

WASHINGTON WEEKLY REPORT JANUARY 27 – JANUARY 31, 2014

(The following is an overview of D.C. activities concerning Miami-Dade County, the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, the County's Congressional Delegation & the Administration)

THE SENATE WAS IN SESSION

THE HOUSE WAS IN SESSION

STATE OF THE UNION

On Tuesday, President Obama delivered the State of the Union address to Congress and the nation. The President highlighted many issues during his speech, most notably the need for comprehensive immigration reform, jobs and the economy, education, health care reform and the need for an increase in the minimum wage, among many other issues.

For the full text of the speech please use the following link: [Text of SOTU](#)

For the White House fact sheet on the President's address please use the following link: [Fact Sheet](#)

Find a complete analysis of the State of the Union in 2014 from the Patton Boggs Federal Lobbying Team here – <http://www.pattonboggs.com/viewpoint/analysis-the-state-of-the-union-in-2014>

JDA AVIATION JOURNAL: MIA HOSTS PRODUCTIVE MEETINGS WITH STATE, FEDERAL & INTERNATIONAL OFFICIALS

Busy MIA Director is investing in his Airport's Future

Airports can be insular; as a unique bit of infrastructure surrounded frequently by neighbors who despise aviation's byproduct (noise), the leadership can easily fall into a besieged mentality. Many airport directors maintain their relationship with their boss (the mayor and/or a board), meet frequently with their tenants (airlines and vendors), attend professional industry meetings and regard that as a full plate of responsibilities. Not so Emilio T. González, Ph.D., is the Director of the Miami-Dade Aviation Department. His outreach is multi-dimensional and exemplary.

MIA is the big airport in Florida with a plethora of domestic, international and cargo service. One of the airports, which aspires to be like MIA, is Tampa/St. Petersburg. Dr. González could easily ignore this airport to the North, but instead he takes the more statesman like option and invites TPA's Chief Executive Officer Joe Lopano to visit one

of the South Florida's intermodal jewels—the Miami Intermodal Center (MIC). This \$2 billion asset facilitates the flow of MIA's passengers to/from rental cars, buses, metro, and heavy rail. Clearly, Mr. Lopano and his Board want to create its own TPIC. By sharing this valuable information, Dr. González has created a bridge with another important community within the state. Some day there will come an issue for which MIA needs support and it will be able to draw on the good will of TPA.

Another aspect of the González outreach included Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and U.S. Ambassador to Brazil Liliana Ayalde. This effort has clearer immediate benefit to MIA. The Congresswoman is a senior majority member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the Rules Committee . From those posts Ros-Lehtinen can assure that TSA fulfills its staffing at the airport's many choke points which TSA agents control. The Ambassador is the US's primary interface with MIA's #1 source of international passengers and cargo. Her knowledge of MIA's activities will enhance her ability to advocate on behalf of the airport.

The Director's calendar included a visit from a Turkish delegation- Fatih Beyhan, Director of the Turkish American Chamber of Commerce of the Southeast U.S., and Turkish-born real estate developer Mehmet Bayraktar. This discussion was truly visionary in that MIA does not currently have service to Istanbul a significant gateway to Asia. If flights were to be initiated, an Asian hub would be linked to a South American hub, truly a global trade connection.

Director González summed up his calendar aptly:

"MIA is much more than just a local asset – we're a highly sought-after aviation industry leader, a statewide economic powerhouse and an internationally recognized brand," said Director Gonzál.I'm grateful to have met with our counterparts in Tampa, with interested international parties, and with our federal partners who continue to offer invaluable assistance at home and abroad as MIA builds on its successes and meets the challenges that come with enhancing our position as a leading global gateway."

(Provided by Greenberg Traurig Federal Lobbying Team)

SENATE PASSES FLOOD INSURANCE BILL: HEADS TO UNCERTAIN FATE IN HOUSE

This week, the Senate passed Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act, S.1926. Senators Bill Nelson and Marco Rubio both voted in favor of the measure as it represents a fix to significant premium rate increases that homeowners are up against.

