



Federal News Update October 10, 2008

Congress Adjourns for Election Season, Expected to Return November 17

After a longer-than-expected September session, Congress adjourned for the election season in early October. Despite the fact that Congress was operating in September with the assumption that all must-pass legislation will be completed or dies, it is now widely anticipated that Congress will return on November 17 to work on another economic stimulus package. However, Congress is not expected to conduct “business as usual” and a vast majority of bills which were not completed by October should be expected to remain unfinished through the end of the session. H.R. 2125 / S. 953 will need to be reintroduced at the beginning of the next Congress and all current co-sponsors (those who are reelected) will need to sign on to the new bill. Attached is the list of current co-sponsor for both bills.

ARC Executive Committee Plans Future Strategy

Members of the ARC Executive Committee met on Thursday via teleconference to discuss the results of the Congressional session and to outline strategy for the next year. A key item of discussion was continued advocacy for the Final Offer Arbitration provision included in H.R. 2125 / S. 953. The Executive Committee plans to meet in Washington, DC, in January to finalize the strategy after the 111th Congress is inaugurated.

STB Approves Merger of Canadian Pacific and Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern

On September 30, 2008, the Surface Transportation Board (STB) approved a proposed acquisition of the Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad Corporation (DM&E) by the Canadian Pacific Railway Corporation. This is an important decision as it provides DM&E the financial ability to complete the extension into the Powder River Basin for coal, affectively making the entry of the third railroad into the area a reality.

H.R. 2125 The Rail Competition and Service Improvement Act (Co-Sponsors: 55)

Rep. Oberstar, James (D-MN)
Rep. Alexander, Rodney (R-LA)
Rep. Andrews, Robert (D-NJ)
Rep. Baldwin, Tammy (D-WI)
Rep. Berry, Marion (D-AR)
Rep. Bonner, Jo (R-AL)
Rep. Boren, Dan (D-OK)
Rep. Boustany, Charles (R-LA)
Rep. Braley, Bruce (D-IA)
Rep. Cubin, Barbara (D-WY)
Rep. Delahunt, William (D-MA)
Rep. Ellison, Keith (D-MN)
Rep. Franks, Trent (R-AZ)
Rep. Frelinghuysen, Rodney (R-NJ)
Rep. Garrett, Scott (R-NJ)
Rep. Giffords, Gabrielle (D-AZ)
Rep. Grijalva, Raul (D-AZ)

Rep. Hare, Phil (D-IL)
Rep. Herseth Sandlin, Stephanie (D-SD)
Rep. Hinojosa, Ruben (D-TX)
Rep. Hirono, Mazie (D-HI)
Rep. Holden, Tim (D-PA)
Rep. Holt, Rush (D-NJ)
Rep. Hooley, Darlene (D-OR)
Rep. Inglis, Bob (R-SC)
Rep. Jefferson, William (D-LA)
Rep. Kagen, Steve (D-WI)
Rep. Kind, Ron (D-WI)
Rep. Lampson, Nick (D-TX)
Rep. McCollum, Betty (D-MN)
Rep. McNulty, Michael (D-NY)
Rep. Melancon, Charlie (D-LA)
Rep. Miller, Brad (D-NC)
Rep. Mollohan, Alan (D-WV)
Rep. Moore, Gwen (D-WI)

Rep. Murphy, Patrick (D-PA)
Rep. Musgrave, Marilyn (R-CO)
Rep. Obey, David (D-WI)
Rep. Paul, Ron (R-TX)
Rep. Perlmutter, Ed (D-CO)
Rep. Peterson, Collin (D-MN)
Rep. Poe, Ted (R-TX)
Rep. Pomeroy, Earl (D-ND)
Rep. Ramstad, Jim (R-MN)
Rep. Rehberg, Dennis (R-MT)
Rep. Renzi, Rick (R-AZ)
Rep. Ross, Mike (D-AR)
Rep. Simpson, Mike (R-ID)
Rep. Sires, Albio (D-NJ)
Rep. Snyder, Vic (D-AR)
Rep. Space, Zack (D-OH)
Rep. Towns, Edolphus (D-NY)
Rep. Udall, Mark (D-CO)
Rep. Walz, Timothy (D-MN)
Rep. Wamp, Zach (R-TN)

S. 953 The Rail Competition and Service Improvement Act (Co-Sponsors: 13)

Sen. Rockefeller, John (D-WV)
Sen. Baucus, Max (D-MT)
Sen. Cantwell, Maria (D-WA)
Sen. Craig, Larry (R-ID)
Sen. Crapo, Mike (R-ID)

Sen. Dorgan, Byron (D-ND)
Sen. Feingold, Russ (D-WI)
Sen. Johnson, Tim (D-SD)
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy (D-MN)

Sen. Landrieu, Mary (D-LA)
Sen. Tester, Jon (D-MT)
Sen. Thune, John (R-SD)
Sen. Vitter, David (R-LA)