



Memorandum

TO: Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Greenberg Traurig

DATE: April 6, 2011

RE: March Report to the Board of County Commissioners

Below please find a summary of Greenberg Traurig's efforts on behalf of Miami-Dade County in March.

Overview of Legislative Activity in March

During March, Congress predominantly focused on a path to conclusion for FY 2011 appropriations. The newly elected House Republican majority began the month steadfastly insisting upon an overall \$61 billion, non-defense spending cut. While their proposal for these drastic cuts was able to pass the House, the Senate proved to be an insurmountable obstacle for such deep cuts in spending. The House and the Senate were forced to delay the finalization of a FY 2011 spending bill until the second week of April. The Senate has requested that the cuts be limited to approximately \$30 billion and that the House refrain from including policy riders such as the defunding of National Public Radio and Planned Parenthood. Congress will have to make a decision to either pass another temporary stopgap funding bill or a full FY 2011 appropriations bill by April 8th. This decision is further complicated by the pending debate on raising the federal debt limit.

Congress' attention during March was also drawn, once again, to North Africa. Tensions between the White House and Congress grew as the President boldly stated that Moammar Gadhafi must be removed from his position as leader of Libya. This situation only added to the already partisan debate over federal spending as politicians on both sides of the aisle criticized President Obama for involving the US in another open-ended war. Eventually, the US stepped back from a leadership role and turned operations over to other NATO partners.

Appropriations

With the abolition of earmarks, it more important now than ever that Congress maintain grant opportunities for local governments. During this time of fiscal hardship, it is

imperative that Congress keeps in mind that local governments are also experiencing budgetary shortfalls. While the County is in the process of making tough decisions about what can be cut and what cannot, there are still major projects which are important to the residents of Miami Dade County. In the past, state and local governments came to Congress in search of directed spending requests. The ban on earmarks means that local governments will have to turn to federal grants for the needed funding assistance to carry out their important projects. Competitive grants and block grants are essential to ensuring that Miami Dade County can continue to pursue economic recovery, stabilization and development. Both the President's budget and the House passed continuing resolution (CR) proposed cuts to essential formula and competitive grant programs such as Community Development Block Grants and Community Oriented Policing Grants. In March, GT met with members of the Miami Dade Delegation to underscore the importance of these grant programs to the County. We advocated for the full funding of these and other grant programs. GT continues to push for these programs and will keep the County informed as Congress moves towards completion of the FY 2011 appropriations bill and prepares the FY 2012 budget.

Aviation

GT team member Alan Slomowitz worked with Tony Quintero to continue our efforts to have the Miami International Airport (MIA) reimbursed for part of the costs of in-line EDS installation. We are working to document other airports that were forced to accept lower federal share (e.g. 75%) for installation of in-line EDS, rather than the 90% federal share given to some airports for installation of in-line EDS. MIA is one of these airports and we are trying to build a coalition and show that this arbitrary application of matching fund levels has caused a hardship on several airports. Additionally, Representative David Rivera has taken an interest in this issue, but he wants to have other airports as examples so any language that he might introduce would not be classified as an earmark. GT will continue to work with MIA on this and other issues.

Harbor Dredge Project

GT understands the County's efforts to utilize all existing resources to pressure Congress and the Administration to provide the funding needed for the Miami Harbor Dredge. In today's fiscal environment, it is crucial that any and all resources be employed to their fullest potential. As part of this effort, GT's Joe Corrigan has been continually working with Miami Dade County to supplement the efforts of other lobbyists on the County's federal team. Joe spent several years of his career working for the US Army Corps of Engineers and has utilized both his institutional knowledge and extensive contact base to advocate for the dredge's funding. He has also provided an analysis of the current obstacles to obtaining the desired federal funds. Throughout March, Joe held several calls with the County and the Army Corps of Engineers. GT will continue to work with the County to supplement the efforts of others and will continue to lend our expertise in this area.

Media Updates

GT continues to send media updates on legislative and political issues to the County in order to ensure that the Commission and staff remain up-to-date on developments within the Beltway. Our team has continued to send those interested individuals information regarding issues such as job creation, immigration, renewable energy standards and transportation, among others. We will continue to monitor the issues most relevant to the County and provide timely and accurate information in order to make certain that the County is aware of any developments which may provide an opportunity to accomplish established legislative goals.

If you have any questions, or we can be of any further assistance, please let us know.