

# MEMORANDUM

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**To:** County of Miami-Dade  
**From:** Patton Boggs LLP  
**Date:** April 13, 2011  
**Subject:** Status Update

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Below please find an update of our activities on behalf of Miami Dade County:

## **Port of Miami Channel Deepening**

On February 23, 2011, Patton Boggs participated in a conference call with Bill Johnson, Director of the Port of Miami, Joe Rasco, Phillip Drujak and other team members.

Port dredging funding had not been included in the President's FY 12 budget which was released on February 14, 2011. The Port currently is dredged to a depth of 42 feet while existing congressional authority in the Water Resources Development Act allows the Port to dredge to 50 feet. The deepening of the Port would create 30,000 permanent new jobs, and allow the port to double cargo. The Port sought \$75 million in federal funds for the deepening to compliment the \$75 million in state and local funding dedicated to the project. The conference call discussed strategies for seeking the additional federal funds in light of the President's budget and Patton Boggs provided insights into the Corps policy regarding new contracts while operating on a continuing resolution and the work plan that the Corps sent to the Hill.

In early March, when Governor Rick Scott rejected the federal High Speed Rail funds, he pledged that the State would pay for the remaining \$77 million needed to complete the funding for the Port of Miami dredging.

## **Miami Dade Public Housing Agency**

On March 29th and 30th, Gregg Fortner, Executive Director of the Miami Dade Public Housing Agency, and his staff visited Washington DC to attend the NAHRO (National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials) legislative conference. On March 29, Patton Boggs met with PHA staff to discuss the Section 8 Housing Voucher Program. On March 30, Patton Boggs accompanied the group to meetings with the Miami Dade congressional delegation.

The FY 2009 HUD appropriations bill rescinded \$750 million in unspent Housing Voucher Program funds from approximately 2,400 public housing authorities administering the program nationwide. Recent information has revealed that Miami-Dade County was severely and adversely impacted by the apparent inequitable execution of this rescission which occurred while they were in HUD receivership and operating under a Memorandum of Understanding with HUD. The PHA sought to bring this situation to the attention of the delegation. Hill meetings revealed that the delegation was unanimously supportive of some action to rectify this situation.

Patton Boggs worked closely with PHA staff to provide follow up information to Congressional delegation staff.

### **Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Hearing**

On April 12th, the Director of Miami Dade Department of Emergency Management, Curt Sommerhoff, testified before a joint hearing of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and the Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety on "Review of the Nuclear Emergency in Japan and Implications for the US". The Patton Boggs team provided background on the hearing's intent.

In addition, Patton Boggs scheduled and attended meetings with key House and Senate South Florida delegation staff and with Senator Nelson in order to brief them on the hearing, Miami Dade testimony and to provide background on the Department of Emergency Management. We have followed up by providing additional material to the staff.

Patton Boggs has also provided information on the EMPG program which will continue to be funded at FY 2010 levels in the FY 2011 long term Continuing Resolution. This means that the reimbursement for EMPG will be from October 1 forward which is a victory for those jurisdictions receiving EMPG funding. The number of jurisdictions receiving UASI funds remains at 64, but it appears that the funding has been cut overall by about 18%.

### **General 112th Congress Status Report**

Attached is a memo which provides a status update and forecast of notable federal legislation relevant to local government interests as of April 1, 2011. This memo will be updated periodically (usually during a congressional recess). If you have any questions or need more information about any of the information contained in it, please do not hesitate to ask.

Additionally, you will continue to receive our updates on issues like the status of the long term FY 2011 Continuing Resolution, FY 2012 budget and appropriations and other issues of interest to the County as events occur.

I hope this is helpful to you.