Weekly Legislative Update
October 21, 2013

Congressional Outlook

Week of October 21st

The House returns to work on Tuesday, October 22 at 2 p.m.; and the Senate is out of session until October 28 at 5:30 p.m.

The Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2013 (H.R. 3080) is scheduled to be on the House floor this Wednesday, according to the House Rules Committee, which will meet this week to provide a structured rule to pick and choose any amendments to be considered. Members will file amendments by Tuesday this week for a Wednesday floor debate schedule. Most believe the bill has bipartisan support and enough votes to pass the House.

The House was scheduled to spend both Wednesday and Thursday working on the bill, however, this morning the majority leader's office announced that business is canceled Thursday so lawmakers can attend the funeral of Representative Bill Young (R-FL), who died Friday. House aides said that they hope to finish in one day. The timing is dependent on how many amendments are offered.

The legislation could produce the first Water Resources Development Act bill to be signed into law in six years. The Senate passed its version in May.

Week in Review

Last Minute Deal to Open Federal Government and Extend the Debt Ceiling

Just after midnight on October 17, President Obama signed into law a bill that reopened the federal government and allows federal borrowing by extending the debt ceiling. For what's in and
what's out, click here.

**Budget Conference Committee Named**

On Wednesday, October 16, the House and Senate each agreed to form a conference on the budget resolution. Negotiators face a December 13 deadline for reaching a conference agreement. That deadline was part of the deal that led to the enactment of H.R. 2775, the measure extending the debt limit and ending the partial government shutdown. For a list of conferees, click here.

**Get to Work on Farm Bill**

Last week, amid the turbulence surrounding the government shutdown and debt ceiling debate, House Agriculture Committee Chairman Frank Lucas (R-OK), Representative Collin Peterson (D-MN), Senate Agriculture Committee Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), and Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS), told staffers to pick up the pace of discussions in anticipation of a conference possibly later this month.

**U.S. Supreme Court Agrees to Hear EPA Greenhouse Gas Case**

On October 15, the Supreme Court agreed to review aspects of U.S. EPA's greenhouse gas regulations to address climate change. Justices will hear a challenge to a June 2012 U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit ruling that upheld EPA's greenhouse gas program, including the agency's finding that greenhouse gases endanger public health. The Justices will likely hear arguments in January or February.

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**Congressional Hearing Schedule**

**Tuesday, October 22**
- House Committee on Rules full committee hearing on H.R. 3080-Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2013.

**Wednesday, October 23**
- House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology hearing on, "The Evolution of Wired Communications Networks."
- Senate Special Committee on Aging hearings to examine the future of long-term care policy.

**Thursday, October 24**
- House Committee on Energy and Commerce full committee hearing on, “PPACA Implementation Failures: Didn't Know or Didn't Disclose?”