

WASHINGTON WEEKLY REPORT FEBRUARY 6TH – FEBRUARY 10TH, 2012

Below is an informal overview of the Washington D.C. activities of the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs:

THE SENATE WAS IN SESSION THIS WEEK

THE HOUSE WAS IN SESSION THIS WEEK

VISA WAIVER PROGRAM SUPPORTED BY MIAMI-DADE COUNTY CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

Reps. Debbie Wasserman Schultz and Frederica Wilson have joined their Miami-Dade County Congressional colleagues in cosponsoring Rep. Mike Quigley's (IL) bill, H.R. 3855, "the Visa Waiver Program Enhanced Security and Reform Act" a bipartisan bill that would expand the visa waiver program for certain countries, including Brazil. The measure would significantly increase inbound travel to Miami-Dade County (in addition to having a positive impact on retail spending and property purchases in the County). The Senate version of the bill was introduced by Sen. Barbara Mikulski on the same day and has received bipartisan support.

To date, H.R. 3855 currently has 24 cosponsors, including the aforementioned Miami-Dade County Reps., and Reps. Ros-Lehtinen, Diaz-Balart and Rivera. The President endorsed the bill during his May 2011 trip to Poland. More importantly for Miami-Dade County, the bill also includes provisions expanding the visa waiver program to Brazil, Argentina and Chile, as well as Taiwan. Rep. Ros-Lehtinen's support for the measure is critical, as she chairs the House Foreign Relations Committee which leads oversight of the visa-waiver program administered through both the State Department and Department of Homeland Security.

Last July, Miami-Dade County Commissioner Javier Souto sponsored and Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz and Commissioner Rebeca Sosa co-sponsored a resolution adopted by the Board of County Commissioners, calling on the federal government and Congress to ease visa restrictions in certain countries, including Brazil, provided that adequate homeland security measures are in place.

The positive economic impact for Miami-Dade County of just Brazil obtaining visa waiver status cannot be overstated, as a recent New York Times article pointed out: *"According to the U.S. Commerce Department, 1.2 million Brazilians visited the U.S. in 2010 and spent \$5.9 billion, or \$4,940 for each visitor. Most of the Brazilians who come to the United States visit Florida, and in the first nine months of 2011, an estimated 1.1 million Brazilians spent \$1.6 billion in the state, an increase of nearly 60 percent from the previous year. Among foreign nations, only Canada sends more visitors to Florida."*

OIA has worked closely with MIA and travel and tourism industry stakeholders in Washington, including Patricia Rojas at the U.S. Travel Association (USTA), who has taken the lead on advocating for this bill before Congress and the Obama Administration. USTA is an invaluable resource and OIA will continue to partner with the group to advocate for [the bill](#), in addition to urging support by Senators Rubio and Nelson for the Senate version of the legislation.

WHITE HOUSE SUMMER JOBS+ PROGRAM/CONFERENCE CALL

On Wednesday, the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs along with the U.S. Department of Labor, held a conference call with local governments from across the country to discuss the White House Summer Jobs+ program.

The speakers on the call included White House Deputy Director for Intergovernmental Affairs David Agnew and Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis. The call intended to highlight the White House Summer Jobs+ initiative to provide summer jobs to low-income and underprivileged youth in the U.S. Mr. Agnew spoke about the success of the stimulus funding that came out of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). This funding supported 367,000 summer jobs in 2009 and 2010. Despite a lack of current funding for a summer jobs program, the Administration recognizes the importance of summer employment for youth in local communities and encourages local businesses and governments to get involved in the program.

Secretary Solis highlighted the existing partnerships that are already in place for the Summer Jobs+ program. Jamba Juice, Wells Fargo, and other companies have committed to providing jobs this summer in local communities across the U.S. She also commended the U.S. Conference of Mayors for working with local businesses and helping to provide jobs within city governments as part of the initiative. The Administration has identified over 175,000 jobs for low-income youth this summer. Many of these jobs will be paid positions but this program also includes unpaid internships, mentorships, and apprenticeships. Although the youth unemployment rate is the lowest it has been (16%) since the beginning of the recession, the Department of Labor continues to work to lower this number and increase job opportunities for youth.

In March, the Department of Labor will unveil the Summer Jobs+ Bank that was developed with the help of Google, LinkedIn and other partners. This is a tool for unemployed youth to help them find open job opportunities in their local areas. For more information, Secretary Solis directed the participants to go to the Department's website www.dol.gov/summerjobs or reach out to Assistant Secretary of Employment and Training Administration Jane Oates at 202-693-2700.

The Secretary highlighted the following action items that local governments can do to get involved in the Summer Jobs+ program:

- Encourage local partners and businesses to get involved in the program;

- Have the city make a commitment to sponsor jobs within the city government as part of the Summer Jobs+ program;
- Embed the Summer Jobs+ Bank into your city website when it is released in March;
- Host a Summer Jobs+ Fair to bring together youth and employers in your city;
- Amplify the message about Summer Jobs+ by including talking points in your speeches or filming a video that the Department of Labor can use to promote the program.

The Secretary plans to draft a letter for local governments to use in creating relationships with local businesses and encouraged all participants to work with the Department of Labor to suggest corporate relationships that may increase the opportunities through Summer Jobs+. All Federal agencies were briefed on the program and asked to make a commitment to Summer Jobs+. The Department of Labor expects many agencies to participate in this program and will work to connect local governments to other agencies. A question was raised on the call regarding transportation for youth to get them to their summer jobs. The Secretary said that the Department plans to look into this issue and help local governments coordinate efforts among Federal agencies to make sure that transportation is not an issue with the program. *(Prepared by Federal Lobbying Team Patton Boggs)*

FYI - FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS SET TO START ON MONDAY

The Federal Government's Fiscal Year 2013 process will begin next Monday. The federal fiscal year runs from October 1 until the following September 30. Thus Fiscal Year 2012 began on October 1, 2011 and Fiscal Year 2013 will begin on October 1, 2012.

The annual process begins when the President transmits his proposed budget to the Congress in early February. Next Monday, February 13, the Administration is planning to release the Fiscal Year 2013 budget. On Monday the overall budget information will be released. The rest of next week most federal agencies will hold briefings about the details of their programs and budgets. The information will be available to the public online, on CD and in printed form.

