December 16, 2015

CONGRESS APPROVES FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2016 OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Last night Congress approved federal FY 2016 Omnibus Appropriations legislation that funds the twelve federal appropriations bills through federal FY 2016 which ends on September 30, 2016. The passage of the Omnibus bill funds the federal government for most of 2016 and avoids a government shutdown.

As we reported to you in our previous notice, Coalition representatives have been vigorously advocating for higher clean water and drinking water funding amounts as well as full funding for the Corps of Engineers programs and other projects under the recently passed Water Resources Development Act. As we noted, both the U.S. House and Senate proposed cutting funding for the Clean Water SRF program to $1 billion and Safe Drinking Water program to $750 million, while the Obama Administration has proposed similar funding cuts.

We are pleased to inform you that the bi-partisan bill provides $1.394 billion for EPA's Clean Water SRF program and $863 million for the Safe Drinking Water SRF program! On behalf of the Coalition, our Washington, D.C. lobbyist, Federal Advocates, worked very aggressively to secure a higher funding level for both the Clean Water SRF and Drinking Water SRF. But more than that, these funding levels are a reflection of the well-respected reputation the Coalition has in D.C.

The Coalition wishes to thank Federal Advocates for their efforts in representing the Coalition on this matter and also thank all Coalition Chapter Members who contacted their Congressional delegation members and urged them to fund the Clean Water and Drinking Water SRF programs, at a minimum, at the federal FY 2015 funding levels!