



## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SURETY BOND PRODUCERS

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### 2025 Government Relations Agenda of the National Association of Surety Bond Producers (NASBP)

NASBP, located in Bethesda, MD, is a national trade association whose membership includes firms employing licensed surety bond producers placing bid, performance, and payments bonds throughout the United States, its territories and in certain countries for construction projects and other commercial purposes.

This Agenda describes important government relations activities and initiatives, grouping them in three categories: (1) **Direct Advocacy** by NASBP members and or staff, (2) Working with **Coalition Partners** to accomplish stated legislative goals, and (3) by using **NASBP Advocacy Tools** as another means to achieve a legislative solution.

#### **1) Direct Advocacy**

**Advocate for the preservation and, where possible, expansion of existing federal, state, and local statutory bonding requirements:**

- Educate public officials and legislators regarding the crucial public policy reasons underlying bid, performance, and payment bond requirements in relation to private/public works and infrastructure projects;
- Monitor legislative and regulatory efforts to increase statutory bonding thresholds and oppose those that represent material increases;
- Oppose efforts to substitute alternative products for statutorily-required bonds;
- Advocate for bonds for the construction portion of Public-Private Partnership (P3) agreements to ensure that construction projects undertaken for public benefit and welfare through P3 contracts offer contracting authorities proper prequalification of entities performing construction services; guarantees of performance from solvent, third-party corporate sureties; and payment remedies for unpaid subcontractors and suppliers;
- Advocate for statutory bonding requirements for the construction portion of the contract when third-parties receive federal loans or grant funds for the undertaking of infrastructure and P3 construction agreements, such as transportation, water, and airport projects;
- Support the inclusion of performance and payment bonds as the form of security for the construction portion of rural broadband infrastructure projects; and
- Monitor legislative and regulatory measures authorizing alternative project delivery methods to ensure incorporation of, or reference to, statutory bonding requirements.

#### **Commercial Surety Legislative Opportunity**

- Advocate for the consideration of and/or preservation of surety bonds as an acceptable means of security for various commercial and compliance contexts in public enterprise.
- Advocate for bonds as an alternative form of security to letters of credit (LOCs) when small business internet service providers (ISPs) bid on procurement opportunities through federal programs offered by the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Rural Broadband Auction, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) ReConnect Program and the U.S. Department of Commerce's, National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) program, so small ISPs are able to retain sufficient working capital and will not be forced to set aside liquid assets to pay bank fees necessary to secure an LOC, and the FCC, NTIA and RUS are financially protected in the event the ISP fails to perform.
- Advocate for surety bonds as an acceptable form of security for energy interconnection agreements in place of LOCs, while seeking equitable bond terms.
- Advocate for surety bonds as an acceptable form of security concerning the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) program to install electrical vehicle charging stations throughout the country coordinated by the various state department of transportations for FHWA's National Electrical Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI)

program. In collaboration with the SFAA, a bond form has been provided to Michigan's DOT to address the design, construction, operations and maintenance for EV charging stations. As more state DOTs begin to roll out these projects, this Operations and Maintenance bond may serve as a model for other states to follow.

**Advocate for legislation/regulations, that encourage qualified small, disadvantaged, and minority contractors to participate in public construction markets:**

- Support legislation that provides education and resource opportunities to small, women, minority, and veteran-owned construction companies to better position them to qualify for surety credit; and
- Support bond guarantee programs that have been reviewed and analyzed for practicality and adhere to current industry practices.

**Advocate for new legislative initiatives in the states**

- Advocate for legislation to allow state agencies to accept the electronic digital execution and delivery of construction surety bonds and commercial surety bonds, including use of electronic signatures, seals, and powers of attorney.

**2) Coalition Partners**

NASBP is part of the Construction Industry Procurement Coalition (CIPC), which includes 15 national trade and professional organizations such as the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC), the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC), the American Subcontractors Association (ASA), the American Institute of Architects (AIA), the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC), the Design-Build Institute of America (DBIA), and the Surety & Fidelity Association of America (SFAA). Reinforce alliance with ASA to strengthen grassroots advocacy efforts in the states and on Capitol Hill.

**In 2025, the CIPC may seek to introduce legislation addressing the following procurement reforms:**

- Require better/earlier payment practices for federal change order work;
- Require federal agencies to report during the solicitation process when it is their policy to bundle contracts; and
- Seek additional program opportunities for members of Congress who are members of the Congressional Construction Procurement Caucus.

**3) NASBP Advocacy Tools**

**Encourage support and funding of SuretyPAC** —SuretyPAC is the oldest federal PAC that is 100% devoted to representing the surety industry and establishing and nurturing relationships with candidates running for congressional office. NASBP uses SuretyPAC as one of its advocacy tools to engage, educate, and encourage federal legislators to support NASBP's federal legislative agenda.

**Communicate government relations information via *Focal Point* and podcast** – The government relations staff will continue to keep the membership and other interested parties apprised of NASBP government relations objectives and actions and legislative and regulatory developments via issuance of *Focal Point* and *Let's Get Surety* podcasts as needed and developments occur.

**Encourage participation in annual Legislative Fly-in** —The annual legislative Fly-in will take place February 26 and 27. The host hotel (**The Hilton Washington, DC, Capitol Hill**), is just a few blocks from the capitol. **There will be no registration fees** to attend making it the perfect time to join your NASBP colleagues in the effort to ensure federal policymakers on Capitol Hill understand the significant role bonds play to protect taxpayer funds and advance public works infrastructure projects. February 26 is dedicated as the "Washington Program" which will include a guest political speaker and observations from the contractor community concerning federal procurement for 2025. February 27 is dedicated entirely to Capitol Hill appointments. For Further Information: Contact Larry LeClair, Director, Government Relations at 240-200-1272 or at [lleclair@nasbp.org](mailto:lleclair@nasbp.org).