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Protection Agency**

CR Introduced to Fund Government until Mid-November

On Wednesday, the House Committee on Appropriations approved a continuing resolution ([H.J.Res 79](#)) to keep the federal government funded until November 18 at the level established under the debt-ceiling agreement (\$1.043 trillion) for the fiscal year. The CR would also provide \$3.65 trillion in disaster relief assistance to victims of Hurricane Irene, recent wildfires, floods and tornadoes, the Mid-Atlantic earthquake, and other natural disasters. The first \$1 billion of disaster funding to be offset by cutting a loan guarantee program for more fuel-efficient cars. The full House is expected to approve the bill next week. This action sets up a battle with the Senate who voted on Thursday (62-37) to approve \$6.9 billion to cover disaster response.

Chairman Harold Rogers (R-KY) said the CR “will allow time for Congress to pass annual appropriations legislation, while maintaining vital government programs and services in the short term.” To date, the House has passed six bills (Agriculture, Defense, Energy & Water, Homeland Security, Legislative, and Military Construction/Veterans Affairs).

The Senate has passed only one FY2012 appropriations bill (Military Construction/Veterans Affairs), but another three bills (Agriculture, Energy & Water, and Homeland Security) are ready for Senate floor action.

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Suite 350

Washington, D.C. 20005

202.466.3755

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The Senate Committee on Appropriations has announced their intent to act on four more bills (Defense, Commerce/Justice/Science, Financial Services, and Legislative).

According to appropriations staff, because the House is unable to reach a time agreement on floor debate the FY 2012 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations bill ([H2584](#)) cannot proceed. H.R. 2584 contains a number of controversial EPA policy “riders” that would affect a number of pending standards governing, nutrient standards setting, coal ash management, toxic air emissions from power plants, and carbon pollution from motor vehicles and industrial sources.

President’s Jobs Act Faces Rough Road

On September 12, the Administration released the full legislative text of the \$447 billion [American Jobs Act](#). Revenue related measures make up slightly more than half of this total. Initial estimates of around \$250 billion, a majority of which is directed towards a payroll tax cut. The Administration proposes paying for the measure with a cap on some deductions and exclusions for high-income taxpayers, along with tax increases for private equity firms, oil and gas companies and corporate jet owners. The Congressional Budget Office is expected to release a full cost estimate of the plan later this month.

House and Senate Republican lawmakers are rebuffing the President’s plan in its entirety. Senator John Thune (R-SD) stated, “I just don’t see much Republican support in the Senate for hardly anything that’s been out there so far, and especially when they put the payfors forward. I mean, that’s just a complete non-starter.”

Super Committee Update

On Thursday, the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction charged with identifying \$1.5 trillion in deficit cuts by November 23, held its third working session. The first meeting was largely administrative and the second committee meeting featured testimony from the Congressional Budget Office. House Speaker Boehner has expressed that “the special committee seeking long-term debt reduction should achieve its mandated \$1.5 trillion in savings entirely by

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cutting federal agency spending and shrinking entitlement programs.” Boehner added, “When it comes to producing savings to reach its \$1.5 trillion deficit reduction target, the Joint Select Committee has only one option: spending cuts and entitlement reform.”

Highway and FAA Extensions Approved

Late Thursday, the Senate passed legislation ([H.R. 2887, the FAA and Highway Extensions Act](#)) to extend funding for the Federal Aviation Administration and the Federal Highway Administration for four and six months, respectively. The bill had been held up by Senator Tom Coburn (R-OK), who objected to a provision that requires states to spend funds on projects not directly related to highway construction, such as bike paths and walking trails. In the end, Coburn agreed to drop his opposition after obtaining assurances from Senator’s Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and James Inhofe (R-OK) that the highway reauthorization legislation will give states more flexibility on allocation of funds.

Highlights of Surface Transportation Extension:

- Post-rescission funding levels (\$39.0 billion for highways annualized). Contract authority totaling \$19.9 billion for highway construction, \$660 million for NHTSA highway safety programs, and \$5.1 billion for transit was approved through March 31, 2012. As part of the agreement, highway user fees to fund the Highway Trust Fund
- Taxes and fees are renewed for six months



EPA Pushes Environmental Justice Blueprint

This week, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released [Plan EJ 2014](#), a three-year, plan to advance environmental justice efforts in nine areas, including rule-making, permitting, enforcement, and science.

The plan seeks to make environmental justice a priority in its “programs, policies, and activities.” Plan EJ 2014 is EPA’s strategy to meet the mandate of Executive Order 12898, “Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations,” which

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states that each federal agency, with the law as its guide, should make environmental justice part of its mission. EPA released the draft plan for public comment in fall 2010 and spring 2011 and held forums and listening sessions in communities across the country.

Government Accountability Office (GAO) Report on Pharmaceuticals

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-11-346>

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) was asked to provide information on the (1) extent to which pharmaceuticals occur in drinking water and their effects, if any, on human health; (2) U.S. and other countries' approaches to reducing their occurrence; and (3) challenges, if any, that EPA faces in determining whether to regulate pharmaceuticals.

GAO recommendation: Administrator of EPA should establish a workgroup or other formal mechanism that includes the relevant federal agencies to collaborate and coordinate research on pharmaceuticals and, as appropriate, other contaminants in drinking water that present the greatest public health concern.

Special Hill Water Briefing

Date: September 22, Time: 12:30 pm

Briefing: Alternative Energy & Water Nexus with Public & Private Partnerships

Location: Rayburn 2253

There will be live streaming video of the briefing online on Rep. Napolitano's Ustream channel, which you can find here: <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/regracenapolitano>

It will also be recorded and available there for later viewing.

If you have any questions, or would like to RSVP, please email Veronica Castro at vcastro@ensresources.com.

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Hearings

Senate

Date: September 20, Time: 2:30 pm
Committee: Appropriations
Hearing: Fiscal 2012 Appropriations: Labor, HHS, Education

Date: September 20, Time: 9:30 am
Committee: Budget
Hearing: Job Creation

House

Date: September 19, Time: 10:00 am
Committee: Natural Resources
Hearing: Access to Public Forests

Date: September 22, Time: 9:00 am
Committee: Energy & Commerce
Hearing: EPA Oversight

Date: September 22, Time: 10 am
Committee: Natural Resources
Hearing: State and Local Revenue from National Forests

Date: September 21, Time: 2:00 pm
Committee: Science, Space & Technology
Hearing: Information Technology Research and Development

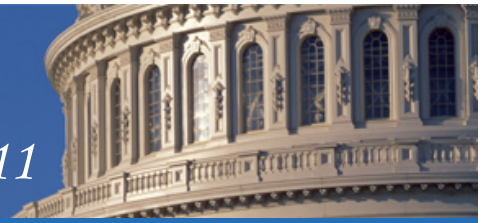
Date: September 19, Time: 10:00 am
Committee: Small Business
Hearing: Impact of Regulations on Energy Sector

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House (Continued)

Date: September 21, Time: 10:am
Committee: Transportation & Infrastructure
Hearing: Inland Waterways Transportation System