



What's ahead for Washington this week

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Washington, Dec. 13 – This week's bookends will be Monday's economic showdown with President Obama summoning heads of the nation's dozen largest banks to the White House and Friday's climate showdown in Copenhagen where Obama and some 100 other world leaders hope to announce an interim "political" agreement on curbing greenhouse gas emissions. Watch closely to see if the President reiterates his goals of U.S. cuts around 17% by 2020, along with \$10 billion or so to help fund green tech in the poorest developing countries already buffeted by climate impacts – goals likely to be considered too little, too late by most of the Copenhagen participants.

The big themes of jobs and the economy will continue to reverberate throughout the week. On Sunday, the Senate voted 57-35 to OK the massive \$1.1 trillion omnibus federal spending bill which covers six of the 12 annual appropriations bills. So the omnibus bill is ready for President Obama to sign this week. That just leaves the \$626 billion defense spending bill to go – a must-pass bill which is expected to include both raising the national debt ceiling well above the current \$12.1 trillion level and measures to generate more jobs.

Meanwhile, the House will get to work on new jobs legislation which has become the top White House priority. And on Thursday, the Senate Banking Committee will vote on whether to confirm Fed Chair Ben Bernanke for another four-year term. Expect the committee to vote for confirmation after urging Bernanke to make the next four years much better than the last two. Expect Bernanke to silently wish that the Fed's powers weren't being cut back in the financial reform legislation now before Congress.

Along with the Senate continuing its high-stakes healthcare debate which not only divides the two parties but has created deep divisions among Democrats, congressional committees and many other people will be busy:

Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2009

- Senate Energy and Natural Resources, Hearings to examine S.2052, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to require the Secretary of Energy to carry out a research and development and demonstration program to reduce manufacturing and construction costs relating to **nuclear reactors**, and S.2812, to amend the

Energy Policy Act of 2005 to require the Secretary of Energy to carry out programs to develop and demonstrate two small modular nuclear reactor designs.

Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2009

- House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health hearing on Innovations In Addressing **Childhood Obesity**

Thursday, Dec. 17, 2009

- Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Business meeting to consider S.2826, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 **to extend the renewable production credit for wind and open-loop biomass facilities**, and S.2869, **Small Business Job Creation and Access to Capital Act of 2009**.
- Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests hearings on various **National Forest System land and other public land use issues**.

Friday, Dec. 18,

- President Obama joins Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and other members of the “Green Cabinet” in Copenhagen for the conclusion of the Dec. 7-18 international climate change talks.

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