



washington dc update

Long Summer Recess Begins

August 18, 2010

HRA Series of Reports



This report is the first in a series of reports to the WESTCAS membership during the period of the Congressional recess. Our reports will include scenarios for the lame-duck and updates on pertinent pieces of legislation.

Stay tuned!

The Congress is now in the midst of a long summer recess with the Senate not scheduled to return to session until Monday, September 13th and the House until Tuesday, September 14th. With the President out of town either travelling or on vacation along with most of official Washington, things have gotten very quiet. And they will remain that way for the next several weeks.

When the Congress does return to session it will only be for a short period with another recess set to begin in early October and probably running through most of November. Then finally, there is an anticipated "lame duck" session that will begin right after Thanksgiving. But if you look at your calendar, there are only three weeks available until one gets to Christmas Eve.

It is anticipated that very little will be accomplished during the September session of Congress beyond continuing resolutions for FY11 Appropriations and perhaps a few last minute attempts to pursue job-creating legislation. Most of the other issues, which range from major issues such as energy legislation, to the extension of the Bush tax cuts, to addressing the issue of the "death tax to a host of other issues, will have to be dealt with, or not, during the lame duck.

Remember, all pending legislation in the 111th Congress expires at the stroke of midnight, December 31st and would have to be re-introduced in the 112th Congress which will organize and convene in early January. The huge wildcard here is that nobody can know in mid-August who will control the House and the Senate next year. Many observers expect significant Republican gains on November 2nd, but there is pronounced disagreement with regard to whether Republicans will actually gain control of either House.

Over the next several reports to you, we want to review several potential scenarios for the lame duck session as well as update you with regard to the status of key pieces of legislation. With so little time left and so much at stake during the lame duck session of Congress, WESTCAS members need to begin thinking seriously in August about what may happen in December.

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