

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SURETY BOND PRODUCERS

7735 Old Georgetown Road, Suite 900 Bethesda, MD 20814

> Tel: 240.200.1270 Fax: 240.200.1295 www.nasbp.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JUNE 8, 2021

Contact: Kathy Hoffman at khoffman@nasbp.org, 240.200.1278

BROAD COALITION ENCOURAGES LAWMAKERS TO INCLUDE AMENDMENT PROVIDING ESSENTIAL PROTECTIONS ON PROJECTS RECEIVING TIFIA FUNDS

Bethesda, MD—The <u>National Association of Surety Bond Producers</u> (NASBP) in collaboration with <u>The Surety & Fidelity Association of America (SFAA)</u> and more than 15 other construction industry organizations strongly encourage members of the U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, led by Chairman Peter A. DeFazio (D-OR) and Ranking Member Sam Graves (R-MO), to adopt <u>Lynch Amendment 045</u>, articulated as a provision in <u>H.R. 1641</u>, "Promoting Infrastructure by Protecting Our Subcontractors and Taxpayers Act."

This bipartisan amendment, offered by U.S. Representatives Stephen Lynch (D-MA), Troy Balderson (R-OH), Jake Auchincloss (D-MA), Anthony Brown (D-MD), Steve Cohen (D-TN), and Chris Pappas (D-NH), provides essential protections for workers, contractors, and suppliers by requiring payment and performance security on federally financed infrastructure projects receiving Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loans, including public-private projects (P3s). The Lynch Amendment was also introduced as Senate standalone bill S.638 by U.S. Senators Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) and Mike Rounds (R-SD).

"The Lynch 045 Amendment is critical, bipartisan legislation to ensure that federal funding for infrastructure is protected through guarantees of performance and payment," said Mark McCallum, Chief Executive Officer of NASBP. "Such protections make sure that these vital and complex projects can be undertaken and completed by qualified construction firms, without undue risk to taxpayer funds and the businesses who perform as subcontractors and suppliers." "The NASBP strongly urges support for the amendment from all who seek to improve and advance the Nation's infrastructure and extends its

appreciation to Representatives Lynch and Balderson for their insightful leadership on this issue," he said.

TIFIA loans are one of the means by which P3 projects can be financed and undertaken in the U.S. This important federal program needs to make sure protections are in place in the form of performance and payment bonds, so taxpayer dollars are wisely spent, and businesses and suppliers are assured payment. Infrastructure is absolutely a bipartisan issue.

P3 projects have increased in popularity over the years, however the lack of clarity for requiring payment and performance protections on P3 projects can force taxpayers to absorb additional costs of rebidding a project, and subcontractors and workers are often left unpaid for extended periods of time if the contractor defaults. By ensuring a bond requirement, P3 projects will offer the same payment and performance protections that have been in place on public infrastructure projects, protecting workers, contractors, suppliers, and taxpayers.

###

Founded in 1942, the National Association of Surety Bond Producers (NASBP) is the association of and resource for surety bond producers and allied professionals. NASBP members specialize in providing surety bonds for construction contracts and other purposes to companies and individuals needing the assurance offered by surety bonds. https://www.nasbp.org