

# Washington Insight



July 23, 2014

## **Progress Toward Comprehensive Patent Reform Stalls**

*Lloyd N. Hand, William Clarkson*

On May 21, 2014, Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-VT) announced that he was removing patent reform legislation from the Committee's agenda, effectively eliminating any chance for Senate consideration this year. While a comprehensive bill might be off the table, it is still possible that Congress could take up and pass legislation to address abusive patent litigation behavior before the end of the year. [More »](#)

## **As Attention Turns to a Border Supplemental, a Twelve Bill Omnibus Seems Certain**

*George C. Crawford*

Despite the high hopes earlier this year of passing individual or several mini-bus appropriation bills, a 12-bill omnibus approach to appropriations is now all but guaranteed. While the Senate Appropriations Committee has reported 7 of the 12 annual bills, none have been considered by the full Senate. Progress has slowed in the Senate and attention is now being diverted to the President's supplemental appropriations request to deal with the worsening crisis at the border. [More »](#)

## **Highways, Taxes, and Partisanship: The Next Crisis**

*Michael A. Andrews*

The Highway Trust Fund is almost empty; it is running on fumes. Without congressional action before the August recess, the fund that has been essential since the 1950s to maintain the nation's transportation infrastructure will become insolvent and go bankrupt. If it does, an estimated 700,000 people will lose their jobs before Labor Day, and critical infrastructure projects will close down. [More »](#)

## **Senate Intelligence Committee Approves Cybersecurity Bill**

*J.C. Boggs*

The Senate Intelligence Committee on June 8<sup>th</sup> voted 12-3 to approve a cybersecurity bill authored by Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and Vice Chairman Saxby Chambliss (R-GA). S. 2588, the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act (CISA), would essentially remove the legal restrictions that currently bar companies from sharing information with the government. [More »](#)

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You May Not Know: Congress Issues Subpoenas, But Also Receives Them

Terrorism Risk Insurance: To Be Continued?

## **For Further Reading**

The *Baltimore Sun* recently published Gov. Robert Ehrlich's commentary on the reauthorization of the Ex-Im Bank. To view it, [click here](#).

## **Contacts**

## You May Not Know: Congress Issues Subpoenas, But Also Receives Them

*Thomas J. Spulak*

Ted Hester, Eleanor Hill and Dan Donovan of our group are well aware of Congress' penchant for issuing subpoenas for records and the testimony of corporate officials. They often engage in extensive negotiations with congressional investigators over the scope and nature of these congressional demands.

Perhaps many are not aware of the fact that Congress is often the recipient of subpoenas. [More »](#)

## Terrorism Risk Insurance: To Be Continued?

*J.C. Boggs*

In the aftermath of the tragic September 11<sup>th</sup> terrorist attacks and after suffering steep losses, insurance companies stopped offering terrorism coverage as part of their commercial property policies. In response to this, Congress stepped in and created the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program (TRIA) to provide a narrow and targeted government backstop for this critical insurance coverage. This program was extended in 2005 and again in 2007. [More »](#)

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