Not so simply with Congress, particularly this season, where there were two packages: the FY12 Appropriations omnibus, which did pass both Houses; and the payroll tax cut proposal that fell off the sled. It is easy to get the two confused.

But, WESTCAS should be encouraged by the increased level of funding itemized at right that are in FY12 Appropriations bill.

WESTCAS efforts were duly rewarded!

