FY 2015 Appropriations

On September 9, House Appropriations Committee Chairman Hal Rogers (R-KY) introduced the FY 2015 Continuing Appropriations Resolution (CR), to fund the Government until December 11. (See: Text of H.J. Res. 124 and Summary from the Committee on Appropriations)

This legislation would fund the government at the current Budget cap rate of $1.012 trillion, and includes an across-the-board cut of 0.0554% from FY2014 levels. The legislation is “clean” of controversial riders, meaning little chance of a repeat government shutdown. The CR also extends several expiring authorizations and includes some “anomalies,” or exceptions to the general rule of maintaining FY2014 funding:

- **Export-Import Bank**: authorization for Export-Import Bank operating authority is extended until June 30, 2015.
- **Unaccompanied Minors**: the Administration requested apportionment flexibility so that DOJ, DHS, and HHS’ Office of Refugee Resettlement may address the rise in unaccompanied children at the southwest border and resulting staffing issues through the duration of the CR. The CR provides anomalies that include this authority for DHS and HHS, but not for DOJ.
- **Ebola Crisis**: includes $30 million for CDC and $58 million for the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (within HHS) to respond to the Ebola outbreak.

A vote was expected Thursday, with Republicans confident the measure would clear the chamber, though some conservatives and Democrats were expected to oppose it. The delay is being attributed to a last-minute Obama Administration request that the CR include language providing authority for the U.S. to aid Syrian rebels against ISIS/ISIL.

Going forward, the House Rules committee will meet Monday with the CR on the floor Tuesday or Wednesday. The text is expected to remain the same. On the issue of providing authority to the Administration, Leadership hasn’t made a decision on how the House will proceed. A potential path being discussed, would be for the CR to be brought up as is, with authority language added as an amendment on the floor, allowing for a separate vote on each issue. The Senate is expected to consider the House version soon after with a target recess date of Friday September 19.