

Surety & Fidelity WEEKLY



In This Issue

Senate to Consider Bipartisan Water Infrastructure Bill

Governors Submit Priorities for Surface Transport Reauthorization

SFAA Supports Reversal of Court Decision Against Argonaut Insurance Company – Files Amicus Curiae Brief

2020 Census Results: South and Mountain West Gain House Seats

Register Today: Surety Lab Workshop on Powers of Attorneys

Upcoming Meetings & Events

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

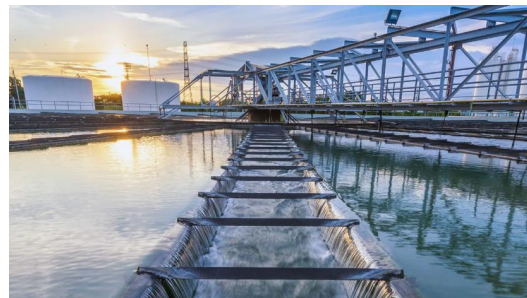


Government Affairs Advisory Committee Meeting on May 10, 2021 from 1:00pm to 2:30pm EST.

Commercial Surety Advisory Committee Meeting on May 12, 2021 from 2:00pm to 3:30pm EST.

Senate to Consider Bipartisan Water Infrastructure Bill

This week, Democrats and Republicans are working on a bipartisan drinking water and wastewater infrastructure bill, Senate Majority Leader Schumer (D-NY) said yesterday. The chamber is expected to hold a procedural vote on consideration of the bill today, and Senator



Schumer said members of Congress will have an opportunity to offer amendments to the water infrastructure legislation (Bloomberg). According to Bloomberg, more than \$35 billion would be authorized for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure projects by S. 914.

The bill would:

- Reauthorize capitalization grants to the Clean Water and Drinking Water state revolving funds and the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act project financing program.
- Authorize grants from the Environmental Protection Agency to improve drinking

water and wastewater systems, including projects to replace lead drinking water pipes.

- Direct a portion of funding to rural and economically disadvantaged areas.

The infrastructure proposals from both the Biden administration and Senate Republicans invest heavily in upgrades to the U.S. water infrastructure.



Governors Submit Priorities for Surface Transport Reauthorization

On Friday, the National Governors Association sent a letter to leaders in Congress to reconsider their recommendations in the upcoming surface transportation reauthorization bill. The letter, addressed to Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA.), Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA), aims to keep federal, state, and territory cooperation strong and productive. According to Bloomberg, the suggestions include:

- Establishing a variety of dedicated, long-term source-funding and financing that also gives flexibility "to match the right tool with each project";
- Fixing existing infrastructure and making investments to modernize it in the future; and
- Using innovative technologies in infrastructure

The full letter from the NGA is available [here](#).

SFAA Supports Reversal of Court Decision Against Argonaut Insurance Company – Files Amicus Curiae Brief

On April 21, 2021, SFAA filed an amicus curiae brief in litigation entitled Argonaut Insurance Company v. Falcon V, L.L.C., et. al. SFAA's brief was filed in support of Argonaut Insurance Company and reversal of the Bankruptcy Court's decision. SFAA argued that the court was wrong to decide that Argonaut's bonding program with Falcon V was not an executory contract, and even if it were, it was a non-assumable financial accommodation. In its brief, SFAA contended that the court's decision forced Argonaut to retain residual obligations without the consideration of its Indemnity Agreement and the right to request collateral, and the decision, if left to stand, will have far-reaching negative ramifications for the surety industry. SFAA is awaiting the decision of the federal District Court whether it will accept SFAA's brief as part of Argonaut's appeal from the Bankruptcy Court.



2020 Census Results: South and Mountain West Gain House Seats

On Monday, the Census Bureau unveiled which states will gain and lose congressional seats based on the results of the updated population totals. Multiple states in the South and Mountain West regions will gain additional seats in the House,

according to the new apportionment results indicating strong population changes in certain areas. The number of House seats will change in 13 states: Notably, Texas will gain 2 additional seats, the most out of any state; and California will lose a congressional seat for

the first time (Wall Street Journal). Five states will gain one seat each: Colorado, Florida, Montana, North Carolina and Oregon. Seven states will lose one each: California, Illinois, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Each decade the Census Bureau releases apportionment results which triggers the reshuffling of the 435 seats in the House.

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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