When the budget reaches Capitol Hill, several Committees take over. The House and Senate Budget Committees review the overall numbers -- how much the President's budget proposes to spend on entitlements, on discretionary programs and how much revenue he wants to raise. The House and Senate Appropriations Committees review the spending requests for the federal agencies. The tax committees (House Ways and Means and Senate Finance) consider legislation to amend the tax code, and other authorizing committees consider proposed program changes.

The President's budget always has two functions. In part, it is a policy document, laying out budgets for all the federal agencies. In part, it is a political document, proposing major new initiatives, even if the chances of getting them enacted are slim. The political

aspects are even greater in election years. As a result, many of the programs, budgets and proposed new taxes proposed in the President's FY2013 will not be enacted. In other words, the final version of the FY2013 budget, after Congress is finished with it, will not look anything like the budget that will be released by the President on Monday. *(Prepared by Federal Lobbying Team Akerman Senterfitt).*

FLORIDA GRANTED FLEXIBILITY FOR EDUCATION STANDARDS

On Thursday, President Obama announced that Florida will have more flexibility when it comes to the mandates of implementing the No Child Left Behind Act. Ten states were granted broader flexibility after demonstrating that they will raise and reform standards and improve accountability among teachers while also implementing a plan to make students college and career-ready. In addition, states must create comprehensive systems of teacher and principal development, evaluation and support that include factors beyond test scores, such as principal observation, peer review, student work, or parent and student feedback. The other states are Colorado, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, Oklahoma, and Tennessee.

"This is great news for students, educators and parents in the Sunshine State and I applaud the President and Secretary Duncan for recognizing the need for a different approach," said Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (FL-20), who was at the White House for the announcement. *"Local educators must have the flexibility to create plans that work best for their students, and not have to follow a one-size-fits-all federal mandate that may not work for every student. We must encourage innovation in developing the 21st century skills needed to be competitive."*

MORTGAGE FRAUD SETTLEMENT ANNOUNCED BY OBAMA ADMINISTRATION

On Thursday, President Obama announced a \$25 billion joint federal-state fraud settlement with five of the nation's largest banks over their flawed and fraudulent foreclosure practices. The nation's five largest banks - Wells Fargo, Bank of America, J.P. Morgan Chase, Ally Financial and Citigroup – are part of the largest joint state settlement in our nation's history. All five banks will provide relief to current underwater borrowers.

"This settlement will help millions of homeowners across the country," said Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz. "Thousands of local homeowners in South Florida who were hit especially hard by the housing crisis will finally see relief. As the president said, nearly 4 million people lost their homes to foreclosures because of risky lending by our nation's banks. We must do all we can to help families who unfairly lost their homes, while

working to keep others in their homes and avoid foreclosure. Finally, this settlement will ensure tough new homeowner protections going forward.”

The \$25 billion will help some homeowners currently underwater in their home loans by reducing their monthly payments. The settlement will also help an additional 750,000 homeowners across the country who lost their homes to foreclosure. For more information about the settlement go to:

<http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/mortgageservicingsettlement>.

REP. WILSON MEETS WITH HAITIAN PRIME MINISTER GARY CONILLE

Rep. Frederica Wilson met with Haitian Prime Minister Gary Conille and three leaders from Haiti's Parliament on Tuesday to discuss the progress made in the two years since the island nation's devastating earthquake. Among the issues discussed were displaced persons, cholera, land and housing, and gender-based violence. In January, Congresswoman Wilson and Senator Bill Nelson hosted a discussion on the progress in Haiti with Ambassador Ken Merten and members of the Obama administration, and she recently introduced a resolution calling for an end to gender-based violence in Haiti.

In December, Congresswoman Wilson spearheaded a bipartisan letter to the administration by members of the Florida Congressional delegation to include Haiti as one of the countries eligible for a visa program for low-skilled workers – a status which was granted in mid-January.

REP. WILSON ANNOUNCES \$584,596 IN RESEARCH FUNDING FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

On Tuesday Rep. Frederica Wilson announced a \$584,596 grant for the University of Miami School of Medicine in support of research on the molecular genetics of non-syndromic hearing loss (NSHL), which is related to deafness and communicative disorders. The grant was awarded by the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, an arm of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY THE N.B.A. AND THE MIAMI HEAT TEAM UP

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in conjunction with the State of Florida, Miami-Dade County, the NBA and the Miami Heat have partnered on the DHS “If You See Something, Say Something™” public awareness campaign which highlights the Department's partnership with the sports industry to ensure the safety and security of the employees, players and fans. “Each of us has a role to play in helping keep America safe, and time and again, we have seen the value of



public vigilance in thwarting terrorism and crime,” said Secretary Napolitano.

In July 2010, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), at Secretary Janet Napolitano's direction, launched the national "If You See Something, Say Something™" public awareness campaign –a simple and effective program to raise public awareness of indicators of terrorism and violent crime, and to emphasize the importance of reporting suspicious activity to the proper state and local law enforcement authorities. The campaign was originally used by New York's Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), which has licensed the use of the slogan to DHS for anti-terrorism and anti-crime effort. DHS has formed a partnership with other professional sports leagues and teams, municipalities, civic organizations and corporations on this initiative.

FIRST LADY VISITS MIAMI

Today, First Lady Michelle Obama visited the Homestead YMCA Family Center as part of her nationwide “Let’s Move” program to discuss how families can implement healthy changes in their daily lives and reduce the obesity epidemic plaguing the country’s youth. The First Lady will also participate in an panel of a WebMD Town Hall to discuss her initiative and to underscore the need for families to maintain health and wellness.

PRESIDENT OBAMA TRIP TO MIAMI

President Obama is scheduled to travel to Miami on February 23rd. Details of his trip have yet to be released, but it’s likely that the visit will focus on the ongoing housing and foreclosure issues confronting the state and South Florida in particular.

THE 2012 GOP PRESIDENTIAL FIELD: THE SANTORUM SWEEP

Former Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum swept Tuesday’s primaries in Colorado, Minnesota and Missouri. The result of Maine’s weeklong caucuses will be finalized tomorrow, as the quest to become the GOP presidential nominee continues.

