

Surety & Fidelity WEEKLY



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Congress Moves Forward on Critical Infrastructure Appointments



This Tuesday, February 2, the full Senate will meet for the final confirmation vote of Pete Buttigieg for Transportation Secretary, a key role in President Biden's push to improve the nation's infrastructure with his "Build Back Better" plan. On January 21, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation advanced President Biden's nomination of Pete Buttigieg with a 21-3 vote. During the Senate Committee hearing, Pete Buttigieg stated that we have "generational opportunity" to transform and improve America's infrastructure. Biden indicated that he sees the Department of Transportation as the "site of some of our most ambitious plans to build back better," and that he trusts "Mayor Pete to lead this work with focus, decency, and a bold vision." SFAA looks forward to Pete Buttigieg's leadership on infrastructure as he begins a new role as transportation secretary.

Separately, the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, led by Chairman Peter DeFazio (D-OR) and Ranking Member Sam Graves (R-MO), announced its rosters for the 117th Congress. The full Democratic roster is available [here](#), and the Republican roster is available [here](#). SFAA congratulates the T&I leadership of the 117th Congress and looks forward to working with members on important issues to the surety bond industry.



SFAA Updates Priority Bills Report

The Surety & Fidelity Association's government affairs team is working on a slate of surety issues in state legislatures across the country. In Kansas and Arizona, SFAA is to remove or

amend language in two occupational licensing review acts that list bonding as a more-restrictive means of regulation and would require all state agencies to submit their licensing requirements for each regulated profession in order to streamline the licensure process. SFAA is also monitoring a re-filing of a bill introduced, and ultimately defeated, last year in Maryland that would add sureties to the state's bad faith statutes.

Other legislation of note currently being tracked by SFAA are: two P3 construction related bills in Maryland, a bill in Hawaii that could potentially impact the state's little miller act, an Oklahoma bill which would raise the threshold for bonding on public construction contracts, and a re-filed bill in Florida relating to lien bonds. As a resource to its members, SFAA provides a detailed tracking report of priority legislation which can be found [here](#) and is updated every two weeks. The association remains committed to promoting responsible bonding laws and regulations across all states and jurisdictions.

Apply for the 2020 Surety Industry Awards

SFAA and NASBP invite all local surety associations to submit nominations for the 2020 Surety Industry Awards for Excellence in Surety Bond Promotion and Advocacy. These awards honor local surety associations for their achievements in promoting the value of contract surety bonds in construction and for advocating on behalf of the surety industry to owners and legislatures.



Award categories are:

Silver, Gold and Platinum Awards
Advocacy Award
Tiger Trust Award

The deadline for awards submissions is **Friday, March 5, 2021**. Visit the [Surety Awards website](#) for criteria information, details on how to enter, and advice on making your award submission as successful as possible.

Please contact Jenn Coolidge at jcoolidge@surety.org with any questions.



Register for the Virtual Legislative Fly-In with SFAA & NASBP

Please register for the first-ever joint SFAA & NASBP Virtual Legislative Fly-In on March 25, 2021. The SFAA & NASBP Virtual Legislative Fly-In will enable members to engage in policy discussions with U.S. Congressional offices. Your participation as a surety advocate is critically important to ensure policymakers on Capitol Hill understand the significant role bonds play in advancing public works infrastructure projects. The new Congress will include a large freshman class, so it is imperative for SFAA and NASBP to become acquainted with the newly elected officials. All meetings will be scheduled virtually, and no travel is required to participate.

Complete the [registration form](#) now.

Updated Resources Available to Members



The **Law Library (Case Summary Database)** can be found [here](#).



The **2020 Fidelity Loss Cost Review** can be found [here](#).



The **AIA Document A313-2020** has been updated and is available to download from the [Surety Bond Form Index](#).

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