

# Hicks-Ray Associates

*Implementing Strategies, Achieving Success*



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November 5, 2019

TO: WESTCAS Membership

FROM: Hicks-Ray Associates

SUBJECT: No Shortage of Promising Legislation

There is no shortage of promising water legislation pending before the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress. This includes but is by no means limited to:

- Last week the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee passed unanimously by voice vote H.R. 1497, “The Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2019.
- S. 1932, “the Drought Resilience and Water supply Infrastructure Act” enjoys bipartisan support in the Senate.
- House and Senate Committees of jurisdiction appear to be on track to reauthorize the Water Resources Development Act by next year.

But these and many other water related bills continue to be caught in the slow start of the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress in actually passing bills and sending them to the President for his signature. Here are the statistics as of last Friday, November 1:

- 5,793 bills introduced in the House since January.
- 3,261 bills introduced in the Senate since January.
- Total of 9,054 bills introduced in the Congress since January.
- Of this number a total of 66 have been signed into law by the President.
- Between October 9 and October 31 only a single PL signed into law.
- 442 bills signed into law by the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress (2017-2018).

Opinions differ for the reasons for this slow start including House and Senate rules of procedure, the number of actual working days in session, and the distraction of impeachment. The 116<sup>th</sup> Congress has been in session for 10 out of its 24 months and there is still time to pick up the pace. The twin challenges of a Presidential election cycle and a potential impeachment proceeding may, however, add to the challenge.

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