CANDIDATES REMAINING

Newt Gingrich – former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives

Ron Paul – U.S. Rep. from Texas

Mitt Romney – former Gov. of Massachusetts

Rick Santorum – former Sen. from Pennsylvania

-Herman Cain, former CEO of Godfather’s Pizza, has suspended his campaign

-Michele Bachmann, U.S. Rep. from Minnesota, has suspended her campaign

-Rick Perry, Gov. of Texas, has suspended his campaign

-Jon Huntsman, former Gov. of Utah & former Ambassador to China, has suspended his campaign

NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR: FEBRUARY 13TH – FEBRUARY 17TH

The House will be in session next week.

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PRESIDENT RELEASES PROPOSED FY2013 BUDGET

The President unveiled his annual budget this past Monday morning. Attached to this report is an analysis of the budget's potential impact on local governments, which was prepared by the Patton Boggs Federal Lobbying Team. Included in the President's budget is \$4,334,000 for PortMiami to conduct maintenance dredging in the Miami Harbor. OIA will continue to work with all members of the Federal Lobbying Team, congressional delegation and county departments to ensure the County's priorities are included and/or protected in the FY13 federal budget and appropriations process.

PAYROLL TAX EXTENSION DEAL PASSED BY CONGRESS – HEADS TO PRESIDENT'S DESK FOR SIGNATURE...

Friday morning, the U.S. House of Representatives voted 293-132 to pass a conference report agreement which – extends the two percent payroll tax cut through the end of the year, provides jobless benefits to unemployed Americans, preserves the reimbursement rate for doctors who serve Medicare patients (i.e. "Doc Fix") and provides for the D Block spectrum transfer. Less than an hour later, the U.S. Senate voted 60 – 36 to approve the nearly \$143 billion measure. The conference report now goes to President Barack Obama for his signature.

The agreement comes after weeks of tense bicameral negotiations led by Senate Finance Chairman Max Baucus (MT) and House Ways and Means Chairman Dave Camp (MI). Congressional negotiators were working to get a deal done before Congress adjourned for the President's Day recess this week. The expiration of the current extension was set for February 29.

The following are some highlights of the agreement, provided by the Senate Finance Committee, as of COB Thursday February 16:

The Facts on the Payroll Tax Cut, Unemployment Insurance and SGR Agreement

- A full extension of the payroll tax cut through the end of the year

- The agreement puts a full \$1,000 in the pockets of the typical American family over the course of 2012.
- As much as 99 weeks of Unemployment Insurance, depending on the state. The agreement guarantees:
 - Up to 89 or 99 weeks through May, depending on the state.
 - Up to 79 weeks through August.
 - Up to 73 weeks through December.
- The agreement ensures the economically hardest-hit areas get the help families need to cover their bills.
- The agreement tracks economic forecasts, which predict unemployment to be lower later in the year.
- The agreement exceeds the President's UI proposal, giving more support to the states and communities in the greatest need.
- The agreement includes measures to prevent layoffs.
- The agreement encourages entrepreneurship.
- The agreement helps people return to work quickly.
- The agreement includes NO GED requirements for UI recipients.
- Continued access for seniors to see their doctors with an SGR fix through the end of the year:
 - The agreement includes NO Medicare beneficiary cuts.
 - The agreement includes NO True Up, which would have hit working families.
 - The agreement includes NO means testing.
 - The agreement only uses health offsets for health care spending.

The agreement is paid for through spectrum offsets, a small change only to new government employee pension contributions, and health care offsets that fix technical errors and reduce spending on providers and corporations to ensure Medicare patients continue to have access to their doctors. The agreement preserves Americans' access to health care and does not include a single cut to Medicare beneficiaries.

...SPECTRUM ALLOCATION PROVISIONS IN PAYROLL TAX DEAL

As stated above, the auction of television broadcast spectrum is a major "pay for" provision in the deal, with at least \$20.4 billion of auction proceeds set aside to be directed toward the federal deficit. The auction provisions in the final legislation are largely the same as those in H.R. 3630, which passed the House in December 2011,

with two significant exceptions: (1) the provisions relating to unlicensed spectrum and (2) the provisions relating to FCC auction authority.

Unlicensed Spectrum: The conference report advances unlicensed spectrum for innovative uses like WiFi and Bluetooth goal in three ways: (1) it gives the FCC the authority to preserve existing TV white spaces; (2) it gives the FCC the authority to optimize these white spaces for unlicensed use by consolidating them into more optimal configurations through band plans; and (3) it gives the FCC the authority to use part of the spectrum relinquished by TV broadcasters in the incentive auction to create nationwide guard bands that can be used for unlicensed use, including in high-value markets that currently have little or no white spaces today. Nationwide, unlicensed access to guard bands will enable innovation, promote investment in new wireless services, and enhance the value of licensed spectrum by protecting against harmful interference and allowing carriers to “off-load” data to alleviate capacity concerns.

FCC Auction Rules: Under current law, the FCC has broad authority to craft auction rules in the public interest. The agency has used this authority to ensure that communications markets remain competitive and spectrum is not concentrated in the hands of only one or two providers. H.R. 3630 would have restricted the FCC’s future ability to limit participation in spectrum auctions, regardless of the size or market dominance of potential bidders. The conference agreement modifies this prohibition by expressly preserving the FCC’s ability to ensure competition through spectrum aggregation limits and other rules.

Broadcast Relocation Fund. The legislation provides \$1.75 billion for the relocation of broadcast television channels that do not participate in the voluntary spectrum auction and must be relocated to clear spectrum for auction by the FCC.

Wireless Facilities Deployment. The legislation would allow for the modification of an existing wireless tower or base station that does not substantially change the physical dimensions of the tower or base station. Historic preservation and environmental requirements will still have to be met.

The legislation also drops a provision in the House-passed bill that would have limited the FCC’s authority to set license conditions, such as open-internet requirements, on auctioned spectrum.

