

**From:** kevin bosch <kevin.bosch@davidturch.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 16, 2016 12:19 PM  
**To:** Jamie Jones; 'Amanda Stephenson'; 'Kodiak Hill-Davis'; Marilyn Campbell  
**Subject:** September 16, 2016 Weekly Update

## *David Turch and Associates*

### **WASHINGTON UPDATE**

**SEPTEMBER 16, 2016**

#### **CONGRESS STILL NEGOTIATING A CONTINUING RESOLUTION TO KEEP GOVERNMENT FROM SHUTTING DOWN**

Congress has fourteen days left to pass a short-term budget and avoid a government shutdown on October 1, the beginning of a new fiscal year. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and Democratic Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) have been working on a deal that would effectively keep the federal government open for business through December 9. The devil, of course, is always in the details.

The basic framework of an agreement appears to be in place. The CR will continue to fund the government until early December at last year's spending level. \$1.1 billion in anti-Zika funding is likely to be folded into the bill. The open question at the moment is whether the Zika funding will be offset, per House GOP demands, or designated as emergency spending, per the White House and Democratic position. Further complicating negotiations are policy riders Republicans and Democrats are demanding to be included in the measure. One of the major sticking points involves a Republican push to cut funding for Planned Parenthood. President Obama and congressional Democrats are adamantly opposed to such a provision.

Another contentious item involves an effort to fully restore Export-Import Bank operations so that the Board may once again approve loans above \$10 million, a proposition that deeply divides congressional Republicans. Democratic Members of the House and Senate are pushing hard to include emergency flood assistance for Louisiana while Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) and his allies are fighting to overturn an Obama Administration initiative to transfer US control of internet domain names to an international organization. So while we expect a deal to be completed relatively soon, current negotiations are still in flux over a potpourri of unresolved provisions as congressional leaders put the final touches on a short-term budget agreement. Finally, there is mounting pressure on Majority Leader McConnell and Democratic Leader Reid to cut a deal as soon as possible so that rank-and-file members can go home and campaign for re-election.

#### **SENATE PASSES WATER BILL WITH FLINT AID**

By a vote of 95 to 3, the Senate yesterday passed S. 2848, the Water Resources Development Act of 2016, a \$10.6 billion authorization bill for water projects managed by the US Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) and drinking

water projects under the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Senate measure includes \$220 million in loans and grants to help Flint, Michigan recover from its lead-based water contamination.

The Senate measure authorizes 29 Army Corps of Engineers projects in 17 states. These projects have been advanced by the Corps and vetted by congressional committees of jurisdiction. According to Environment and Public Works Committee Chairman James Inhofe (R-OK), the authorized list of projects will strengthen the nation's infrastructure by protecting property, restoring key ecosystems and maintaining navigation routes for commerce. Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) said the bill provides critical investments in the country's aging drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, assists poor and disadvantaged communities in meeting public health standards under the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act, and promotes innovative technologies to address drought and other critical water resource needs.

Senate leaders are hopeful to enact the bill before Congress leaves town at the end of the month. A major hurdle in this plan, however, is the House version of the bill, H.R. 5303, which does not include any provision to assist the City of Flint recover from its lead-based water contamination debacle. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA) is arguing that his committee cannot include Flint aid since the issue is outside his committee's purview. Michigan Republican Fred Upton, the Chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which has jurisdiction over issues involving potable water, has publicly declared his intent to work with Chairman Shuster on a Flint package that can be included in the House WRDA bill. An agreement that includes Flint aid will most likely have to wait until after the November elections, when Congress will reconvene for a lame duck session. At that point, congressional leaders will have to decide whether to move the Flint provision in the WRDA bill or a long-term federal government funding bill.

*Kevin Bosch*

Kevin Bosch  
David Turch and Associates  
517 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20002  
202-543-3744  
kevin.bosch@davidturch.com