

Surety & Fidelity WEEKLY

 **The Surety & Fidelity**
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
Protecting Workers, Taxpayers & Businesses



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Upcoming Meetings & Events

RiskStream Surety Lab Workshop on Powers of Attorneys on April 28, 2021. [Registration Link for Session 3.](#)



Commercial Surety Advisory Committee Meeting on May 12, 2021.

SFAA to Engage in Construction Procurement Caucus Kickoff Meeting This Week

SFAA, along with members of the Construction Industry Procurement Coalition (CIPC), are excited to participate in the kick-off meeting of the Construction Procurement Caucus on [April 22 at 12pm](#). Congressional caucuses are informal groups comprised of members of the House and or the Senate, or both, created to discuss mutual issues of importance and to advance legislative and policy planning solutions. The CPC, led by Congressman Peters (D-CA) and Congressman Stauber (R-MN), will serve as a bipartisan forum for members of Congress to discuss ways to improve the federal government procurement process to promote commonsense reforms that benefit the government, taxpayers, and construction related businesses of all sizes. Notably, the CPC members have historically been supportive of SFAA's efforts to exempt the Miller Act from periodic indexing and will be critical to advocacy efforts on this issue during the 117th Congress.

SFAA, along with the members of the CIPC, including AGC, NASBP, ASA, and AIA are encouraging more members of Congress to join the CPC. Additional information and registration details for the April 22nd meeting can be found [here](#).

Construction Industry Procurement Coalition





House Passes Insurance Industry Supported SAFE Banking Act

Yesterday, the House passed H.R. 1996, the Secure and Fair Enforcement (SAFE) Banking Act of 2021, on a 321-101 vote. The bipartisan bill, which was authored by Representative Ed Perlmutter (D-CO), would make it easier for state-authorized cannabis businesses to engage

with various financial services instead of relying on cash transactions. The SAFE Banking Act would also shield banks, credit unions, payment processors, agents, brokers, and insurers from federal regulatory and enforcement actions if they provide services to a cannabis-related business or its employees in states that have legalized cannabis sales. SFAA supports efforts to address the conflict between federal and state law to ensure financial service companies can provide insurance products to marijuana related businesses in states that have legalized cannabis recreational or medically.

SFAA and NASBP Comment Letter to New Jersey DPMC Receives Positive Response to Clarification

In response to SFAA and NASBP's comment letter, the New Jersey Division of Property Management and Construction (DPMC) clarified that final performance and payment bonds will be accepted electronically once the procurement system is operational. In March, SFAA and NASBP submitted a comment letter to the DPMC concerning a proposal authorizing the state to accept electronic forms of bid security meeting commercial standards, but the DPMC was unclear whether this proposal also included final performance and payment bonds. In April, the DPMC responded to the letter clarifying the language used in the proposal, confirming they will also accept both performance and payment bonds submitted electronically. In the initial comment letter, SFAA and NASBP explained the importance of electronic bonding for the surety industry particularly in light of the current COVID-19 pandemic. "It is vital that public procurement officers and the construction and surety industries work together to find a viable solution while continuing to achieve the public policy purpose of protecting state and federal taxpayer funds and the downstream parties who rely on surety guarantees of performance and payment." SFAA and NASBP will continue to monitor this proposal.



Register Today: Surety Lab Workshop on Powers of Attorneys

SFAA joined a newly-formed blockchain working group created by [The Institutes RiskStream Collaborative™](#), the risk management and

insurance industry's largest enterprise-level blockchain consortium. The working group is focused on streamlining the power of attorney registration and verification process within the surety industry. Participants will help improve the current processes by using blockchain technology. Carriers, agencies/brokers, reinsurers, industry trade associations and technology solution providers are welcome to attend.

Register for the upcoming sessions:

Surety Power of Attorney Lab - Session 3 of 3
When: **Apr 28, 2021** 09:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
[Registration Link for Session 3](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Slack Surety Workspace

Your active participation, collaboration and input inspires, motivates and strengthens the advancement and success of innovating the global Surety industry. RiskStream is providing a forum for participants to stay informed, exchange ideas, and receive instant notifications throughout this journey. [Join the RiskStream Collaborative Surety Slack workspace.](#)

Updated Resources Available to Members



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



End-of-Session Reports can be found [here](#).



Proposed & Adopted Regulations can be found [here](#).



New Bonding Opportunities can be found [here](#).

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