With certain exceptions, the FCC would have to begin the process of preparing auctions within three years of the legislation’s enactment. Proceeds from voluntary spectrum auctions would be used to establish a Public Safety Trust Fund in the Treasury to be available until 2022. It would be used to provide up to \$2 billion to reimburse funds NTIA borrowed for First Responder Network Authority, \$100 million for the State and Local Implementation Fund; \$7 billion in NTIA grants for build out of the First Responder Network Authority; \$20.4 billion for deficit reduction; and \$250 million for Next Generation 9-1-1. Any remaining funds would be used for deficit reduction.

The conference report provides first responders with access to the spectrum and advanced wireless broadband communications they need to protect the public and to communicate with each other across the country. The legislation provides for the construction of a nationwide public safety broadband network, as envisioned in the Senate bill, with an “opt-out” option for states that demonstrate the capacity to build their own networks and connect them to the national network.

The legislation creates a First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) within the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and provides FirstNet with \$7 billion and a license to use the “D Block” and adjacent public safety spectrum to build the nationwide public safety network. To ensure national interoperability, the legislation also creates a technical advisory board at the FCC to develop interoperability standards. States that want to construct their own portion of the national public safety network have the option to apply for NTIA grants to build and operate the radio access network in the state if they can demonstrate to the FCC that the network will meet the interoperability standards and to NTIA that they have the resources and capability to provide comparable coverage and security and maintain ongoing interoperability.

Unlike the House-passed bill, the legislation does not require public safety officials to return the 700 MHz “narrowband” spectrum to the FCC for auction. Instead, the legislation requires the return of less efficient spectrum known as the “T-band” of spectrum located between 470 MHz and 512 MHz in 13 major cities and surrounding counties, including Philadelphia, Boston, Los Angeles and Chicago. First responders in these cities currently use certain channels on the T-band for narrowband voice communications. This transition occurs 11 years from the date of enactment, and public safety relocation costs will be reimbursed from any auction proceeds.

The bill makes \$300 million available from the Public Safety Trust Fund to the Director of NIST, in consultation with the FCC, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the National Institute of Justice of the Department of Justice, to research and develop standards, technologies, and applications to advance wireless public safety communications. The Director of NIST, in consultation with the First Responder Network Authority and the public safety advisory committee established under the bill shall:

- Document public safety wireless communications technical requirements;
- Speed development of the capability for communications between currently deployed public safety narrowband systems and the nationwide public safety broadband network;
- Establish a research plan, and direct research, that addresses the wireless communications needs of public safety entities beyond what can be provided by the current generation of broadband technology;
- Accelerate the development of mission critical voice, including device-to-device “talkaround” capability over broadband networks, public safety prioritization, authentication capabilities, and standard application programming interfaces for the nationwide public safety broadband network, if necessary and practical;

- Accelerate the development of communications technology and equipment that can facilitate the eventual migration of public safety narrowband communications to the nationwide public safety broadband network;
- Convene working groups of relevant government and commercial parties to achieve the requirements set forth above.

Another \$250 million would be available to NTIA and the Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for deployment of Next Generation 9-1-1 services, which will complement the advanced broadband capabilities of the public safety network by enabling the delivery of voice, text, photos, video, and other data to 9-1-1 call centers. *(Prepared by Patton Boggs Federal Lobbying Team)*

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FOREIGN TRADE ZONE

OIA is working to secure congressional support for the County's application to establish and administer a General Purpose Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ). The authority to apply for and administer the FTZ was unanimously adopted by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) late in 2011. The FTZ would be administered by PortMiami and would complement the various logistical and infrastructure improvements already being carried out in Miami-Dade. OIA will continue to work with the congressional delegation and PortMiami to secure congressional support for the County's FTZ application.

REPS. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ & DIAZ BALART MEET WITH ARMY CORPS, DISCUSSES COUNTY PRIORITIES – PORT & SAND SOURCING

In separate meetings on Tuesday, Reps. Wasserman Schultz and Diaz-Balart met with members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. OIA asked that both members broach the subjects of the Port Miami/Miami Harbor maintenance dredging and the non-domestic sand sourcing and beach erosion and renourishment resources issues. OIA asked that they express sincerest thanks, gratitude and appreciation for the \$4.3 million for maintenance dredging that was included in the President's FY13 Budget. Additionally, we asked to thank the Corps on behalf of the County for expediting the "Project Cooperation Agreement" which allowed the work on the 50 foot deep dredge to proceed.

OIA also asked for the offices to support efforts of the Army Corps of Engineers to identify, permit, and secure non-domestic sand sources to re-nourish critically eroded segments of coastline in Miami-Dade County for non-domestic sand sources. Further, OIA conveyed the need to advocate for a solution that will identify resources for the nourishment of eroded segments of the federally-authorized Miami-Dade Beach Erosion Control and Hurricane Protection Project. Recently a meeting between Miami Beach Mayor Matti Bower and County Officials, where Sec. Darcy committed to moving forward on multiple tracks with regard to a long-term sand source for M-D County took place to help resolve the decade-old problem.

REP. WILSON ANNOUNCES \$323,094 IN RESEARCH FUNDING FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Rep. Frederica Wilson announced on Tuesday a \$323,094 federal grant for the University of Miami School Of Medicine in support of research on increased cerebral ischemic injury by repeated hypoglycemic episodes in diabetes. The grant was awarded by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke at the National Institutes of Health, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

"I'm pleased to announce this critical funding for the UM School of Medicine," said Congresswoman Wilson. "As a member of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, I believe supporting research and development in the sciences is vital for our nation's future. I look forward to UM and other South Florida institutions continuing to receive these important grants."

REP. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE ENCOURAGING HEART DISEASE SCREENINGS

On Monday, Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz held a news conference to commemorate National Heart Month at Mount Sinai Medical Center, one of the top institutes for preventing and treating cardiovascular diseases in South Florida. The purpose of the events was to raise awareness of the dangers and prevention of heart disease. Joining the Congresswoman at the news conference were Dr. Gervasio Lamas, the chief of the Columbia University Division of Cardiology at Mount Sinai Medical Center & Miami Heart Institute, and two heart disease patients, Judith Anton and Elizabeth Cooper. As a breast cancer survivor, Rep. Wasserman Schultz has been a strong advocate for educating women about the importance of getting regular medical checkups and screenings. The congresswoman is a co-sponsor of the "Heart Disease Education, Analysis, Research, and Treatment for Women Act" (H.R. 3526).

