

Hicks-Ray Associates



February 8, 2011

TO: WESTCAS Membership

FROM: Fred B. Hicks and Tom Ray

SUBJECT: House Rules Committee Defines Process of Regulatory Review

We are sure you have noticed the stories in the media concerning the attempts of Republicans in the House of Representatives to review and identify the impact of Federal regulations, particularly on jobs and the economy. WESTCAS members have a real stake in this process so we wanted to review the actual process that will be used to carry out this task.

Later today, the House Rules Committee will adopt a Rule instructing 10 standing committees of the House to:

“Inventory and review existing, pending, and proposed regulations, orders, and other administration actions or procedures by agencies of the Federal government, particularly with respect to their effect on jobs and economic growth. That each standing committee designed in Section 3 of this resolution shall inventory and review existing, pending and proposed regulations, orders, and other administration actions or procedures by agencies of the Federal government within such committee’s jurisdiction. In completing such inventory and review, each committee.....shall conduct such hearings and other oversight activities as it deems necessary in support of the inventory and review and shall identify in any report filed.....for the first session of the 1123th Congress any oversight or legislative activity conduct in support of, or as a result of such inventory and review.’

It should be noted that this process applies only to the House. Senate Democrats will not embark upon a similar mission. Here are the 12 different “matters for consideration:”

1. Impede private-sector job creation.
2. Discourage innovation and entrepreneurial activity.
3. Hurt economic growth and investment.
4. Harm the nation’s global competitiveness.
5. Limit access to credit and capital.
6. Fail to utilize or apply accurate cost-benefit analysis.
7. Create additional economic uncertainty.

Fred Hicks - 703.866.4290
P.O. Box 2115
Springfield, VA 22152-0115
fred@hicks-ray.com

Tom Ray - 254.855.0880
P.O. Box 955
Waco, TX 76703-0955
tom@hicks-ray.com

Hicks-Ray Associates



-
8. Are promulgated in such a way as to limit transparency and the opportunity for public comment, particularly by affected parties.
 9. Lack specific statutory authorizations.
 10. Undermine labor-management relations.
 11. Result in large-scale unfunded mandates on employers without due cause.
 12. Impose undue paperwork and cost burdens on small business.

Among the 10 standing committees given this task are the Committee on Natural Resources, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Committee on Energy and Commerce. The oversight authority of these Committees includes the Bureau of Reclamation, the Corps of Engineers, and USEPA, so WESTCAS will want to be very aware of this review process as it unfolds over the coming weeks and months.

Stay tuned.