Farewell to Lenore Marema

After a 14 years with The Surety & Fidelity Association of America, Vice President of Government Affairs Lenore Marema is set to retire on June 21, 2019.

Lenore joined SFAA in February 2004. She represented the surety and fidelity industry in federal, state and local legislative, and regulatory matters. When she came to SFAA, Lenore had 25 years of prior experience in the
property-casualty industry, largely with the Alliance of American Insurers, but she knew nothing about surety as the Alliance did not represent sureties. She has enjoyed every minute of learning and representing the unique insurance products of the surety industry.

Please join us in wishing Lenore all the best in her next big adventure at lmarema@surety.org.

Thank you for your dedication and service, Lenore. You will be missed.

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**LSA Spotlight:**
**Surety Association of San Diego**

The Surety Association of San Diego was awarded the Silver Award as part of the Surety Industry Awards for the efforts of its members in promoting surety bonding. The Silver Award for Excellence in Surety Bond Promotion is presented to LSAs that conduct at least five public relations and educational activities to promote the use of contract surety bonds in construction.

Member efforts that won the Silver Award included educating small contractors who wanted to bid for work from the San Diego Unified School District on bonding, educating 45 contractors on surety as part of Turner’s construction school, conducting a contractor business course for 60 local IBEW contractors, and leading a bonding seminar for AGC’s San Diego chapter.

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**House Committee Approves NDAA with SFAA Bill to Prevent Miller Act Threshold Increases**

Last week, the House Armed Services Committee advanced the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY 2020 by a margin of 33 - 24. The bill included language supported by the SFAA to exempt the $150,000 Miller Act bonding requirement threshold from being raised to $200,000, which would result in $300 Million in federal projects not being bonded and over $3 Billion at the state level if...
the $200,000 cascades to the states (HR 224). The inclusion of our provision is critical step in advancing HR 224. The SFAA is continuing its work to introduce companion legislation in the Senate to ensure the language exempting the Miller Act threshold from periodic increases is included in the final version of the NDAA.

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## House Set to Consider Next Year’s Transportation Budget This Week

The House is set to approve several appropriations bills this week including legislation that would increase the 2020 transportation budget by $167.1 million compared to the 2019 budget and $3.74 billion more than President Trump's budget request earlier this year. The bill was passed out of committee 29-21 earlier this month and is slated to be considered this week alongside funding for several other government departments/agencies including Defense, Labor/Education, and State and Foreign Operations.

## Reminder: Call for Data

Reminder: The SFAA has sent a data request for claim and loss information by contractor from all SFAA members for use in updating our Construction Loss Severity model. Submissions are due by September 1, 2019 and should be uploaded via our website.
The Surety & Fidelity Association of America (SFAA) is a trade association of more than 425 insurance companies that write over 98 percent of surety and fidelity bonds in the U.S. SFAA is licensed as a rating or advisory organization in all states and it has been designated by state insurance departments as a statistical agent for the reporting of fidelity and surety experience.