FIRST CUBAN-BORN JUDGE TO SERVE ON U.S. APPELLATE COURT CONFIRMED

On Wednesday, after months of delay, Judge Adalberto Jose Jordan was confirmed by the U.S. Senate by a 94-5 vote as the newest member of the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals which covers Alabama, Florida and Georgia. Judge Adalberto José Jordán has served as a District Judge on the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida in Miami since 1999. He also teaches as an adjunct professor of law at University of Miami School of Law, where he has taught since 1990, and Florida International University College of Law, where he has taught since 2007.

Judge Jordán was born in Havana, Cuba, and immigrated to the United States with his parents at the age of six. He received his B.A. *magna cum laude* from the University of Miami in 1984, and his J.D. *summa cum laude* from University of Miami School of Law in 1987. After graduating from law school, he served as a law clerk to the Honorable Thomas A. Clark of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit from 1987 to 1988, and the following year he served as a law clerk to the Honorable Sandra Day O'Connor of the Supreme Court of the United States. In 1989, Judge Jordán joined the Miami law firm of Steel Hector & Davis LLP (now Squire Sanders & Dempsey) as a

litigation associate, eventually specializing in appellate practice and becoming a partner in 1994. Later that year, he joined the United States Attorney's Office in the Southern District of Florida, serving as an Assistant United States Attorney in the appellate division and handling criminal and civil appeals on behalf of the government. Judge Jordán became appellate division chief in the office in 1998, and also served as special counsel to the United States Attorney for legal policy. Since being appointed to the District Court bench in 1999, Judge Jordán has presided over nearly 200 trials on a wide range of civil and criminal matters. In addition, he has frequently sat by designation on the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.

CLIMATE COMMUNITIES

"Funding Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Projects with EDA Grants" was the title of this week's Climate Communities Webinar. David Ives from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) joined the call and provided a description of EDA's 2012 funding programs and highlight opportunities to secure funding for economic development projects that include renewable energy and energy efficiency elements.

The grants provide support for job creation in economically distressed areas of the United States. According to Climate Communities and EDA's Economic Development Assistance Program "includes the (1) Public Works and Economic Development Facilities and (2) Economic Adjustment Assistance initiatives, can fund local renewable energy, green building, energy efficiency, and recycling projects. EDA is allocating more than \$160 million for these programs in FY 2012. The average size of a Public Works and Economic Development Facilities investment in FY 2011 was approximately \$1.7 million, and the average size of an Economic Adjustment Assistance investment in FY 2011 was approximately \$550,000." The next three EDA funding cycle deadlines are: March 9 for funding cycle 3 of FY 2012, June 8 for funding cycle 4 of FY 2012 and September 14 for funding cycle 1 of FY 2013.

DR. ÓSCAR ELÍAS BICET TESTIFIES ON EFFORTS FOR FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY IN CUBA

Dr. Óscar Elías Bicet testified before the House Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere hearing entitled Further Human Rights Violations in Castro's Cuba: The Continued Abuse of Political Prisoners this week. Congressman David Rivera released the following statement:

"Dr. Óscar Elías Bicet is a hero in the fight for a free and democratic Cuba. At great personal peril, Dr. Bicet has made it his life's work to denounce human rights abuses carried out by the Castro regime, and to establish a Cuban state based on the rule of law that respects human rights.

"I applaud Dr. Bicet's bravery and greatly appreciate his willingness to appear before the House Western Hemisphere Subcommittee. Dr. Bicet has once again highlighted

the Castro regime's abysmal record on human rights and the need for true democratic change for the people of Cuba.

"Dr. Bicet expressed what Cubans in the fight for freedom hope to see from Pope Benedict's visit to the island next month. He has asked Pope Benedict to make the call for free elections a central message of his visit. It is my hope that Pope Benedict will respond to this request and support the right of self determination for the Cuban people, as well as take time to meet with brave opposition leaders like Dr. Bicet."

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI TO HOST REP. ROS-LEHTINEN AND UAE AMBASSADOR FOR DISCUSSION ON MIDDLE EAST

On Friday March 9 at 11:30AM, the University of Miami will host House Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and His Excellency Yousef Al Otaiba, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to the United States, for a discussion on the bilateral relationship between the U.S. and UAE, and other events shaping the Middle East region. Dr. Haim Shaked, Director of Middle East Studies Institute at the University of Miami will moderate the discussion.

PRESIDENT OBAMA TRIP TO MIAMI, SEN. NELSON WILL ACCOMPANY

President Obama is scheduled to travel to Miami on February 23rd. Details of his trip have yet to be released, but it's likely that the visit will focus on the ongoing housing and foreclosure issues confronting the state and South Florida in particular.

THE 2012 GOP PRESIDENTIAL FIELD: NEXT PRIMARY, FEB. 28TH

The Arizona and Michigan primaries are next on the calendar and will take place on Tuesday, February 28th.

CANDIDATES REMAINING

Newt Gingrich – former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives
Ron Paul – U.S. Rep. from Texas
Mitt Romney – former Gov. of Massachusetts
Rick Santorum – former Sen. from Pennsylvania

NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR: FEBRUARY 20TH – FEBRUARY 24TH

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PRESIDENT OBAMA TRIP TO MIAMI

On Thursday, President Barack Obama traveled to Miami for several campaign events as well as a walking tour of the Industrial Assessment Center at the University of Miami. The President was joined at several of the events by Senator Bill Nelson and Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz.

The President spoke about issues he previously laid out in his State of the Union address a few weeks ago. The President said that America must focus on three areas to build an economy that lasts and they include, new American manufacturing, new skills and education for workers, and new sources of American-made energy. On this last topic the President said:

“So what does this mean for America? It means that anyone who tells you we can drill our way out of this problem doesn’t know what they’re talking about – or isn’t telling you the truth. The United States consumes more than a fifth of the world’s oil. But we only have 2% of the world’s oil reserves. That means we can’t just rely on fossil fuels from the last century. We can’t just allow ourselves to be held hostage by the ups and downs of the world oil market. We have to keep developing new sources of energy. We have to keep developing new technology that helps us use less energy. We have to keep relying on the American know-how and ingenuity that comes from places like the University of Miami. That’s our future. And that’s exactly the path we’ve been taking these last three years.

