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## *David Turch and Associates*

### **WASHINGTON UPDATE**

**DECEMBER 2, 2016**

#### **GOP HOUSE/SENATE LEADERS STILL WORKING ON LENGTH OF CR**

House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) and his leadership team are aiming to finish congressional business by the end of December 9, one week ahead of schedule. In an announcement on the House floor today, Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) said he expected to adopt another short-term continuing resolution (CR) as well as complete the conference report on the Water Resources Development Act (H.R. 5303), a major bill authorizing a host of US Army Corps of Engineers' water/flood control projects. Federal government funding is set to expire at midnight on December 9. There is virtually no political appetite on either side of the aisle to shutter the government. Therefore, the only pressing question at hand is the length of the stopgap bill -- will it be through March, as discussed last week, or through April or possibly May.

There is a growing realization on Capitol Hill that the CR will have to extend well into spring in order to accommodate the heavy lift in the Senate. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has voiced his concern that for the first couple of months, the Senate will be tied down holding confirmation hearing and votes on President-elect Donald Trump's cabinet and subcabinet nominees. On top of this quadrennial burden, the Senate is likely to consider Trump's pick to fill the vacancy on the US Supreme Court. Finally, the Senate is going to have to contend with budget and healthcare legislation early next year, including whether to raise the cap on the national debt. From a calendar perspective, inserting a CR in the midst of this packed agenda is simply untenable.

With a longer term spending plan all but inevitable, federal agencies will have to operate on a continued short-term funding leash. With the exception of the Department of Veterans Affairs, whose budget has been approved through FY 2017, most federal departments and agencies will have to manage at FY 2016 funding levels. Moreover, extending the CR until April or May virtually guarantees that Congress will take the easy out and finish the FY 2017 budget cycle with yet another continuing resolution. Federal agencies, with some exceptions, will be left scrambling with last year's programmatic directives while taking orders from a new White House administration.

#### **PELOSI FENDS OFF CHALLENGE TO REMAIN DEMOCRATIC LEADER**

In the last of the congressional leadership races for the next Congress, Representative Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) beat back a challenge by seven-term Representative Tim Ryan of Ohio. Pelosi garnered 134 votes to 63 for Ryan for leadership of the House Democrats. The fact that Tim Ryan secured as many votes as he did is a signal of the level of simmering discontent within the Democratic party in the wake of the November election. One of the issues Ryan raised in his leadership race was the need to expand the House leadership team to include members who represent more blue collar districts. Ryan argued that the party needs new blood and new thinking in order to regain the confidence and support of working class Americans in the rust belt of the country. Pelosi's victory in the wake of another disappointing election is a testament to her political skills. Nancy Pelosi, as Democratic leader, along with Minority Whip Steny Hoyer (D-MD) and Assistant Minority Leader James Clyburn (D-SC) have been leading House Democrats for the past 15 years. In an effort to address some of the concerns raised by Ryan and his band of supporters, Pelosi is expanding her leadership team to include more junior members. For instance, Pelosi is creating a new position of "vice-ranking member" on the 21 standing House committees reserving these elevated spots for lawmakers who have served four terms or less. There is a clear recognition within the Pelosi network that much more has to be done to nurture a new generation of Democratic leadership in the House.

## **HOUSE COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND RANKING DEMOCRATS FOR 115<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS**

Below is a list of committee chairs approved by the Republican Conference earlier today for the next Congress. With the exception of four leadership appointed committees (Ethics, House Administration, Intelligence and Rules), House Democrats have yet to announce their Ranking members (most senior member) for each committee.

1. **Agriculture**  
Chairman: K. Michael Conaway (R-TX)  
Expected Ranking Democrat: Collin C. Peterson (D-MN)
2. **Appropriations**  
Chairman: Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ)  
Expected Ranking Democrat: Nita M. Lowey (D-N)
3. **Armed Services**  
Chairman: Mac Thornberry (R-TX)  
Expected Ranking Democrat: Adam Smith (D-WA)
4. **Budget**  
Chairman: Tom Price (R-GA)  
Expected Ranking Democrat: John Yarmuth (D-KY)
5. **Education and the Workforce**  
Chairman: Virginia Foxx (R-NC)  
Expected Ranking Democrat: Robert C. Scott (D-VA)
6. **Energy and Commerce**  
Chairman: Greg Walden (R-OR)  
Expected Ranking Democrat: Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ)
7. **Ethics**  
Chairman: Susan W. Brooks (IN)  
Ranking Democrat: Linda T. Sanchez (D-CA)

8. **Financial Services**  
Chairman: Jeb Hensarling (R-TX)  
Expected Ranking Democrat: Maxine Waters (D-CA)
9. **Foreign Affairs**  
Chairman: Ed Royce (R-CA)  
Expected Ranking Democrat: Eliot L. Engel (D-NY)
10. **Homeland Security**  
Chairman: Michael McCaul (R-TX)  
Expected Ranking Democrat: Bennie Thompson (D-MS)
11. **House Administration**  
Chairman: Gregg Harper (R-MS)  
Ranking Democrat: Robert A. Brady (D-PA)
12. **Intelligence**  
Chairman: David Nunes (R-CA)  
Ranking Democrat: Adam B. Schiff (D-CA)
13. **Judiciary**  
Chairman: Robert W. Goodlatte (R-VA)  
Expected Ranking Democrat: John Conyers, Jr. (D-MI)
14. **Natural Resources**  
Chairman: Bob Bishop (R-UT)  
Expected Ranking Democrat: [Raúl M. Grijalva](#) (D-AZ)
15. **Oversight and Government Reform**  
Chairman: Jason Chaffetz (R-UT)  
Expected Ranking Democrat: Elijah E. Cummings (D-MD)
16. **Rules**  
Chairman: Pete Sessions (R-TX)  
Ranking Member: Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY)
17. **Science, Space and Technology**  
Chairman: Lamar Smith (R-TX)  
Expected Ranking Democrat: Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)
18. **Small Business**  
Chairman: Steve Chabot (R-OH)  
Expected Ranking Democrat: Nydia M. Velazquez (D-NY)
19. **Transportation and Infrastructure**  
Chairman: Bill Shuster (R-PA)  
Expected Ranking Democrat: Peter A. DeFazio (D-OR)
20. **Veterans' Affairs**  
Chairman: Phil Roe (R-TN)

Expected Ranking Democrat: Mark Takano (D-CA)

**21. Ways and Means**

Chairman: Kevin Brady (R-TX)

Expected Ranking Democrat: Richard A. Neal (D-MA)

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