

Friends,

Wanted to provide a quick update on a few important legislative victories the business community scored late last week with passage of H.R. 22, the “Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act.” The FAST Act included a robust, long-term surface transportation reauthorization as well as an extension of the Export-Import Bank, which represents the culmination of years of work by YOU, the business community. Additionally, the new law includes permit streamlining provisions (our top regulatory reform priority this year), and some Dodd-Frank reform. None of these would have been possible without your strong and consistent lobbying efforts, and those of your members and peers. Thank you so very much!

Also, please consider taking a moment to thank Members of the House and Senate who voted for this landmark legislation. Click [HERE](#) to see how your U.S. Senators voted, and [HERE](#) to see how your Representatives in the House voted. A template letter we sent is attached and generalized bullets are below.

As we look ahead to this week and the remainder of the year, Congress must pass an omnibus appropriations bill before Dec. 11 to keep the lights on in DC (although there may be a short-term patch to allow more time for compromise...especially on some policy riders that are key to your members’ interests).

Congress must also pass a package of the so-called [tax extenders](#) to retroactively extend certain expired and expiring tax provisions, several of which are critical to your members. While we hope any extenders package would seamlessly patch these items for a minimum of two years, we hope Congress explores writing several into the code permanently to allow of planning and instill certainty. These include expanded section 179 expensing, bonus depreciation, the R&D tax credit, and perhaps repeal or delay of the so-called Cadillac Tax – an excise tax on certain employer-provided plans set to hit in 2018 under the ACA. Again, we appreciate all of you who have supported our tax extenders in this [coalition letter](#).

Please let us know if we can be helpful with these, or any other Federal issue. Thanks!

Ben, Maggie and Kevin

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