We’re making progress on this front. In 2010, our dependence on foreign oil was under 50% for the first time in thirty years. In 2011, the United States relied less on foreign oil than in any of the last sixteen years. Because of the investments we’ve made, the use of clean, renewable energy in this country has nearly doubled – and thousands of Americans have jobs because of it. We’re taking every possible action to safely develop a near hundred-year supply of natural gas – something that experts believe will support more than 600,000 jobs by the end of the decade. We’ve supported the first new nuclear power plant in three decades. Our cooperation with the private sector has positioned this country to be the world’s leading manufacturer of high-tech batteries that will power the next generation of American cars. And after three decades of inaction, we put in

place the toughest fuel economy standards in history for our cars and pickup trucks – and the first standards ever for heavy-duty trucks.”

CONGRESSWOMAN WILSON ANNOUNCES \$592,201 IN RESEARCH FUNDING FOR UM SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

On Thursday, Rep. Frederica Wilson announced a \$592,201 grant for the University of Miami School of Medicine in support of research on social cognition psychometric evaluation. The grant was awarded by the National Institute of Mental Health at the National Institutes of Health, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

“I’m pleased to announce this critical funding for the UM School of Medicine,” said Congresswoman Wilson. “As a member of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, I believe supporting research and development in the sciences is vital for our nation’s future. I look forward to UM and other South Florida institutions continuing to receive these important grants.”

TRANSPORTATION REAUTHORIZATION UPDATE

Yesterday, House Republicans decided to abandon their five-year, \$260 billion transportation bill in order to make significant changes to the legislation in hopes of gaining more support for the bill. One major change that will be made is that the new House bill will eliminate a controversial provision that would have kept Federal mass transit funding out of the Highway Trust Fund. The immediate and direct advocacy efforts of transit authorities, local governments, and other stakeholders, as well as widespread opposition from Democrats and urban Republicans, moved House leaders to reconsider this contentious provision in the legislation. The House bill’s duration is also likely to be shortened but it is still unclear how much shorter it will be.

Since the bill’s length will be reduced, the House is also considering a reduction in the bill’s overall funding levels, a move that may appease some fiscal conservatives that were concerned about the spending levels in the legislation. A reduction in funding below current levels could also potentially help House leaders deal with how to pay for the bill since the payroll tax cut deal utilized the federal pension savings that they had planned to use as an offset.

Despite many changes, the revamped bill will retain provisions related to project expediting and environmental streamlining. It is also expected that the bill will continue to link infrastructure funding to an expansion of American energy production. The newer legislation will be attached to the energy production bill that the House passed last Thursday (H.R. 3408). *(Compiled in part by Patton Boggs Federal Lobbying Team)*

APPROPRIATIONS UPDATE

The President submitted his Fiscal Year 2013 budget to Congress last Monday, February 13. Every year the President’s budget serves two competing functions. First, it is a policy document, which describes the Administration’s plans for each federal

agency through its budget. Second, it is a political document, painting a long range picture of where the President wants to take the country. In an election year, this second aspect of the budget is more prominent than in non-election years.

President Obama's Fiscal Year 2013 budget fits this pattern. The budget proposes raising \$1.91 trillion in new taxes over the next ten years. It also proposes cutting \$600 billion from some federal agencies, saving \$848 billion from ending military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, and \$800 billion in reduced interest payments on the debt. Together these actions would save \$4.158 trillion over ten years.

The budget also proposes increasing spending for other federal programs by \$659 billion. Many of these increases would occur in FY2013 while the savings would be stretched over the next decade. In other words, the President proposes to increase spending in the short term while cutting the deficit in future years through a combination of taxes and cuts. Many economists advocate this combination of economic policies arguing that the economy continues to need short term stimulus to improve the jobs situation.

The Republicans strongly oppose the overall tenants in the budget. They will not support raising taxes and want to cut government spending. We do not believe the Congress will agree to either the new taxes or the spending increases.

Beyond the macro-picture, Congress is starting to review the specific budgets of the agencies. Both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees are holding hearings on the details of the agency budgets. Even though Congress does not agree with all aspects of the proposed budget they must still write the appropriations bills. How they do that technically will be our next report. *(Compiled in part by Akerman Senterfitt Federal Lobbying Team)*

BEACH RENOURISHMENT MEETING

The U.S. Army Corps is coordinating a meeting to take place within the next few weeks with Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and other stakeholders to observe the work being done for the beach renourishment project located from 63rd to 69th Street in Miami Beach. Miami-Dade County Beach Program Manager Brian Flynn, along with OIA is coordinating with officials from Miami Beach, Key Biscayne and others to view the site for the renourishment project.

When a date and time have been set by the Army Corps and the Congresswoman's office OIA will inform all interested parties.

NACo CONFERENCE

The National Association of Counties (NACo) will hold their 2012 Federal Legislative Conference, March 3-7 in Washington, DC. OIA will join Vice-Chairwoman Audrey Edmonson and Commissioners Sally Heyman and Lynda Bell in attending the annual

conference. This meeting brings over 2,000 elected and appointed county officials from across the country to focus on legislative issues facing county governments. Attendees hear from key Administration officials and members of Congress and are offered a myriad of additional educational opportunities addressing current and hot topic issues.

CLIMATE COMMUNITIES

“Streamlining Local Application, Permitting and Installation Processes for Solar Energy” was the subject of Thursday’s Climate Communities webinar. The webinar focused on communities across the country that seek to encourage the use of renewable energy, including the deployment of solar power. According to Climate Communities, “One of the barriers to rooftop photovoltaics (PV) is the differing and expensive permitting, zoning, metering, and connection processes required to install and finance residential and small business solar systems. Non-hardware costs like permitting, installation, design, and maintenance currently account for up to 40 percent of the total cost of installed rooftop PV systems. Today, there are more than 18,000 local jurisdictions with their own PV permitting requirements, land use codes and zoning ordinances; more than 5,000 utilities that are implementing standards for connecting and selling energy back to the energy grid; and all 50 states are developing their own connection standards and processes for supplying and pricing energy sold back to the grid. Local permitting and inspection processes alone add about \$0.50 per watt, or \$2,500, per residential installation nationwide.”

