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| |  | | --- | | **Thursday, August 1, 2013 130801-1**  **In this Issue:**  **Effort to Consider Fiscal Year 2014 Transportation Spending Bill Fails in U.S. Senate** | | |
| **Effort to Consider Fiscal Year 2014 Transportation Spending Bill Fails in U.S. Senate**  Earlier today, the U.S. Senate failed to invoke cloture on its transportation spending bill for Fiscal Year 2014, effectively delaying consideration of the measure until the Senate reconvenes after the August recess. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) needed 60 votes to end debate on the transportation bill, but secured only 54 votes, with Democrats voting in support of cloture and Republicans voting against cloture. In a scenario similar to what occurred in the House of Representatives yesterday, the Republican Chairman of the transportation appropriations subcommittee, Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) unsuccessfully urged her fellow party members to vote in support of cloture to permit full consideration of the transportation spending bill. Now that consideration of both the House and Senate transportation appropriations bills have stalled, it is much more likely that the measure will be folded into a Continuing Resolution (CR) that permits federal spending for Fiscal Year 2014 to continue at Fiscal Year 2013 spending levels. Earlier today, House Speaker John Boehner made the following remarks about the failure to move on annual appropriations bills: “It is clear that we’re not going to have the appropriations bills finished by Sept. 30, 2013. I believe a continuing resolution for some short period of time would probably be in the nation’s interest. But having said that, the idea of operating for an entire year under a CR is not a good way to do business. And I’ve been working with [House Committee on Appropriations Chairman Hal Rogers (R-KY)] to try to find a way to actually do all of these appropriations bills. I think it’s important for Congress to do its work,” shared Speaker Boehner. Our government relations staff will continue to closely monitor House consideration of H.R. 2610 and the U.S. Senate’s transportation spending bill for Fiscal Year 2014 to ensure that our Board-approved Legislative Program is appropriately addressed in any final measure brought before President Obama for his consideration. |
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