

## Parsons Brinckerhoff Washington Update - October 17, 2013 - Interim Update

Shortly after midnight, President Obama signed into law a bill to reopen the federal government after 16 long days and just hours before the government was expected to default on its debt. Federal agencies are open again as of this morning, however, it is expected to take weeks for them to catch up on pending work, including project and environmental reviews, permit approvals, regulation promulgation, etc.

The legislation funds the government under a Continuing Resolution (CR) at FY'13 post-sequestration levels through January 15, raises the debt ceiling through February 7, and sets December 13 as the deadline for broader budget negotiations. So the debate over funding and the debt is far from over yet. The bill does not defund or delay the Affordable Care Act. It does include automatic back pay for all federal employees. Here is a [link](#) to a summary of the bill.

The two respective Budget Committee chairs, Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) and Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI) already met first thing this morning to begin to try to negotiate an agreement on a FY'14 Budget Resolution and a budget framework for funding the FY'14 appropriations bills for the remainder of the fiscal year following January 15.

The final deal, crafted by a bi-partisan group of Senate moderates, was passed in the Senate by a vote of 81 to 18. Of the "yes" votes, 52 were from Democrats and 25 were from Republicans. All 18 "no" votes came from Republicans. In the House, the vote was 285 to 144. All of the "no" votes were Republicans. The "yes" votes come from 198 Democrats and 87 Republicans. While House T&I Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA) voted for the bill despite having a tea party primary opponent, several other key Republicans on the T&I Committee, such as Reps Mica (FL), Petri (WI), Duncan (TN), Denham (CA) and Gibbs (OH) voted against the bill.

Here is a [link](#) to the House roll call vote to see how your Member of Congress voted and here is a [link](#) to the Senate vote.

In addition, last night the Senate voted to confirm several transportation nominations: Deborah Hersman to be NTSB chair, Christopher Hart to be on the NTSB and Gregory Winfree to be RITA Administrator at US DOT.

Now that the government is back to work, the House plans to bring the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA), H.R. 3080, to the House Floor next week. Amendments are due to the House Rules Committee by Tuesday morning, October 22. The bill could clear the Rules Committee Tuesday afternoon and debate on the House floor could begin as early as next Wednesday. The Senate version of the bill was passed earlier this year.