Congressman Joe Garcia, who recently introduced legislation that would delay rate increases, require FEMA to conduct an affordability study and provide for the creation of mitigation incentives, issued the following statement upon the bill passing the Senate:

"The Senate's strongly bipartisan passage of the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act represents an important step forward in easing the onerous flood insurance premium rate increases facing our hardworking homeowners and small businesses. The House of Representatives should take up this issue immediately – it's simply too important to South Florida and communities throughout the country for the House not to take strong, decisive action."

Florida Gov. Rick Scott and members of the Florida Congressional Delegation praised the bipartisan action taken by the Senate and have urged House leadership to take swift action on the flood insurance rate fix. OIA and the Federal Contract Lobbyists will continue to monitor and report back on any developments regarding this legislation, in addition to working with the Florida Association of Counties and partner counties on this issue.

HOUSE & SENATE FINALIZE AGREEMENT ON FARM BILL; INCLUDES PROVISION IMPORTANT TO MIAMI-DADE & OTHER FLORIDA COUNTIES

This week, Congressional negotiators ended two years of work and agreed on a five year extension of the farm bill. Included in the bill is a provision extending the Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program in FY 2014. PILT provides for federal payments to local governments that help offset losses in property taxes due to non-taxable Federal lands within their boundaries. The Law recognizes that the inability of local governments to collect property taxes on Federally-owned land can create a financial impact. As such, PILT payments help county governments carry out vital services.

Several counties in Florida, including Miami-Dade, rely on this funding. Indeed, in FY 2013 Miami-Dade County received over \$830,000 in PILT payments, while Monroe County received \$1.1 million and Collier County received \$1.24 million.

For more information please see the below press release from the National Association of Counties (NACo). OIA, led by NACo and other counties nationwide, lobbied the Congressional leadership and respective county delegations for the inclusion of PILT in any legislative vehicle after it was not included in the recently passed Omnibus Appropriations bill. This represents a major win for the county.

MAJOR WIN FOR AMERICA'S COUNTIES IN FARM BILL CONFERENCE REPORT

PILT funding extended for one year; rural development priorities secured

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Last night House and Senate negotiators took a major step toward helping counties and their residents by finalizing an agreement on a five-year farm bill. The bipartisan conference report contains several provisions championed by the National Association of Counties (NACo), including extending the Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program in FY 2014, reauthorizing county priorities within the Rural Development title, and protecting county authority over forest roads. Final passage of

the farm bill is including extending the Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program in FY 2014, expected by the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate within the next few days.

PILT payments allow local governments, including 1,850 counties in 49 states, to provide critical government services for residents such as education, solid waste disposal, law enforcement, search and rescue, health care, environmental compliance, firefighting and parks and recreation.

In addition, the conference report includes several NACo priorities on a broad range of programs that assist counties in the development of rural water-wastewater infrastructure, community facilities, broadband expansion, nutrition assistance, renewable energy, local and regional food systems, support for new farmers and business development initiatives.

"The farm bill as it stands tonight is a major win for the nation's counties and the residents we serve," said NACo President Linda Langston, supervisor, Linn County, Iowa. "It cannot be overstated how important 2014 PILT program funding and reauthorization of county-supported rural development programs are to local economies as we work to emerge from years of recession and slow economic growth."

Mike Murray, commissioner, Lewis and Clark County, Mont. and chair of NACo's Public Lands Steering Committee, said the inclusion of mandatory funding for the PILT program provides a great deal of relief to public lands counties nationwide.

"We are most pleased that the federal government will once again renew its obligation to America's counties which are unable to collect property taxes from the nation's 606 million-acre estate, yet are responsible to provide services on these lands," Murray said.

Bob Fox, commissioner, Renville County, Minn. and chair of NACo's Agriculture and Rural Affairs Steering Committee, said he is pleased to see a strong emphasis on rural development in the farm bill conference report.

