



Memorandum

TO: Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Greenberg Traurig

DATE: February 9, 2012

RE: January Report to the Board of County Commissioners

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

Overview of Legislative Activity in January

Congress was in session for a little over a week in January. House members also traveled out of town for their party retreats in January. Members returned to Washington, DC, and re-launched efforts to extend the payroll tax holiday. Although the temporary extension lasts until February, members are reluctant to allow partisanship to delay the extension for the remainder of 2012. Congress also continued to push forward with a surface transportation reauthorization, but each chamber is pursuing a different approach to the reauthorization. While the Senate is seeking a short-term authorization of two year, the House is moving legislation that would authorize programs for 5 years at a significantly reduced level. These bills are expected to be brought up for a vote in the respective chambers in early February.

Aviation

During January, GT joined OIA in representing Miami International Airport (MIA) at a meeting of the G-10, a coalition of the country's largest airports. The meeting focused on coordinating positions on issues ranging from Customs and Border Protection (CBP) staffing to the expansion of the visa waiver program. GT also assisted MIA in drafting support letters to send to Congress and the Administration. One letter that GT helped draft concerned funding for the Contract Tower Program. The program allows the FAA to contract with private air traffic control providers to ensure the safety and efficiency of airfields at a far reduced cost compared to air traffic control services provided by government employees. In light of the Budget Control Act, the Office of Management and Budget has been pressuring the FAA to eliminate this program. GT also assisted MIA in drafting a letter to the Administration and the delegation that called for increased CBP staffing and staffing model transparency. As you are aware, MIA is the nation's

leader in international cargo, and is third among U.S. airports for processing international passengers. Without the necessary CBP staffing resources to efficiently process inbound international passengers and time-sensitive cargo, particularly perishables, excessive wait times and costly inspection delays are incurred at MIA. Both letters were ultimately sent to Congress and the Administration.

Visa Waiver Program

GT joined OIA at a meeting at the US Travel Association to discuss efforts towards expanding the visa waiver program (VWP). Outreach continues to members of the Dade delegation and others in Congress. At the end of the month, GT was notified that the joint efforts had secured the support of Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen. Prior to these efforts by OIA and GT, Ros-Lehtinen was an opponent of the expansion of the program. Her support is key to the success of this issue given her position as chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. GT will continue to pursue the expansion of the VWP and coordinate efforts with OIA and the US Travel Association.

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 the reauthorization of the surface transportation bill, appropriations and immigration, 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.