

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Pass Fiscal Year 2017 Appropriations Legislation that Prioritizes Infrastructure Investment & Restricts Burdensome Regulations

Action Needed:

Pass a short-term Continuing Resolution for FY 2017 to avoid a government shutdown on October 1.

Pass an Omnibus Appropriations Bill before Congress Adjourns that Prioritizes Infrastructure Funding and Blocks Burdensome Regulations, Including OSHA's Crystalline Silica and Injury and Illness Reporting Rules.

Background:

- Congress funds construction projects for most federal agencies through the annual appropriations process, which anticipates the completion of 12 regular appropriations bills before the beginning of the fiscal year on October 1. However, no appropriations bills were enacted on time between Fiscal Years 2011 and 2016, and Congress has not passed an appropriations bill to date for Fiscal Year 2017. As a result, Congress is considered likely to pass a short-term continuing resolution to avoid a government shutdown and could pass a year-long continuing resolution, omnibus appropriations bill—which packages the individual appropriations bills into a single bill—or combination thereof before January 2017.

AGC Message:

- **Enact an Omnibus Appropriations Bill, Not a Year-Long Continuing Resolution.** Under continuing resolutions, agencies cannot start new projects ready for construction. These delays can lead to cost overruns as the prices for materials and labor rise. Agencies have re-solicited bids or conducted new environmental, architectural or engineering analyses as a result of previous continuing resolutions, also adding cost and delays to previously ready-to-go construction projects. Enacting an omnibus appropriations bill would avoid these needless problems.
- **Prioritize Infrastructure Investment.** Scores of studies highlight the need for adequate federal infrastructure funding to help maintain the nation's global competitiveness, security and health. In an omnibus bill, Congress must prioritize surface transportation, navigation & flood control, military construction, and drinking water & wastewater programs.
- **Block Implementation and Enforcement of Burdensome Regulations.** The Executive Branch continues to implement a host of regulations that will negatively impact the ability of construction companies to hire new workers, grow their businesses, and perform government work. Many of these regulatory actions have been rushed through the rulemaking process and are based on highly questionable, incomplete or obsolete economic and scientific data. Two such rules high on AGC's list are the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) recent Crystalline Silica and Injury and Illness Reporting rules. (See OSHA Rules One-Pager for more information).