



Memorandum

TO: Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Greenberg Traurig

DATE: October 9, 2012

RE: September Report to the Board of County Commissioners

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

Overview of Legislative Activity in June

During the month of September, the House and Senate returned for a brief pre-election session to pass a six-month continuing resolution that will fund the government until March 27, 2013. Senate Environment and Public Works Chairwoman Barbara Boxer said in a letter to House Speaker John Boehner that the continuing resolution fails to maintain surface transportation funding levels agreed to in MAP-21, and cuts highway formula spending in fiscal 2013 to \$39.14 billion from the current level of \$39.7 billion. House Republicans said that since the measure would extend current spending levels, it cannot fund new programs created after the fiscal 2012 appropriations law was enacted, such as those authorized in the highway legislation. Also in September, members of Congress continued to work on crafting a farm bill to replace the 2008 farm bill set to expire at the end of September. House Agriculture Chairman Frank Lucas pressed for a one-year or three-month extension of the farm bill but was unable to gain enough support for either measure. Despite pressure from agriculture groups, the House leadership did not bring a farm bill to a vote in September before going into recess, allowing the 2008 farm bill to expire on September 30.

Agriculture

Farm bill reauthorization remained stalled in Congress this month despite the Senate having passed a farm bill over the summer. House Republican leaders did not bring the House Agriculture Committee-approved bill, H.R. 6083, to the floor for a vote in September because of continuing disagreements among Republican House members over the amount of cuts to the USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. The House bill proposes \$16 billion in cuts over 10 years, while the Senate's bill would cut \$4.5 billion over 10 years. Conservative House Republicans are pressing for deeper cuts

than those currently contained in the House bill. House Agriculture Chairman Frank Lucas (R-OK) pushed for a three-month extension of the farm bill but was unable to gain enough support for it. Because Congress did not pass authorizing legislation, the 2008 farm bill expired on September 30. GT continues to monitor action on the farm bill and will keep Miami Dade County apprised of obstacles to its passage, particularly during the upcoming lame-duck session.

Appropriations

As stated above, Congress passed, and the President signed, a six-month Continuing Resolution to keep the government funded while Members go home to campaign. The measure extends spending through March 27, 2013, and increases levels for most programs and agencies by about 0.6 percent. With the threat of a government shut down sidestepped for now, Members will go home to campaign and will address the fiscal problems of the nation in a possible lame duck session. Also on their agenda for any lame duck session will be finding a way to modify sequestration to prevent significant cuts to programs supported by both Democrats and Republicans.

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.