Register for SFAA’s 2020 Fly-In Today!

Please click [here](#) to register for SFAA’s 2020 Legislative Fly-In on March 4 and 5 in Washington, DC. Your participation as a surety advocate is critically important to ensure policymakers on Capitol Hill understand the significant role that bonds play to advance public works infrastructure projects.

The Fly-In will kick off with a welcome reception and briefing on Wednesday, March 4th, at 4:30 pm at Capitol Counsel’s DC offices located at 700 13th St. NW, Washington, DC. Before beginning meetings with members of Congress and staff on Thursday, March 5th, attendees will meet at 122 Cannon House Office Building for a panel discussion on the top infrastructure topics legislators are considering in 2020. Please note, attendees are responsible for making their own hotel accommodations for the event. For more information and hotel recommendations please reach out to [Dalton DeFendis](#).
SFAA Updates its Priority and Comprehensive State Legislative Reports

SFAA has prepared a new report on the top priority bills that have been introduced or pre-filed for the 2020 State legislative sessions. The new Priority State Bills Legislative Report is available for members to access here. Additionally, State Comprehensive Legislative Reports for all lines of business relevant to SFAA members are available now. Members can use the following links to find the January 2020 Comprehensive Legislative Reports for Contract, Commercial, Fidelity and Bail.

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House Considers Top Water Projects for 2020 WRDA Bill

Last week, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment held a hearing focusing on infrastructure projects and policy recommendations that should be funded and/or considered in the next Water Resource Development Act (WRDA). The hearing featured two senior leaders from the Army Corps of Engineers who presented a report recommending 17 projects totaling roughly $9 billion. The witnesses are also expected to provide another report to the Committee, with another 20 potential projects, in May.

During the hearing, Committee and Subcommittee leadership reiterated their plan to introduce and pass a new WRDA bill before year end. Since 2014, the Committee has successfully approved a WRDA bill every other year with enactments in 2014, 2016, and 2018. After the hearing, Chairman DeFazio indicated that the full Committee will first focus on legislation to reauthorize funding for surface transportation programs before turning its attention to WRDA.

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Report Predicts Increased Demand for Contractors Despite Fear of Labor Shortages

The Associated General Contractors (AGC) released a report highlighting strong anticipated growth in the construction sector in 2020; however, the report also indicates that contractors are concerned about finding qualified workers to meet increasing demands. The report, which surveyed almost 1,000 contractors, cites that 81% are experiencing difficulties filling positions. Furthermore, six of the eight top concerns ranked by contractors relate directly to worker shortages, training, and quality. The report indicates that some firms are turning toward technology to streamline operations and improve efficiency. Despite labor shortages, contractors in virtually every segment included on the survey indicated that they expect an increase from 2019 in the dollar value of projects they compete for. Contractors specializing in water and sewer construction reported the most optimism for 2020.

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Looking for Summer Interns?

Talented students should apply for multiple opportunities when searching for meaningful summer internship opportunities.

Consider exploring how The Surety Foundation's Industry Intern & Scholarship Program can set your internship offer apart from others! Click here to find out how.

Many SFAA members have benefited from participating in the program and have hired interns as full-time industry professionals upon graduation. Please support The Surety Foundation through your participation and help us achieve the goal of increasing the number of talented under-represented students joining the industry. Make a difference –
it's a win for the student and a win for the industry.