December 22, 2010

TO: WESTCAS Membership
FROM: Fred B. Hicks and Tom Ray
SUBJECT: Continuing Resolutionadopted By Congress

The Congress has adopted a continuing resolution for FY11 that extends to March 4, 2011. A good indication that it really is time for Congress to go home was the motion for the CR made by House Appropriations Chair David Obey:

“Mr. Obey moved that the House agree to the Senate amendment to the House Amendment to the Senate Amendment to HR 3082.”

The House has now adjourned, subject to the “call of the Chair.” This means that they will probably remain out of session until the new Congress convenes the first week of January. However, the Democratic Leadership of the House or Senate can still call their chambers back into session next week. If they do, one concern would be a potential attempt to pass S. 303, the huge public lands bill.

The passage of the CR ensures that the 112th Congress will have to simultaneously grapple with the FY11 budget and also start to work on the FY12 budget. The FY12 proposed budget will be released by the White House the first week in February while the CR will end just a month later on March 4th. Republicans are calling for a 20% spending cut in the budget.

Fasten your seatbelts because it’s like to be a bumpy ride.