



Washington dc update

May 8, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: WESTCAS Membership
FROM: Hicks-Ray Associates
SUBJECT: DC Updates

Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2017

All but lost in the hubbub surrounding last week's House vote on health care was the passage by the Congress and signing into law by President Trump of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2017. This action removed the threat of a government shutdown and finalized spending for FY17 more than seven months after the start of the fiscal year. The vote was 309 to 118 in the House and 79 to 18 in the Senate.

This impressive majority in the House becomes more interesting when considering that Democrats supplied 178 of the 309 "yes" votes with the other 131 being cast by Republicans. A total of 103 Republicans voted against the Consolidated Omnibus Act. In the Senate, all of the 18 "no" votes were cast by Republicans. This is yet another reminder that Federal spending remains a contentious issue in Washington and throughout the nation. With the FY17 spending finally decided the Congress must now move forward and address details of the President's FY18 budget. With less than 5 months until the start of the new Fiscal Year their schedule will be tight to complete work by September 30.

Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Hearing On WOTUS

On April 25 the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee held a hearing on "A Review of the Technical, Scientific, and Legal Basis of the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) Rule." EPW Committee Chair Senator John Barrasso [R: WY] made the following statement at the hearing:

"On February 28th, President Trump signed an Executive Order directing EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers to review the Obama Administration Waters of the United States or WOTUS Rule.... While this action was both correct and important, the long saga of the WOTUS rule is not yet over. This fundamentally flawed rule is still on the books and needs to be withdrawn. The Supreme Court has decided to rule on whether or not circuit courts have the jurisdiction to hear challenges to the rule. If the Supreme Court decides that these cases belong in District Courts then the nationwide stay that the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals issued will go away. If that happens this terrible, unlawful rule, will go into effect and EPA and the Corps will be able to regulate isolated ponds and dry stream beds that have no impact on navigable water and were never intended to be covered under the Clean Water Act.... The justification for withdrawing the rule is overwhelming."

Want to know more about WOTUS?

Then be sure and participate in the WESTCAS Annual Conference June 21-23 in San Diego. There will be presentations and updates on this subject throughout the meeting. Share your knowledge and learn from the other attendees.

Join us!

June 21-23, 2017 at the Island Palms Hotel & Marina



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