"The regional language and mandatory funding within the Rural Development title will allow our nation's rural counties to address pressing infrastructure needs and strengthening our local communities. This has been a top priority for NACo," Fox said.

The key elements of the farm bill that impact counties include:

- **The Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program is extended as a fully funded, mandatory entitlement program at \$425 million.** PILT has retained full mandatory funding since FY 2008, with funding levels of \$393 million FY2012 and \$401 million (after sequestration) in FY 2013.
- **The Rural Development title receives \$228 million** in mandatory funding including:
 - **\$150 million for Water and Waste Water Program**
 - **\$63 million for the Value-Added Producer Grant Program**

- **\$15 million for the Rural Microenterprise Assistance Program (RMAP)**
 - **\$100 million for the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program**
- **The conference report includes regional language championed by NACo** in the Rural Development title allowing the U.S. Department of Agriculture to prioritize 10 percent of funds towards regional, multi-jurisdictional projects
- **The Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP)** is cut by \$8 billion over 10 years. The Senate farm bill (S.954) proposed \$4.5 billion in cuts over 10 years; the House farm bill (H.R.2642) proposed \$40 billion in cuts over 10 years
- **The conference report preserves U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's long-standing policy regulating stormwater runoff from forest and logging roads** under the states' Best Management Practices (BMPs), rather than through the Clean Water Act's (CWA) industrial stormwater permit program, which has tighter and more restrictive requirements than general CWA stormwater permits. This is a huge win for counties who own and manage 44 percent of the nation's roads and highways. A number of county-owned roads run through federal, state and private lands. Many of these roads are multipurpose and not solely dedicated to logging—and are used by residents, recreators, emergency responders and wildfire teams.

Matt Chase, NACo's executive director, thanked House and Senate leaders and members for working in a bipartisan manner to move a multi-year farm bill forward.

"The farm bill is a massive and complex legislative package that touches on many aspects of county government services, from infrastructure to beginning farmer programs to renewable energy," Chase said. "NACo applauds the bipartisan leadership of the House and Senate for finishing this important bill. This bill provides invaluable resources used by our nation's counties to provide essential services to our local citizens and businesses."

More information about county priorities in the farm bill is available at www.naco.org.

REP. DIAZ-BALART'S STATEMENT ON FARM BILL BENEFITS TO FLORIDA

Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart, member of the House Committee on Appropriations, released the following statement after passage of the 2014 Farm Bill.

"The passage of this Farm Bill is a huge achievement that supports the Sunshine State's unique agricultural needs. It improves and strengthens our agricultural programs while saving taxpayers \$23 billion in spending. By consolidating wasteful programs and reducing red tape for job creators, we are able to protect our farmers, ranchers, growers, and consumers."

“The Farm Bill is particularly important for Florida and the 25th district. It provides for combating invasive pests and diseases, enhancing the competitiveness of specialty crops, and research for pest and disease prevention. I’m ecstatic that the bill also includes a robust and unprecedented program to focus on research geared towards eradicating citrus greening. The \$125 million in funding is essential to beating the disease wreaking havoc on Florida’s signature crop.

“I congratulate Chairman Lucas on the success of this bill and thank him for recognizing Florida’s distinctive needs. I also want to commend my Congressional colleagues for working together alongside the citrus industry to make sure vital funding to combat greening was included in the Farm Bill. It is landmark legislation that will address our nation’s agricultural industries over the next 5 years.”

Florida’s agriculture industry has a \$100 billion economic impact on the state’s economy throughout the 50,000 farms in the state, which produce almost 300 different commercial goods. The citrus industry is Florida’s most prosperous, bringing \$9 billion dollars yearly to its economic and providing over 75,000 jobs. Citrus greening is a bacterial disease that has been a chronic problem for our country’s citrus industry, especially in Florida. Florida’s citrus industry has a. The disease can be found in each of Florida’s 32 commercial citrus producing counties.

OIA PARTICIPATES IN MEETING WITH EPA ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

On Monday, OIA participated in a meeting with Covanta and other stakeholders **with EPA Assistant Administrator Janet McCabe**. The discussion focused on Waste to Energy facilities, like the one in Miami-Dade, and the inclusion of any definition of renewable to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions.