In 2011, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) launched the Rooftop Solar Challenge and selected 22 regional teams of city, county, and state officials, regulatory entities, private industry, universities, local utilities, and other regional stakeholders to clear a path for rapid expansion of solar energy and serve as models for other communities across the country. These teams will implement step-by-step actions to standardize permit processes, update planning and zoning codes, improve standards for connecting solar power to the electric grid, and increase access to financing.

THE 2012 GOP PRESIDENTIAL FIELD: NEXT PRIMARY, FEB. 28TH

The Arizona and Michigan primaries are next on the calendar and will take place on Tuesday, February 28th.

CANDIDATES REMAINING

Newt Gingrich – former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives
Ron Paul – U.S. Rep. from Texas
Mitt Romney – former Gov. of Massachusetts
Rick Santorum – former Sen. from Pennsylvania

NEXT WEEK’S CALENDAR: FEBRUARY 27TH – MARCH 2ND

The House will not be in session next week.

The Senate will not be in session next week.

**NOTE: MONTHLY REPORTS FROM THE FEDERAL CONTRACT
LOBBYISTS ARE ATTACHED**

WASHINGTON WEEKLY REPORT

FEBRUARY 27TH – MARCH 2ND, 2012

Below is an informal overview of the Washington D.C. activities of the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs:

THE SENATE WAS NOT IN SESSION THIS WEEK

THE HOUSE WAS NOT IN SESSION THIS WEEK

NACo CONFERENCE

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PORTMIAMI DIRECTOR JOHNSON TESTIFIES BEFORE U.S. SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE

PortMiami Director Bill Johnson was among a panel of witnesses invited to testify in front of the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on Thursday. The Director's participation in the hearing came at the behest of Florida Senators and key committee members, Bill Nelson and Marco Rubio. The official purpose of the hearing was to discuss safety and oversight of the U.S. cruise ship industry in light of the Costa Concordia tragedy, but the hearing touched on a variety of subjects, including the corporate tax rates paid by the nation's largest cruise lines, adequate funding for the U.S. Coast Guard, implementation of the Cruise Vessel Security and Safety Act, and possible modifications to the Death on the High Seas Act.

Director Johnson's written testimony stated that, *"The Miami-Dade County Seaport Department, PortMiami, is a 518-acre facility located in mid-Biscayne Bay between the City of Miami and Miami Beach. PortMiami is governed by Mayor Carlos Gimenez and the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners under a strong mayor form of government. PortMiami is the busiest cruise port in the world, handling more than 4 million passengers in 2011 for the 4th consecutive year in a row. In addition, Miami-Dade County is the global headquarters for five of the world's largest and most distinguished cruise lines: Carnival Cruise Lines, Norwegian Cruise Line, Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd., Oceania Cruises and Regent Seven Seas Cruises. Thus, at PortMiami, cruising is our bread and butter and lifeblood of the local economy. During*

the recent downturn in the economy, the cruise business in Florida remained strong and at present continues to grow, protecting our local and state economy from an even larger economic disruption.”

Joining Director Johnson on the panel were Vice Admiral Brian M. Salerno, Deputy Commandant for Operations, United States Coast Guard, Captain William H. Doherty, Director of Maritime Relations for the NEXUS Consulting Corp, Dr. Ross Klein, Professor, School of Social Work at St. Johns College, Memorial University and Ms. Christine Duffy, President and CEO for the Cruise Lines International Association.

The Director continued in his testimony by saying, “PortMiami is a critical jobs incubator for the state, supporting over 180,000 jobs, and that number will increase with three new cruise brands coming to our port over the next 22 months. Also, maritime industry workers at the port have one of the highest incomes in the County. For persons with a high school degree, salaries average around \$52,000 per year, a good salary for South Florida. Jobs created by the port are in both the public and private sectors, including over 1,200 members of the International Longshoremen’s Association.”

Director Johnson also highlighted the local impact the cruise industry has on Miami-Dade County when he said, “Every cruise ship leaving from PortMiami has a multiplier effect that also includes 486 companies providing ground transportation, including bus and limousine services, and thousands of taxi trips between Miami International Airport, local hotels, and PortMiami on a typical cruise weekend. The cruise industry also supports jobs ranging from companies involved in refueling ships, harbor pilots guiding ships into the harbor, tugboat operators, waste removal, and landscaping, as well as terminal security services.”

COMMISSIONER DIAZ SENDS US NAVY INVITATION REQUESTING PORTMIAMI TO BECOME A PORT OF CALL

Late last week, Commissioner Jose “Pepe” Diaz sent a letter to Admiral John C. Harvey, Jr., U.S. Navy, Commander of the U.S. Fleet Forces Command on behalf of the citizens of Miami-Dade County to extend an invitation to the captains and crews of every Navy ship in the South Atlantic Fleet to consider making a port call at PortMiami.

In the letter Commissioner Diaz says, *“As a former U.S. Marine and the County’s Military Affairs Liaison, I can personally attest that Miami-Dade County is a wonderful place for such visits to take place. Our nearby military installations including Southcom and Homestead AFB, strategic geographical location, vast veteran community, large populace interested in touring such vessels, and many great cultural and entertainment attractions provide an ideal opportunity for visiting naval ships. In addition, we have*

Miami International Airport and thousands of local hotel rooms that could provide family members with the ability to visit loved if they so desired. Most importantly however, these visits instill pride and inspiration in all County residents and tourists from throughout the country as we gather to view a Navy ship sail into our Port."

Commissioner Diaz goes on to say, "The Port of Miami is the "Cruise Capital of the World" and "Cargo Gateway to the Americas" Our Port has state of the art facilities and can host several ships at one time. It is an easy sea detail to berth at the Port, which is conveniently located just across the causeway to Downtown Miami. Miami's international flair, seaside locale and abundance of fresh, tropical produce and experience hosting over 10 million tourists annually makes Miami-Dade County an ideal place for US military to make a call. No other city on the East Coast combines the beaches, the arts, the sports, the recreation, the dining and culture like Miami-Dade County. Add to all these, 365 days of frost free weather, simply makes the PortMiami and Miami-Dade a great place for liberty."

HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE PASSES BILL PROHIBITING PYTHON IMPORTATION

On Tuesday, the House Committee on the Judiciary held a Full Committee Markup of H.R. 4086, the "Foreign Cultural Exchange Jurisdictional Immunity Clarification Act." The legislation combined two relevant bills into one package. The first would give otherwise eligible Israeli nationals the ability to receive E-2 nonimmigrant visas if similarly situated United States nationals are eligible for similar nonimmigrant status in Israel. The second portion of the markup dealt with H.R. 511, which calls for amending title 18, of the United States Code, to prohibit the importation of various injurious species of constrictor snakes. The legislation, originally introduced by Congressman Tom Rooney (FL), had the support of the county's Congressional delegation.

The committee action is the first step in prohibiting the importation of constrictor snakes, most notably pythons. This is a victory for Commissioner Dennis Moss who sponsored, along with Commissioners Jose "Pepe" Diaz and Sally Heyman a resolution in the Board of County Commissioners to pass H.R. 511 or similar legislation prohibiting the importation or sale of the Burmese Pythons and eight other species of large constrictor snakes without a permit. OIA will continue to advocate for the passage of H.R. 4086 by the full House of Representatives in the coming weeks.

CONGRESSWOMAN WILSON ANNOUNCES THREE GRANTS FOR UM SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

This week Congresswoman Frederica Wilson announced that the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine was the recipients of three grants. The National Cancer Institute awarded UM \$317,475 for the study of the inhibition of reflux-induced esophageal adenocarcinoma by proanthocyanidins, and the National Institute of General Medical Sciences awarded UM \$261,630 for the study of hypoxic stabilization of OXPHOS complexes in mitochondrial defects. The third grant for the University was

for \$76,500 in support of research on the mechanism of MAPK cytoplasmic retention in differentiation of ES cells.

The grants were awarded by The National Cancer Institute and National Institute of General Medical Sciences at the National Institutes of Health and the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health & Human Development at the National Institutes of Health respectfully, both an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

"I'm pleased to announce this critical funding for the UM School of Medicine," said Congresswoman Wilson. "As a member of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, I believe supporting research and development in the sciences is vital for our nation's future. I look forward to UM and other South Florida institutions continuing to receive these important grants."

BEACH RENOURISHMENT MEETING

The U.S. Army Corps is coordinating a meeting to take place within the next few weeks with Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and other stakeholders to observe the work being done for the beach renourishment project located from 63rd to 69th Street in Miami Beach. Miami-Dade County Beach Program Manager Brian Flynn, along with OIA is coordinating with officials from Miami-Dade County, Miami Beach, Key Biscayne and other stakeholder groups to view the site for the renourishment project.

When a date and time have been set by the Army Corps and the Congresswoman's office OIA will inform all interested parties.

EVERGLADES FOUNDATION CEO RESIGNS TO TAKE NEW POSITION

Everglades Foundation CEO Kirk Fordham is resigning as CEO of the Everglades Foundation, a post he has held since 2008. Mr. Fordham resigned his position to become executive director of Gill Action, a Colorado-based organization that provides funding for pro-gay political campaigns across the nation. Mr. Fordham has been a strong advocate for Everglades restoration funding in Tallahassee and Washington. Prior to joining the Everglades Foundation he worked on the Hill for Reps. Eckert (NY), Reynolds (NY), Foley (FL) and Inhofe (OK), in addition to serving as finance director for former Sen. Mel Martinez (FL) in 2004.

Miami-Dade County Reps. Wasserman Schultz and Ros-Lehtinen released the following statements upon hearing of Mr. Fordham's resignation:

"Although we will miss Kirk's determined efforts to protect and restore America's Everglades, I am thrilled that I will now have the opportunity to partner with him in his new role at Gill Action..." "Kirk practices a bi-partisan approach to problem-solving that has earned him the respect of many friends on both sides of the aisle. As we continue our march forward to protect the right of every LGBT person to enjoy every opportunity

this nation has to offer, I look forward to working with Kirk to build on the progress that has been made by groups like Gill Action." -Rep. Wasserman Schultz

"The Everglades will lose one of its most tireless and effective advocates, but the nation will benefit as Kirk shifts his focus to advancing equal opportunity for each and every American. Kirk is well regarded in Tallahassee and on Capitol Hill as a staunch supporter who has used his knowledge and experience in government affairs to further important causes. I look forward to working with him to ensure that our nation — and our laws — treat everyone fairly and equally." -Rep. Ros-Lehtinen

CLIMATE COMMUNITIES

This Thursday's Climate Communities webinar was titled "Improving Efficiency with Combined Heat and Power/District Energy Systems." The focus of the webinar was the inefficiency of production of heat and power in the United States. Climate Communities highlighted the high costs spent on fuel to make energy, and the loss of that energy as waste heat. Climate Communities said, "If we are going to develop more sustainable communities, there is a need to find better solutions. As such, combined heat and power (CHP), the production of both electricity and thermal energy from a single fuel source, has emerged as a more efficient alternative to conventional power stations.

While the traditional method of separately producing usable heat and power has a typical combined efficiency of 45%, CHP can operate at efficiency levels as high as 80%. CHP technology can be deployed quickly, cost-effectively and with few geographic limitations. However, CHP accounts for only 8% of U.S. generating capacity." Rob Thornton, President and CEO of the International District Energy Association (IDEA) joined the webinar.

THE 2012 GOP PRESIDENTIAL FIELD: SUPER TUESDAY NEXT WEEK

Governor Mitt Romney pulled out victories in the Arizona and Michigan primaries earlier this week. The primary season continues next week with Super Tuesday on March 6th as Alaska, Georgia, Idaho, Massachusetts, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Vermont and Virginia are all up for grabs.

CANDIDATES REMAINING

Newt Gingrich – former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives
Ron Paul – U.S. Rep. from Texas
Mitt Romney – former Gov. of Massachusetts
Rick Santorum – former Sen. from Pennsylvania

NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR: MARCH 5TH – MARCH 9TH

The House will be in session next week.

The Senate will be in session next week.