

CCIA HIGHLIGHTS *of the week*

A weekly information bulletin for members of the Connecticut Construction Industries Association

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ROBERT DUKE, Corporate Counsel, The Surety & Fidelity Association of America, testified with CCIA President Don Shubert before the Judiciary Committee this week in support of [H.B. 5570](#), An Act Concerning the Applicability of Statutes of Limitations to Actions Brought by the State or a Political Subdivision of the State. The bill would extend the statutes of limitations that currently exist for bringing a claim in specific tort, product liability and contract actions to the state and any political subdivision of the state, and therefore would nullify the common law doctrine of nullum tempus occurrit regi (“no time runs against the king”). A full list of those who submitted testimony on the bill may be found at this [link](#). CCIA also asks all members to use the [Legislative Action Center](#) on the CCIA website to contact their senators and representatives and urge them to support the bill. The website features an easy-to-use function that automatically sends a suggested letter in support of H.B. 5570 to legislators.

CCIA SUBMITTED [testimony](#) this week in opposition, as drafted, to [S.B. 452](#), An Act Concerning Implementing the Initial Findings of the Disparity Study Concerning the Minority Business Set-Aside Program. Although the bill ostensibly intends to implement the first-phase of CASE’s Disparity Study by separating out the SBE program from the MWBE program, in fact, the bill, as written, falls short of that goal. CCIA opposes the bill in its current form and strongly suggests that the legislation “be amended to comply with the components of a legally defensible program to create opportunities and increase participation of selected classes in state contracting.”

AGC OF CONNECTICUT SUBMITTED [testimony](#) this week in opposition to [S.B. 454](#), An Act Increasing the Transparency of General Bids for State Contracts. The bill would make broad changes to the way DAS competitively bids out construction work, including extending the bid listing requirements on construction projects to all classes of work that are required to be pre-qualified, effectively reducing the DAS prequalification threshold from \$500,000 to \$25,000, and requiring construction managers at risk to list each subcontractor on a project within five days of submitting a guaranteed maximum price, among other changes.

NINETY-FOUR PERCENT OF CONNECTICUT’S highway funds are going towards the Pearl Harbor Memorial-Quinnipiac River Bridge project, according to an [article](#) in the *Stamford Advocate* this week. Steve Higashide, a senior planner for the Tri-State Transportation Campaign, has said that this concentration of funds has impacted other projects around the state, including the \$3.6 billion upgrade Metro-North’s New Haven Line, and the \$2 billion replacement of two 110-plus-year-old movable bridges that are vital to Metro-North and Amtrak’s Northeast Corridor.

THE JACKSON LABORATORY (JAX) has met and exceeded last year’s business goals and employment targets outlined in the Bioscience Connecticut initiative, including

hiring 20 percent more scientific and administrative staff than was required for 2013, Governor Malloy announced this week in a [press release](#). According to its [2013 annual report](#), the JAX Genomic Medicine project in Farmington is on schedule and on budget two years after a final deal was reached between the state and JAX to build a new nonprofit research institute focused on advancing genomics and biomedical research with partners from the state and around the world.

AFTER HITTING A NEW EMPLOYMENT recovery high in December (1,663,500), Connecticut’s nonfarm employment dropped 10,400 positions to a level of 1,653,100 jobs in January 2014, according to the [CT Department of Labor](#). Cold and snowy winter weather has slowed economic activities more than usual across the state and region in recent months and may have had an impact on January job statistics. While jobs in the construction industry increased in 2013 by 4.7%, from the end of December 2013 to the end of January 2014, construction job numbers did not move at all, as total construction employment remained at 55,400.

SOUTHINGTON RESIDENTS will vote on a \$2.6 million sewer expansion in the northwest corner of the town this November, which could be key to local development and expansion, according to a [report](#) this week in the *Record Journal*. A sewer expansion would create an opportunity for Lincoln College of New England to expand, and could encourage the development of 300 acres currently owned by Tilcon Connecticut Inc. Town Councilor Dawn Miceli has said that ESPN, Lincoln College, and Lake Compounce are all potential buyers of this property.

ARTBA IS CALLING FOR NOMINATIONS for its [Foundation Award Competition](#). The Globe Awards celebrate private-sector firms and public-sector agencies that do an outstanding job in protecting and/or enhancing the natural environment during the planning, design, and construction of U.S. transportation projects. The PRIDE

Awards recognize extraordinary efforts of individuals, companies, public agencies and industry-related associations that serve to enhance the image of the U.S. transportation design and construction industry.

CONNECTICUT LIGHT & POWER will begin work on a transmission line traversing the eastern portion of the state in the coming weeks, a project totaling \$218 million. The 37-mile Interstate Reliability Project will install a 345-kilovolt transmission line on existing land through 11 towns, and upgrades will be made to stations in Lebanon and Killingly. The upgrades will improve power reliability throughout southern New England, according to an [article](#) in the *Hartford Business Journal*.