Since no definition currently exists, and with the power purchase agreement Miami-Dade County had previously been under expiring in November, the county is faced with the possibility of losing several millions in electric revenues through our facility.

For over a year now, Covanta, Public Works and Waste Management and OIA have been engaging in discussions with federal officials and key members of the House and Senate, along with the County’s congressional delegation. In addition to the definition of renewable, OIA and the stakeholders have worked to also ensure a proposed rule on Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT) Standards not drafted in a manner that would have a negative impact on Miami-Dade County’s facility.

The proposed EPA regulation that is required under the Clean Air Act of 1990 is the point of concern for the Miami-Dade Public Works and Waste Management Department. Under the Act, EPA is required to develop Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT) Standards for a variety of industry facilities, including Municipal

Waste Combustor (MWC) MACT Standards, which would have a direct impact on a facility located within Miami-Dade County.

OIA PARTICIPATES IN USDOT FREIGHT ADVISORY WEBINAR

Last week, OIA participated in a webinar, hosted by the Department of Transportation, titled The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act. The law, also known as MAP-21, contained an increased emphasis on freight transportation, including provisions related to national freight policy, performance measurement, truck parking and truck size and weight, and commercial vehicle permits during national emergencies. MAP-21 also included language guiding the establishment of a National Freight Network, the creation of a National Freight Strategic Plan, state freight plans, and state freight advisory committees. Mayor Gimenez is part of the Freight Advisory Committee reporting to Secretary Anthony Foxx. The webinar provided an overview of some of the MAP-21 freight provisions that have been implemented or are advancing, and highlighted upcoming activities to be conducted in 2014.

SEN. RUBIO MARKS NATIONAL SLAVERY & HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH, PUSHES FOR REFORMS IN CHILD WELFARE SYSTEMS

Senator Marco Rubio on Thursday marked National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month and urged Congress to pass The Strengthening the Child Welfare Response to Human Trafficking Act, a bill he and U.S. Senator Kay Hagan (D-NC) introduced last month to combat sex and labor trafficking in child welfare systems.

During a video message at an anti-human trafficking event hosted by Free The Slaves at Broward College today, Rubio said, *"In South Florida, our community knows all too well how much of a problem this is. Just this month, a human trafficking ring was busted at a Miami Beach strip club. Their victim was a 13-year old girl. 13 years old."*

"It seems unconscionable that anyone would target and exploit our precious children like this. But they do, and we need to do more to stop it," Rubio continued. "Last year, Congress took an important step to combat human trafficking by reauthorizing landmark legislation. But significant gaps remain."

"That's why I've introduced 'The Strengthening the Child Welfare Response to Human Trafficking Act' – a bill to combat sex and labor trafficking in child welfare systems across the country. And we need your support to pressure Congress to get it passed and signed into law this year," Rubio added.

This legislation requires states to report to the Department of Health and Human Services the number of trafficking victims in their child welfare systems as well their current procedures and policies to combat this problem. The bill includes sample protocols and recommended strategies in order to identify trafficking victims and allows

for the collection, documentation and data sharing in existing statewide automated child welfare information systems.

REP. DIAZ-BALART: IMMIGRATION REFORM IS A PRIORITY FOR OUR PARTY & OUR COUNTRY

Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart released the following statement after Speaker of the House John Boehner released a set of immigration principles.

"Speaker Boehner and House Republican Leadership recognize that immigration reform is a priority, not only for the party, but for our country. Strengthening our border security and properly enforcing those laws must be the first step towards a commonsense solution.

"Knowing that we have a legal system that doesn't work for our economy, it is irresponsible that we continue to accept the status quo. Knowing that we have millions of undocumented immigrants hiding in the shadows, it is unacceptable that we continue to provide defacto amnesty. Knowing that we don't have a system that lets us know when foreign visitors leave our country, it is essential that we implement an entry/exit system.

"I am working tirelessly with my colleagues to find a solution that strengthens our border, revitalizes the American economy, respects the rule of law, and brings families together. We have a historic opportunity to fix an immigration system that everyone recognizes is clearly broken."

REPS. DIAZ-BALART & ROS-LEHTINEN CONDEMN CASTRO REGIME'S BRUTAL CRACKDOWN AGAINST PRO-DEMOCRACY ACTIVISTS

Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart and Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen released the following statement after reports of several pro-democracy activists' arrests on the island prison of Cuba:

"Widespread protests across the island in places such as Bayamo, Holguin, Havana, and Camaguey resulted in harassment and arrests of many of courageous pro-democracy activists by Castro's thugs. Renowned leaders of the pro-democracy movement, including Dr. Oscar Biscet, have been detained and threatened with violent reprisals for daring to demand essential liberties. I urge those in the international community who value human rights to stand in solidarity with the Cuban people's struggle for freedom and demand an end to this brutal oppression," said Congressman Diaz-Balart.

"While many leaders of the Western Hemisphere will be arriving in Cuba next week, it is appalling that the current human rights situation on the island will not be addressed nor condemned. Recent intimidation and oppression tactics against democracy leaders, such as Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet and others, has been

widespread throughout Cuba as the Castro regime seeks to silence the democracy movement leading up to the upcoming CELAC conference. I urge responsible nations to stand in solidarity with the democracy leaders and condemn these human rights violations that must end immediately," said Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen.

REP. GARCIA & PRESIDENT ROSENBERG LEAD OPENING OF FIU VETERAN & MILITARY AFFAIRS CENTER

Last Thursday, Congressman Joe Garcia joined Florida International University President, Mark Rosenberg, VAHS Director, Paul Russo, and other distinguished guests for the ribbon cutting ceremony of FIU's Office of Veteran and Military Affairs center. The center will provide essential support services to Florida's 26th district for Veterans, Active Duty, Reserve and Guard members as well as their spouses by helping to create a seamless transition into civilian life as well as expanding employment and educational opportunities for our brave service men and women.

"I am honored to participate in the inauguration of this new facility. The center will provide a great resource for our well-deserving service men and women" said Garcia.

FIU has been chosen to be one of 94 campuses around the country to participate in the VetSuccess program, placing a full-time VA counselor on the FIU campus.

SEN. RUBIO DELIVERS FOREIGN POLICY SPEECH IN SOUTH KOREA

Last week while the Senate was in recess, Senator Marco Rubio delivered a speech about U.S. policy toward Asia at the Asan Institute for Policy Studies in Seoul. Rubio addressed the importance of a constructive and lasting partnership between the U.S. and South Korea, while articulating the value of free trade and democracy throughout the region.

To view the full speech, please use the following link: <http://youtu.be/1qq5Nbg1uEQ>

While in South Korea, the Senator, who is the ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's East Asian and Pacific Affairs Subcommittee and a member of the Select Committee on Intelligence, visited the Korean De-militarized Zone (DMZ).

"There are few places in the world where the stark differences between two neighboring countries is as evident as the line that divides the Korean peninsula," said Rubio. *"As one soldier patrolling the DMZ told us, it is the edge of freedom."*

"I believe some day in my lifetime that edge will no longer exist and North Korea's people will live freely," Rubio added. *"Coming face to face with agents of a repressive and paranoid communist regime was a reminder to me of how*

important it is that we not only stand with our South Korean allies but also remember the innocents in North Korea whose lives are being destroyed."

REP. DIAZ-BALART IN DAVOS FOR WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

Congressman Diaz-Balart's attended the World Economic Forum this last week in Davos, Switzerland. During his trip he met with Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu and Egyptian Prime Minister Hazem el Beblawi and Finance Minister Nabil Fahmy to discuss regional security and stability. Other items on his itinerary included bilateral meetings with George Osborne, Chancellor of the Exchequer of the United Kingdom; Mohammed al Gergawi, Chief Cabinet Minister of the United Arab Emirates; Olga Bielkova, Member of Parliament of Ukraine and opposition figure; and Christine Lagarde, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund.

Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart said, "The World Economic Forum gives Congress a unique opportunity to participate in intimate discussions with heads of state and business leaders from all over the world. This symposium provides a forum to exchange ideas and gather insight to the many challenging economic, political, and security issues facing the U.S. and our global partners. I look forward to once again joining Majority Leader Cantor and the rest of the delegation on this trip."

REPS. ROS-LEHTINEN & WASSERMAN SCHULTZ STATEMENTS ON INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen Chairman of the Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee released the following statement in honor of International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Statement by Ros-Lehtinen:

"As we commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day, we pause to remember those who perished in the Holocaust and those who survived these unspeakable atrocities. We honor their memory by renewing our commitment to them and to all humanity to never forget and continue to advocate on the behalf of those survivors still with us. We must never forget the six million Jews, and millions of others, who suffered at the hands of the Nazi regime. For the memory of those who were killed and for the future of all peoples, we must resolve to remain watchful of those who would seek to use power to deprive others of their basic humanity, fundamental freedoms, and even their lives.

"The alarming escalation in global anti-Semitism over the past few years reminds us that there is much work to be done to rid the world of such blind hatred and aggression toward Jews. There is no excuse for such bigotry and discrimination; we must confront this issue head on and promote the values of tolerance and respect."

NOTE: Chairman Ros-Lehtinen joined Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney to introduce H.R. 1505, the Holocaust Rail Justice Act, last year. This bill would give Holocaust survivors redress in U.S. courts against the Société Nationale des Chemins de fer Français (SNCF), France's national railway company, which transported 75,000 Jews and thousands of others to concentration camps during World War II.

Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz also made the following statement today recognizing International Holocaust Remembrance Day, in honor of Holocaust survivors:

"Today, along with Israel and communities across the world, we pause to solemnly commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day and all of those who perished. Today we not only mourn those lost in egregious acts of violence and brutality perpetrated against Jews and other minorities, but also honor the strength of those who survived and those who stood strong in the face of evil. We pause to reflect so that we will never forget one of the worst episodes in human history.

"We are also compelled to support those courageous survivors still with us and to do all we can to help them in the remaining years of their lives. Our children's generation is the last who will be able to personally hear from these survivors and learn from their struggles. More than 100,000 of these survivors living in our country today are more than twice as likely to be living in poverty as other seniors. As a nation that upholds the values of freedom, liberty, and justice, we have a moral obligation to acknowledge their plight and uphold the dignity of Holocaust survivors to ensure their well-being. This is why I introduced the RUSH Act along with my South Florida colleagues, which would enable Holocaust survivors to live with dignity, comfort, and security in their remaining years.

"I am pleased that the Obama Administration has turned legislative proposals into action by announcing new initiatives that will help Holocaust survivors, including appointing a special Holocaust Survivor Envoy within the Department of Health and Human Services.

"This International Holocaust Remembrance Day, let us honor the legacy of the Holocaust's victims and survivors by recommitting ourselves to ensuring that such atrocities never happen again."

REPS. WILSON & CONYERS ESTABLISH "CONGRESSIONAL FULL EMPLOYMENT CAUCUS"

In response to the ongoing jobs crisis in America, Congresswoman Frederica S. Wilson and Congressman John Conyers, Jr. (D-Mich.) announced on Wednesday the creation of the Congressional Full Employment Caucus. With 24 million new jobs needed to end the unacceptably high rate of unemployment and underemployment, and to reach full employment, Congress must take an active role to ensure adequate opportunities are available as it has historically.

The Full Employment Caucus will serve as a working group and platform for Members dedicated to identifying solutions to our current unemployment crisis and advocating for legislative action. Ultimately, the goal of the Caucus is to realize the dream of a society in which every American who wants to work has the right to some form of employment.

LOOKING AHEAD

February 3 – February 7, 2014:

- The House will be in session
- The Senate will be in session

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