JANUARY SAW THE BIGGEST year-over-year increase in construction spending since 2006, according to an [analysis](#) of Census Bureau data by the AGC of America. Completed construction totaled \$943 billion in January, 0.1 percent higher than the December total, and the January numbers came in 9.3 percent higher than in January 2013. Public construction has increased alongside residential and private work; however, future funding for state and municipal projects remains unclear.

CONNDOT BID RESULTS of March 19, 2014: [Proposal 0131-0202](#), Pavement Preservation I-84: Waters Construction Co., Inc.: \$3,234,825.80; O&G Industries, Inc.: \$3,411,370.50; Empire Paving, Inc.: \$3,494,010.75. [Proposal 0174-0378](#), Epoxy Resin Pavement Marking Installation on Route I-84: Safety Marking, Inc.: \$297,926.00; TMI Services, Inc.: \$302,385.00. [Proposal No. 0173-0440](#), Epoxy Resin Pavement Marking Installation on Various District 3 Non-Limited Access Routes: Safety Marking, Inc.: \$494,058.75; TMI Services, Inc.: \$523,347.60.

SMART GROWTH AMERICA and Taxpayers for Common Sense recently released a report, [Repair Priorities 2014](#), that shows that most state DOTs “are spending more money building new roads than maintaining the ones they have,” resulting in financial liabilities and decaying infrastructure. Between 2009 and 2011, states collectively spent \$20.4 billion each year on road expansion. During that same time states spent \$16.5 billion each year on road repair and preservation. Of those two types of spending, 55 percent went to expansion and 45 percent went to repair. Connecticut spent slightly more than the national average on new roads, with 56 percent of its funds going toward expansion.

THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN is at an economic and development turning point, according to consultants at Connecticut Main Street (CMT), who recently took a 96-hour tour of the city’s districts. A recent [article](#) in the *New Haven Register* covered a press conference announcing these findings. Mayor Toni Harp hired the group to develop a plan for the corridors of Grand, Dixwell, Whalley, and Congress avenues, and she hopes New Haven will qualify

for Main Street grants. Among CMT’s recommendations were that the city create a task force to coordinate development projects, to work towards creating private-public partnerships, and to “put someone in charge” of these tasks.

MIKE RILEY, President of the Connecticut Motor Transport Association, called on state policymakers to stop raiding the Special Transportation Fund (STF) for non-transportation purposes, in an [editorial](#) this week in the *Hartford Courant*. Riley cited polls that show Americans accept increases in highway user fees as long as they know the funds will be reinvested in highways, roads, and bridges. Riley says the only way to protect against such diversions is to enact a constitutional amendment requiring that STF funds be used only for transportation purposes. [Senate Joint Resolution 23](#), which was introduced recently in the General Assembly, proposes just such a constitutional amendment.

BASIC RIGGING AND CRANE SIGNALING will be offered on Wed, Mar. 26, 2014 at CCIA in Wethersfield as part of the 2014 CCIA Safety Training series of courses. This course satisfies the Basic Rigging and Hand Signaling requirements of the Revised November 2010 OSHA Crane Standard. The instructor will be Dan Gorman, Safe At Work. [Registration](#) is required.

WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT make “much more” than in similar positions in other industries, according to Jacob Kovel, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Manufacturing and Construction Management at CCSU in a recent [article](#) in the *CT Post*. While construction has typically been a male-dominated business, the ratio of graduate-level students has skewed increasingly female as a growing number of women move-up the ranks in the construction industry. Currently, 8.9 percent of the industry nationwide is female,

FLIERS INCLUDED IN HIGHLIGHTS, March 21, 2014: 1) [Basic Rigging & Crane Signaling 3/26](#); 2) [MSHA 8 Hour Refresher](#); 3) [BIM Unit 2: Technology 4/4](#); 4) [2014 Construction Industry Joint Forces Luncheon 4/10](#); 5) [YCF at Revolutions Bowling & Lounge 4/17](#); 6) [AGC Lean Construction Unit 3: Lean Workstructuring 4/24](#); 7) [STP Unit 3: Problem Solving & Decision Making 4/29-5/1](#); 8) [2014 CCIA Ethics and Compliance Summit 5/15](#).

FROM THE INTERNET: On March 21, 1790, Thomas Jefferson reported to U.S. President George Washington as the new Secretary of State. In Pakistan, goats are often sacrificed to improve the performance of the stock market. The United States Golf Association (USGA) was founded in 1894 as the governing body of golf in the United States. The only U.S. President to be head of a labor union was Ronald Reagan, who was president of the Screen Actors Guild from 1946 to 1952, and again in 1959.